



City of Seattle

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

Office of Sustainability & Environment

Jessica Finn Coven, Director

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair
Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Elby Jones (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • Blake Voorhees (Position #9 – Realtor)
Elena Arakaki (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice - ISA)
Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health) • Shari Selch (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle

Meeting notes

December 9, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 146-429-4393

Meeting password: 1234

In-person attendance is currently prohibited per the Washington Governor's Proclamation 20-28. Meeting participation is limited to access by joining the meeting through a computer or telephone conference line.

Attending

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair
Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair
Elena Arakaki
Elby Jones
Jessica Jones
Julia Michalak
Josh Morris
Michael Walton
Blake Voorhees

Staff

Sandra Pinto Urrutia - OSE

Public

Steve Zemke

Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton
Stuart Niven
Shari Selch

NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Call to order: Weston called the meeting to order; read the land acknowledgement; the agenda and did roll call.

Land acknowledgement:

The UFC acknowledges that Seattle occupies traditional unceded lands of the Coast Salish peoples past and present. The UFC also acknowledges the Coast Salish people’s stewardship of the area’s trees and vegetation. We respect and honor their kinship with our urban forest and environment.

Public comment:

Steve Zemke: Steve wanted to share that City of Edmonds put in place a moratorium on tree removals as a result of their recent urban forestry plan. They are also updating their tree regulations and adopting a policy of no net loss. They are working on establishing a tree fund. Steve would encourage the UFC to put pressure on the City to get something like this done.

Blake mentioned he is familiar with Edmonds’ moratorium and clarified that is not sweeping, that there is a formula to apply it and that he will share the information he has with the group.

Adoption of November 4 and November 18 meeting notes

Commissioners reviewed the November meeting notes.

ACTION: A motion to approve the November 4 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the November 18 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

Chair and Vice-chair elections

Commissioners voted. Weston and Sarah were re-elected to the positions of Chair and Vice-chair respectively.

UFMP letter of recommendation - discussion continues and potential vote

Commissioners discussed the second draft of the letter.

ACTION: A motion to approve the UFMP comments letter as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, especially the group discussion portion, please listen to the digital recording of the meeting at:

<http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Thank you letter to SDCI on RET presentation

Commissioners discussed the first draft of the letter.

ACTION: A motion to approve the Thank You letter to SDCI on applying the Racial Equity Toolkit to the tree regulations effort as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

Seattle Parks and Recreation updates: discussion

Commissioners began discussing the briefing but decided to move it to the next meeting.

Public comment:

Steve Zemke: wants to thank the UFC for supporting an increased emphasis on the tree regulations update. He reiterated that both the Mayor and Council have directed staff to do this work.

Adjourn: Weston adjourned the meeting.

Public input: None