



## **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)  
**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**

March 10, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Via Webex call  
(206) 207-1700  
Meeting number: 146-423-2494  
Meeting password: 1234

*In-person meeting are not being held at this time due to the pandemic. 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  
Julia Michalak  
David Moehring  
Josh Morris  
Stuart Niven  
Shari Selch  
Michael Walton

#### Staff

Sandra Pinto Urrutia - OSE

#### Public

Steve Zemke

#### Absent- Excused

Jessica Jones  
Blake Voorhees

**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 and read the UFC land acknowledgement.

**Public comment:** Steve Zemke shared that at the last Council Land Use and Neighborhoods (LUN) committee meeting, SDCI director Nathan Torgelson presented SDCI's top priorities for 2021 and did not mention tree regulations updates as part of the work SDCI is doing this year.

**Chair report:** None

**SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 – Exceptional Trees**

Commissioners discussed and edited the draft letter of recommendation Stuart put together, agreeing that it would be important to send it out before the next Council LUN committee meeting (March 24) where SDCI and OSE will provide the quarterly report on progress to update tree regulations.

**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>**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the draft letter of recommendation as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

Sandra will clean up the letter and deliver it.

Meeting chat:

from David Moehring to everyone: 3:29 PM

Many arborist reports (over 80% i have seen for multi-family or single-family residential), do not show photos of trees indicated to be of fair or poor health. Occasionally the SDCI arborist will notice species and tree DBH mistakes in these reports. Also, should the referenced Aug 12 Seattle UFC letter be attached to the new letter when sent out?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:30 PM

The 24 inches fits with the requirement during development that all exceptional trees and trees 24" DSH and larger must be replaced. SMC 25.11.090

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:33 PM

Maybe it would help if someone summarized the issues that SDCI is saying are of concern and address them.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:38 PM

mittigation is in SMC 25.11.090 - trees 24" DBH and exceptional trees need to be replaced. Is city going to replace these trees for free? if they cannot be replaced on site.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:41 PM

Read section 4 I do not see what the problem is. It is required by SMC 25.11 for all exceptional trees and trees 24" DSH removed during development to be replaced.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:53 PM

I urge you be careful in specifically removing things from the draft because they will then use the UFC as agreeing to limit provisions in this draft. It seems there has been very imprecise clarification of the specific concerns that SDCI has come up with.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:58 PM

Current Director's Rule has been there for 13 years.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:01 PM

I would use "additional legal review" which seems to be the issue.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:14 PM

In the future it would be good to get in writing what the specific concerns are by SDCI in writing. It would make it a lot easier to respond to specific concerns.

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:14 PM

Suggestion: "why now..."

<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2018/2018docs/TreeExecOrder2017-11FINAL.pdf>

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:15 PM

As the Seattle Mayor [Tim Burgess] issued Executive Order 2017-11 in October 2017 which directed City Departments to "improve departmental coordination, strengthen enforcement, and adopt new rules and regulations to improve and expand protections for Seattle's urban trees and canopy coverage", the Urban Forestry Commission would like to emphasize the importance on the City Council and City Departments to act immediately as directed in the Order.

Sections 2 and 3 of the Order was explicit about creating an [updated] SDCI Director's Rule for multiple objectives.

<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2018/2018docs/TreeExecOrder2017-11FINAL.pdf>

from mwalton to everyone: 4:24 PM

I need to jump out a little early today, this is shaping up nicely- continue to do good work!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:34 PM

Should include " and any tree 24" DSH and larger" in last item which is how current ordinance reads

from Sandra Pinto Urrutia to everyone: 4:37 PM

Comment from Tina: The reason for exclusion is they fail at a relatively young age, around 50 to 75 years. Sometimes even sooner. However they should be retained in greenbelts or wild areas.

Tina

from Sandra Pinto Urrutia to everyone: 4:38 PM

Tina's comment applies to cottonwood and alder

from Julia Michalak to everyone: 4:39 PM

Thanks Tina and others for the explanations.

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:41 PM

"...conifers to support Seattle's natural habitats..."

**Committees scope and membership discussion:** This item was moved to the next meeting.

**Public comment:** Steve Zemke recommended using a table to organize the issues that have been agreed upon and those that are being re-considered due to concerns. This could be a useful tool to make it easier to handle future UFC work.

**Adjourn:** Weston adjourned the meeting.

**Public input: (see next page and posted notes)**

**From:** Cynthia Slate <cynthiaslate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:31 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** 30% canopy goal

**CAUTION: External Email**

The City of Seattle's goal of 30% canopy, ignores the inequality in tree canopy and pollutants between neighborhood.

We first need to focus on getting BIPOC and poorer communities 30% tree canopy. In communities with high pollutants like auto body shops, other polluting industries, we need to commit to building a robust 35 to 40 % canopy with a high percent of conifers, to counter the risk associated with living in areas with high pollutants.

Also, many lower income housing is either on arterials or adjacent to two arterials. Yet many of these streets and neighborhoods have poor tree cover. Whenever possible we need to concentrate tree growth near lower income housing and large arterials.

Reaching a goal of 30% canopy, city-wide, while not concentrating that growth in BIPOC, and lower income communities, or near high polluting arterials is misguided and could exacerbate canopy inequality.

Thank you,

Cynthia

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**From:** Tina Cohen <tina@tinacohen.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:14 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** UFC letter regarding draft DR 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

To the UFC:

To clarify: I urge you to close the Hazard loophole that allows tree removal if *after development* it won't survive. This is circular reasoning. Development needs to be modified to safely allow tree retention. The code 25.11 might need to be changed.

Please see SECTION 3: EXCEPTIONAL TREE REMOVAL

1.TreeRisk Assessment Required for Tree Removal

The tree risk assessment must conclude that the exceptional tree is a "high" risk hazard using the tree risk assessment methodology and criteria established by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) due to one or more of the following:

- **When development is proposed and allowed per Chapter 25.11, the likelihood of survival after construction.**

Again, thanks for considering my concerns. In my experience this loophole has allowed many removals.

I assume I'll be blocked from attending the WebEx meeting as I was previously, but I'll try to listen on my phone.

Tina Cohen, ISA Certified Arborist #PN0245A  
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
Member American Society of Consulting Arborists  
Registered Consulting Arborist #473, **retired**

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**From:** SeattleUFC8 <SeattleUFC8@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:13 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** 400 Queen Anne Street Tree-- Evaluation Outcome

**CAUTION: External Email**

Forwarding about a large street tree to be removed with limbs projecting over the property line.

Harrison Street between Queen Anne Avenue North and 1st Ave North, three trees are scheduled to be removed, (Record SDOTTREE0001040) (attached as a PDF). They are being removed to enable a private construction project. One of the trees is a Healthy Sycamore

The tree (London Plane)with an approx diameter of 40 inches - perhaps 50-60 years old.

Sent using the mobile mail app

Forwarded email

**From:** "Janice Terrell" <[3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 8, 2021  
**To:** [dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: 400 Queen Anne Street Tree-- Evaluation Outcome

Dear David,

I received this email a few days ago. I am forwarding this to you regarding the Sycamore tree at 400 Queen Anne Avenue North at Harrison Street. I thought you would want to know.

Sadly..,

Janice

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Dewald, Shane" <[Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov](mailto:Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov)>

**Date:** March 3, 2021 at 15:16:35 PST

**To:** "An, Noah" <[Noah.An@seattle.gov](mailto:Noah.An@seattle.gov)>, "Thaler, Toby" <[Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov)>, Andrew Macdonald <[amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com](mailto:amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com)>, "Roberts, Ben" <[Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov](mailto:Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov)>

**Cc:** "Postlewait, Christina" <[Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov](mailto:Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov)>, "Larsen, Shauna" <[Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov)>, "Dawson, Parker" <[Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov](mailto:Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov)>, "Pinto Urrutia, Sandra" <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>, Weston Brinkley <[weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)>, "3terrell@gmail.com" <[3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com)>, DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>, "Markovich, Joe" <[Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov](mailto:Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov)>, "Morgan, Darren" <[Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov](mailto:Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: 400 Queen Anne Street Tree-- Evaluation Outcome

Thank you, Noah!

I made the same mistake back in January. Very embarrassing!!

Most appreciate your help to forward!

~shane

**From:** An, Noah <[Noah.An@seattle.gov](mailto:Noah.An@seattle.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 03, 2021 2:23 PM

**To:** Dewald, Shane <[Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov](mailto:Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov)>; Thaler, Toby <[Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov)>; Andrew Macdonald <[amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com](mailto:amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com)>; Roberts, Ben <[Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov](mailto:Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov)>

**Cc:** Postlewait, Christina <[Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov](mailto:Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov)>; Larsen, Shauna <[Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov)>; Dawson, Parker <[Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov](mailto:Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov)>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>; Weston Brinkley <[weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)>; [3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com); DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>; Markovich, Joe <[Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov](mailto:Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov)>; Morgan, Darren <[Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov](mailto:Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: 400 Queen Anne Street Tree-- Evaluation Outcome

I believe this was intended for Toby Thaler, but his email was misspelled, so I'm adding him. Thanks.

**From:** Dewald, Shane <[Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov](mailto:Shane.Dewald@seattle.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:21 PM

**To:** [toby.taylor@seattle.gov](mailto:toby.taylor@seattle.gov); Andrew Macdonald <[amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com](mailto:amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com)>; Roberts, Ben <[Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov](mailto:Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov)>

**Cc:** Postlewait, Christina <[Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov](mailto:Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov)>; Larsen, Shauna <[Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov)>; An, Noah <[Noah.An@seattle.gov](mailto:Noah.An@seattle.gov)>; Dawson, Parker <[Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov](mailto:Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov)>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>; Weston Brinkley <[weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)>; [3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com); DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>; Markovich, Joe

<[Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov](mailto:Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov)>; Morgan, Darren <[Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov](mailto:Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** 400 Queen Anne Street Tree-- Evaluation Outcome

Toby,

After nearly two full months since my previous communication with you (below) regarding the removal of the Sycamore tree at the 400 Queen Anne project site. A canopy assessment has been undertaken to better understand the tree condition after the loss of a very large structural limb due to a windstorm event last year. The canopy assessment did not identify a specific cause for the failure of this large limb as we thought it might. That said, the extent of limb removal to achieve clearance at the property line for the building design (with additional stories above the existing structure already approved for construction on site) significantly exceeds industry standards for pruning. The extent is best described as a "partial removal".

By this, I mean that tree condition will not rebound, it will continue to deteriorate until removal is a must from a public safety standpoint. This is not considered a successful retention but rather an investment that can delay removal, not an investment in a goal to achieve a rebound in vigor that regenerates healthy, sound branch structure to support new growth of small limbs and leaves-- in time to sustain the structural and feeder roots necessary for successful retention.

Coordination has been set with the design team and contractor to ensure that larger than standard caliper stock will be provided as replacement street trees, installed in the existing, retained soil developed over many years --the number of years that existing trees have been growing in the project ROW-- to support the healthy growth and longevity of the replacement trees. The installation will include automatic irrigation for trees an associated planted areas in the ROW and all improvements will be the responsibility of the property owner to sustain for the useful life of the structure constructed on site.

The tree posting is going up for this tree with the information on restoration requirements on the posting notice (see attached). If you have questions please do feel free to respond to this message. SDOT Urban Forestry appreciates your interest in the retention of this tree.

It is the interest of citizens in the work that we do that makes the work rewarding even when we cannot retain a specific tree.

We, Ben Roberts and I do our best to seek the best outcome with the future health of the neighborhood our priority.



Shane E. DeWald, PLA

Senior Landscape Architect

Seattle Department of Transportation / Urban Forestry

[shane.dewald@seattle.gov](mailto:shane.dewald@seattle.gov)

**From:** Dewald, Shane

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 05, 2021 3:36 PM

**To:** [toby.taylor@seattle.gov](mailto:toby.taylor@seattle.gov); Andrew Macdonald <[amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com](mailto:amacdonald@continentalproperties-inc.com)>; Roberts, Ben <[Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov](mailto:Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov)>

**Cc:** Postlewait, Christina <[Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov](mailto:Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov)>; Larsen, Shauna <[Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov)>; [noah.an@seattle.gov](mailto:noah.an@seattle.gov); [parker.dawson@seattle.gov](mailto:parker.dawson@seattle.gov); Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>; Weston Brinkley <[weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)>; [3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com); DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>; Markovich, Joe <[Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov](mailto:Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov)>; Morgan, Darren <[Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov](mailto:Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Healthy Sycamore tree --Scheduled for Condition Assessment & Pruning for Construction

Toby et.al.,

Please see the attached posting notice for Evaluation for Retention / Protection of the London Plane Tree at 400 Queen Anne. This notice is on its way, to be in place on the tree this afternoon.

Project Manager, Andrew MacDonald (added recipient of this message sent to you) will be scheduling:

1. The services of a qualified consulting arborist to conduct a thorough canopy assessment to confirm tree health, branch structure, signs of decay &/ or defects. This assessment is important as the first step to confirm that the tree meets typical standards for public safety in the ROW.
2. The services of a Registered Tree Service Provider approved by SDOT Urban Forestry to perform pruning of trees in the street ROW. Pruning for standard ROW clearances over street and sidewalk along with construction clearances necessary to construct the project on the abutting private property (see rough illustration in the 2<sup>nd</sup> image on the posting notice).



All pruning will be subject to field review by an SDOT Urban Forester –Ben Roberts expected to be the lead for this task.

The goal is to retain as much of the tree canopy as feasible --the minimum necessary for construction on the private property side of the ROW line. The SDOT UF standard does not allow pruning of structural limbs for temporary purposes --such as scaffolding or temporary equipment access—and that will be the case for this site.

I look forward to an outcome after pruning that is comparable to similar examples of clearance pruning for new construction elsewhere in the Queen Anne neighborhood. These previous projects are the basis for the direction we have given to the project to work with us and with the community toward tree preservation as a shared interest.

Shane E. DeWald, Senior Landscape Architect

SDOT Maintenance Operations and Urban Forestry Division

**From:** Dewald, Shane  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2021 4:22 PM  
**To:** Toby Thaler <[toby@louploup.net](mailto:toby@louploup.net)>  
**Cc:** Postlewait, Christina <[Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov](mailto:Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov)>; Larsen, Shauna <[Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov)>; [noah.an@seattle.gov](mailto:noah.an@seattle.gov); [parker.dawson@seattle.gov](mailto:parker.dawson@seattle.gov); Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>; Weston Brinkley <[weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)>; [3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com); DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>; Markovich, Joe <[Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov](mailto:Joe.Markovich@seattle.gov)>; Morgan, Darren <[Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov](mailto:Darren.Morgan@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Healthy Sycamore tree (150 years old) scheduled to be removed

Toby,

I am sending this message as the SDOT Urban Forestry Senior Landscape Architect and supervisor for SDOT Urban Foresters responsible for evaluation of street trees as a component of Early Design Guidance provided to development applicants for projects like this one in the Queen Anne neighborhood. My direct involvement in the review of this site includes an initial on-site field review with the Landscape Architect of Record and SDOT UF Forester, Ben Roberts, where the recommendation to retain and protect the London Plane tree on Harrison was discussed and expected to be deemed feasible despite the fact that several large limbs would need to be removed to construct the proposed building. This recommendation came into question after the tree was subject to storm damage, presenting a concern from a public safety standpoint and additionally reducing the extent of tree canopy that would remain after construction to promote the future continued growth and vigor over years to come.

The responses received to express concern with the posting notice identifying the proposed removal and replacement of this tree are very important to SDOT. Having received this feedback on the proposal is reason for SDOT Urban Forestry to work further with the applicant's project design team and SDCI to confirm all aspects of the decision. We will further explore the feasibility of retention of this tree in viable condition for public safety and to preserve the benefits so important to respondents and to this neighborhood as a whole.

I expect to be prepared to provide additional detail on this before COB tomorrow.

Thank you so much to you and to those cc'd for the strong interest in this street tree.

Shane E. DeWald, Senior Landscape Architect

SDOT Maintenance Operations and Urban Forestry Division

**From:** Thaler, Toby <[Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2020 9:33 PM

**To:** Postlewait, Christina <[Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov](mailto:Christina.Postlewait@Seattle.gov)>; Larsen, Shauna <[Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov](mailto:Shauna.Larsen@seattle.gov)>  
**Cc:** An, Noah <[Noah.An@seattle.gov](mailto:Noah.An@seattle.gov)>; Dawson, Parker <[Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov](mailto:Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov)>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>; Weston Brinkley <[weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)>; J. Terrell <[3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Healthy Sycamore tree (150 years old) scheduled to be removed

I have looked through the EDMS files on this project referenced by J. Terrell and have concerns and questions. Can you please have SDCI and SDOT respond before the City owned exceptional tree in question is removed?

In light of the lack of adequate publicly available supporting documents concerning imminent exceptional tree removal, I suggest that it would be appropriate for SDOT to request a delay by the applicant before action is taken to remove this irreplaceable-in-our-lifetime public asset.

My specific concerns and question:

- I cannot find an arborist's report in the file. The document "SDOTTREE0001040" refers to an arborist, but there is no report supporting tree removal. The DR package contains no explicit information about tree retention or removal, although it is clear from a careful reading that the project plans call for removal of the exceptional public tree.

- The ADR decision does not consider or address two relevant Design Review Guidelines:

#### **CS1-D Plants and Habitat**

**CS1-D-1. On-Site Features:** Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. ...

and

#### **DC3-C Design**

**DC3-C-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space:** Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. ...

- Does SEPA apply to this project? I do not see a checklist or any reference to SEPA in the documents in the publicly available files.

Thank you,

**Toby Thaler**

Legislative Aide to

City Councilmember

Alex Pedersen, [District 4](#)

Seattle, Washington

Office: 206-640-8804

Direct: 206-256-6267

E-Mail: [toby.thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:toby.thaler@seattle.gov)

[www.seattle.gov/council/Pedersen](http://www.seattle.gov/council/Pedersen)

Note: *Any e-mails received on this account may be subject to public disclosure.*

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**From:** J. Terrell <[3terrell@gmail.com](mailto:3terrell@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2020 12:17 PM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <[council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Healthy Sycamore tree (150 years old) scheduled to be removed

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Council Members,

On Harrison Street between Queen Anne Avenue North and 1st Ave North, three trees are scheduled to be removed, (Record SDOTTREE0001040) (attached as a PDF). They are being removed to enable a private construction project. One of the trees is a Healthy Sycamore

tree (London Plane) with a diameter of 48 inches and is over 150 years old. They live for 600 years. They have a wide leaf canopy. The trees scheduled to be removed are less than one block from the Climate Pledge Arena.

The notification from SDOT (attached) states incorrectly that it was posted on December 18, 2020. I walk by these trees daily. The notice was posted on the 28th of December 2020. The notice states incorrectly that the tree is unhealthy. The tree is not unhealthy as you can see from the google photo taken in May 2019 (attached). The notification states incorrectly that it cannot be retained due to public construction conflict. This construction project parcel # (DV0337418) is private for profit, not public.

This tree can and should be retained for the people of Seattle and their descendants.

Each of these trees can absorb more than 48 pounds of air pollution and produce at least 260 pounds of oxygen per year. They provide much needed shade in the summer. It would be a great loss to the people of Seattle and all the visitors to the Climate Pledge Arena if these trees are removed.

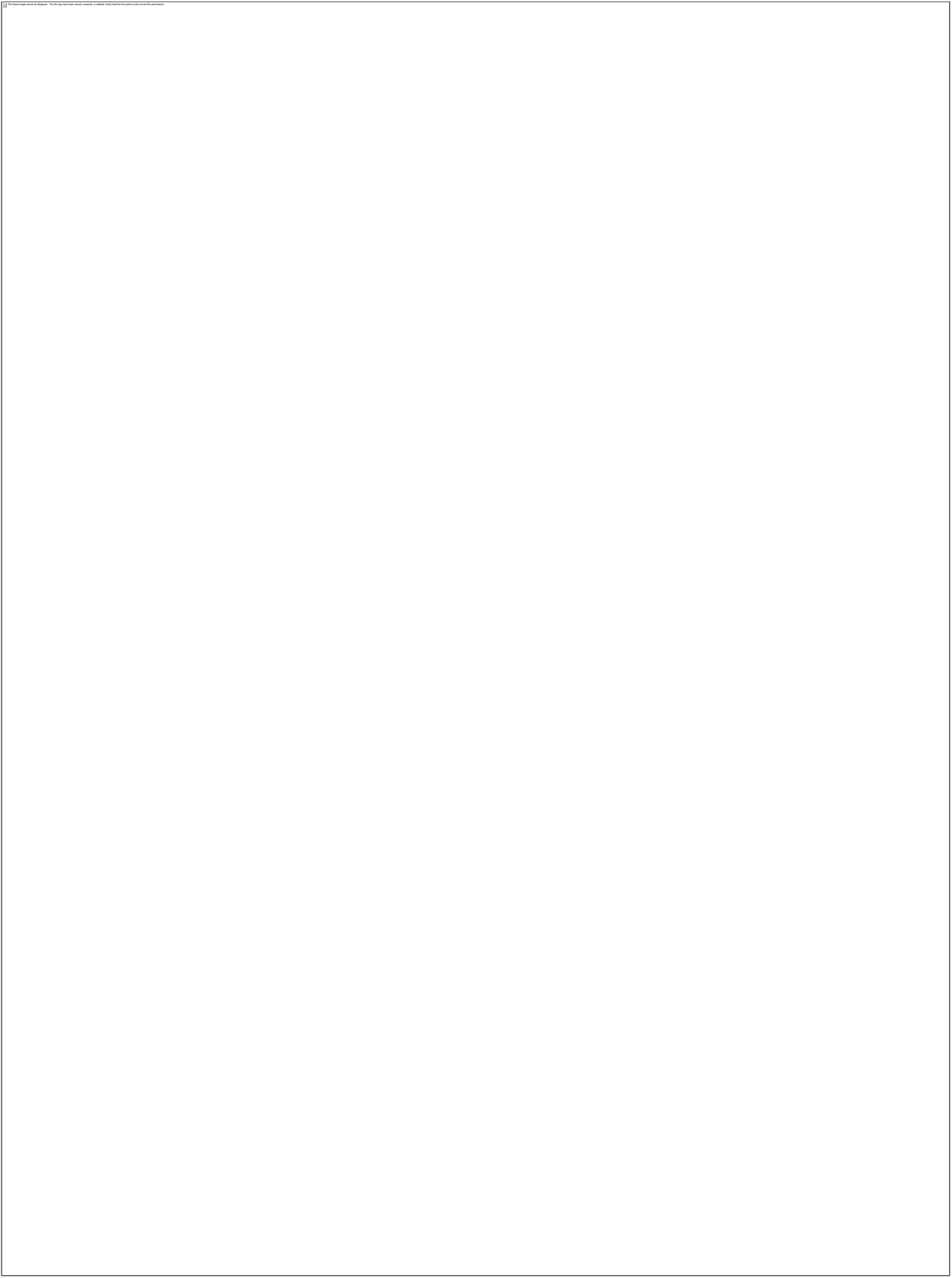
Can you please help, or forward my email to someone that can help.

Thank you,

Janice Terrell

For further information, please see project (3033479-LU) and (3033395-EG)





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**From:** RICHARD ELLISON <climbwall@msn.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:56 AM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** 2021 SDCI Priority Plan does NOT mention Environmental Stewardship

**CAUTION: External Email**

2021 SDCI Priority Plan does not uphold the Seattle Comprehensive Plan's core value of Environmental Stewardship.

Hello, my name is Richard Ellison. I am a retired community college Adjunct Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, and also a board member of TreePAC, a political action committee for Trees.

The 2021 SDCI Priority Plan does not uphold the Seattle Comprehensive Plan's core value of Environmental Stewardship. **"The Plan's four core values — community, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity and security, and social equity — are key components of sustainability."**

Nothing in the SDCI Plan includes mention of Environmental Protection, Environmental Justice, Planning for Climate Change, nor for the living environment that includes Trees, Wildlife, Clean Air and other critical environmental infrastructure.

SDCI once again ignores updating the Tree Protection Ordinance and Directors Rule. It's not on the 2021 Agenda. It will always be delayed is the SDCI plan.

The City Council keeps waiting on SDCI, the Mayor's Office, for how long? It's been 20 years since it was last updated, been 12 years since the dept has been instructed by the Council for an update, and 1997 since I was on the Councils Urban Forest Task Force.

It's time for the City Council to Take Action by itself and update the Tree Ordinance. The Seattle City Councils own Urban Forestry Commission has a working draft and is happy to assist this Council to make it a reality. It needs no further delays. We can't wait for DCI, or wait for the new mayor to settle in, or for the new elections of



Councilmembers. Please act now with the powers you already have, and stop the stonewalling by SDCI on updating Seattle's Tree Ordinance and Director's Rule.

Thank you,

Richard Ellison

[climbwall@msn.com](mailto:climbwall@msn.com)

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**From:** Janet at <janetway@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:27 AM

**To:** RICHARD ELLISON <climbwall@msn.com>

**Cc:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Re: 2021 SDCI Priority Plan does NOT mention Environmental Stewardship

**CAUTION: External Email**

Great letter and testimony!

Janet

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Susan Nicol <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:39 AM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative."
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number

of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.

- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.

- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Susan Nicol

[susanmnicol@gmail.com](mailto:susanmnicol@gmail.com)

4310 Sunnyside Avenue North

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:18 PM

**To:** RICHARD ELLISON <climbwall@msn.com>

**Cc:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Re: 2021 SDCI Priority Plan does NOT mention Environmental Stewardship

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you Richard, this is a critical situation and troubling that trees are not being considered when the whole world is observing climate change and teenagers are having to address the United Nations to explain

the stark realities of the world around us. Seattle has one of the highest level of education and technological experience, yet those making decisions for the well being of the residents of the City, are not responding to the most basic of problems that can be dealt with relatively simply; protect all existing trees and plant more!

I have copied this to the Mayor as much of the hold up in moving forward with the Tree 'Protection' Ordinance update comes from the Office of the Mayor, as well as the director of SDCI as it is SDCI that is actively responsible for not only updating the code that will help protect trees but also and perhaps more poignantly, not enforcing the current code!

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)

*PanorArborist*

[www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)

[ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification \(TRAQ\)](#)

[Arborist on Seattle Audubon Society Conservation Committee](#)

[Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission](#)

[Board Member of TreePAC](#)

[WA Lic# PANORL\\*852P1](#) (Click to link to WA L&I's Verify a Contractor Page)

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**From:** dave nicol <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:41 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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dave nicol

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