



**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair  
**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Vice-chair  
**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)  
**David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)  
**Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **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**

October 6, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Via Webex call  
(206) 207-1700  
Meeting number: 2488 018 9718  
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  
Julia Michalak - Vice Chair  
David Moehring  
Josh Morris  
Stuart Niven  
Michael Walton  
Jessica Hernandez  
Shari Selch

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Stephanie Helms, SDOT

Public

Absent- Excused

Blake Voorhees  
Jessica Jones  
Elby Jones

**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 at 3:08.

**Public comment:**

None

### **Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:**

Patti provided an update on recruitments. There are now two positions we need to fill – position 4, hydrologist and position 6, landscape architect, which are both Mayor-appointed positions. Patti is working with Mayor's Office staff and others who have run inclusive recruitment processes recently, to develop position descriptions and postings, materials to advertise them (blog post, web content), and outreach plans to ensure we get wide distribution and hopefully a good set of candidates.

Patti also noted that Seattle Forest Week is coming up in early November. It will be kicked off with Green Seattle Day on November 6<sup>th</sup>, with small planting events at 17 sites and also a Farm and Wetland Exploration at Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetland. It will continue with a slate of in-person and virtual events through the week, and then culminate with an Arbor Day celebration at John C. Little Park. Information can be found at [seattleforestweek.org](http://seattleforestweek.org), which is a page hosted on the Green Seattle Partnership website. Commissioners are invited to participate in events if desired and can contact Patti if interested.

Tree protections updates – the engagement with BIPOC and other marginalized communities that we've been working with the Department of Neighborhoods' Community Liaisons to conduct is wrapping up. We should have final reports and a wrap-up meeting next week. We will combine that feedback with that received during the focus group listening sessions, and work to incorporate all of that into the final proposals moving forward in the updated tree protection regulations. Chanda Emery from SDCI will attend next week's meeting for a further update.

Patti and Weston alerted the Commission that Michael Walton has given word that he will need to step down from his position on the Commission at the end of the year. This is why there are now two positions that we are working to recruit for.

Weston noted that Commissioners are starting to get going on some committee and work planning work, and should have more to report on that soon. He also noted that there is a desire to offer additional recommendation related to the urban forestry consolidation SLI and the group will take that up next week. He noted the budget is out and asked which Commissioners might be interested in working to compile urban forest-related content from it.

### **Approval of September 1 and 8 meeting notes**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the September 1 meeting notes as written and amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the September 8 meeting notes as written and amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

### **Sooty Bark Disease**

Stephanie Helms provided an overview of sooty bark disease as a pathogen affecting trees in Seattle. The briefing included information on what it is, the timeline of action here in Seattle, what we know about it and how it impacts our urban forest. There is a challenge in that we are still researching it while also needing make plans for dealing with it.

SBD is a tree disease that primarily affects maples and is caused by a fungus. It not well documented in general or here in the state. The fungus can cause human pneumonitis in people.

It's thought that it's affecting trees more now because of climate change impacts of hotter, drier summers our region has been experiencing.

Many departments/programs in the city are working together to address the issue, and also involving state and county agencies and researchers from WSU in the investigations and planning. Stephanie provided a timeline of actions of the team, including collecting and testing samples, outreach with other agencies and a seminar with colleagues in Germany who are also dealing with this forest pest. Lessons learned from Germany include the importance of public education to avoid unnecessary tree removal. The city is now working with the other agencies to develop plans and messaging, and expects to have materials planned after a series of three monthly meetings (December 2021.)

An important aspect to developing plans for dealing with SBD is determining whether it is a primary pathogen that can attack healthy trees or a secondary pathogen only affecting already stressed trees. City staff are working on messaging around the trees and their impacts, and relying on the health experts we're partnering with to help with the messaging around health impacts. We also don't yet know whether this fungus will behave invasively here as it does in Germany.

WSU is taking the lead on education and training. They currently have an informational webpage and also host monthly information sessions on their website. WSDA will also start testing samples to help increase testing capacity.

Potential impacts of SBD include direct impacts to the urban forest and our research will help us determine if it should be managed and how, and the extent of the impact. There are also impacts related to pest readiness. The City has been developing a pest response plan and the State has an Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook and these things have helped greatly to quickly pull together necessary agencies and information.

Questions from Commissioners include the distribution of SBD. Stephanie estimated there have been about 20 positive samples but the full distribution is unknown. There are areas around the city where maples are looking unhealthy and groups avoiding planting more maples. Diversifying tree composition. Are there signs that the public can look for to identify this? There are agencies that people can submit information on tree symptoms, and those agencies can go collect samples from trees to confirm whether it is SBD. How is the fungus spread, and is there a threshold beyond which a tree cannot be treated for this and needs to be removed? Germany folks report that they are removing trees as soon as they detect the disease in a tree. They are also doing tool sanitation to avoid spreading it.

### **Commission Debrief on Presentation**

The Commission discussed a thank you letter for Stephanie, to include: keep Commission updated; provide information on how to identify it in trees and potentially a kit for collecting samples that can be tested. Shari will draft the letter.

### **2021 Work Plan**

Patti set up the work plan discussion, starting with a recap of the last discussion and displaying a template work plan that starts to incorporate some of the suggested changes.

There are different types of actions in the current plan, and not an easy way to distinguish between those types (e.g. monitoring ongoing issues vs. specific projects and actions.) How do Commissioners sign up for tasks/work? How many things can/should Commissioners sign up for?

Suggestion to identify what the Commission's goals are and what it wants to accomplish, and then identify and assign tasks from there. Also discussed how to identify priorities among the tasks so that we can map out how the work gets accomplished through the year?

Work planning suggestions include:

- Send out a survey with all of the tasks so that Commissioners can rank and prioritize.
- In-person retreat for developing plans.
- Make items action-oriented, to incorporate accountability and ability to track.
- Calendar list of other things happening.
- Import the work plan to Excel so that it is sortable and more of a tool.
- Categories could include time-sensitive, administrative. Standardize the outcome and deliverable; four types of actions columns. Template and how-to for each action type.
- Recommendation – commissioners would prepare one-pager; various types of results in the recommendations (not an issue for action, recommended action.)
- Incorporate column on priority into the plan (using tiers vs. straight numbering).

A question was posed about whether funding is available for translations of engagement materials. The Commission may want to explore a funding relationship and determine what is possible (e.g. partner with Parks Foundation or other) and how to do implement it. Look into other commissions have fiscal sponsors and/or how they fund their products.

**SPR thank you letter**

Commissioners reviewed the draft letter prepared by Josh and proceeded to make edits to refine the letter. The letter includes suggestions that Commissioners made during the September 8 meeting, as well as additional recommendations added after.

**Action: A motion to adopt the letter as amended was made, seconded and approved.**

**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>**

**Public comment:**

None

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.

**Meeting Chat:**

from Shari Selch to everyone: 3:12 PM

has the meeting started?

from Shari Selch to everyone: 3:13 PM

I can't hear anything!

from Weston to everyone: 3:13 PM

Yes! It has!

from Weston to everyone: 3:13 PM

Maybe try leaving and coming back in?

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:18 PM

Thank you, Michael! We will miss you! Glad you'll stick around for a bit :)

from Julia Michalak to everyone: 3:18 PM

Thank you Michael! We will miss you

from Julia Michalak to everyone: 3:19 PM

No worries!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:30 PM

I hear background noise- is it just me?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:30 PM

i hear office chatter

from Julia Michalak to everyone: 3:30 PM

Sounds ok to me

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:46 PM

Question: I was wondering if WSU or City of Seattle is forming collaborations with the local tribes, especially given the strong knowledge they hold about our trees, like the Puyallup by WSU?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:48 PM

thank you!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:51 PM

Question: In terms of the research and response, is the network planning to incorporate citizen science?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:52 PM

Where people can provide information on new Sooty Bark Disease cases?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:52 PM

NVM! My question was answered right now with this question.

from Julia Michalak to everyone: 3:54 PM

Suggestion to create a single phone number/email point of contact for the public to report sighting either of this or future pest species. Just to make it easy and simple to know who and how to contact.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:58 PM

Thank you!!!! Great presentation!

from Julia Michalak to everyone: 3:58 PM

Thanks!

from Helms, Stephanie to everyone: 4:01 PM

Thank you Shari!

from Helms, Stephanie to everyone: 4:03 PM

Have to run - thank you all again for having me, and for the great questions and valuable feedback! Looking forward to giving another update as more research emerges! Enjoy autumn :)

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:21 PM

cant we just do an excel sheet?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:21 PM

that will make it easier

from Weston to everyone: 4:21 PM

agreed!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:25 PM

yes

from David Moehring, UFC Pos 8 to everyone: 4:32 PM

Example of a prototype typical "RECOMMENDATION": (1) Topic;; (2) Background to topic;; (3) Preliminary Findings from UFC focus team; and (4) proposed recommendation(s) from the focus team (this may include that the topic should be postponed to a later date.) 5. Name of focus team participants.

from Weston to everyone: 4:34 PM

thanks David

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:59 PM

+1 Julia

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 5:02 PM

Thank you all!

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

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:56 AM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.

2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Susan Su  
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13720 41st Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Andrea LaVare Malagon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 5:56 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Andrea LaVare Malagon  
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5604 S. Fountain St. Seattle 98178  
Seattle, Washington 98178

**From:** Barbara Sanborn <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

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Barbara Sanborn  
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5038B Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** Colleen Weinstein <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Hello Council,

Enough is enough. Seattle's lack of urgency on this issue is baffling. Climate pledge Arena happened faster than updating the ordinance and we all know trees remaining growing and thriving in our city are truly the biggest contributor to human health and reducing the impacts of climate change. Do the right thing now and make a move that will benefit the youth of Seattle. It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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Colleen Weinstein  
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**From:** marshallvbender@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:47 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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.

[marshallvbender@gmail.com](mailto:marshallvbender@gmail.com)  
5216 11TH AVE NE #B  
SEATTLE, Washington 98105

**From:** Marshall Bender <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:47 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Marshall Bender  
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**From:** Elizabeth Uding <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 8:00 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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.

Elizabeth Uding  
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 8725 14th AVE NW  
 Seattle, Washington 98117

**From:** Shawn Dotter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
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Shawn Dotter  
[shawndotter@hotmail.com](mailto:shawndotter@hotmail.com)  
7019 NE 170th St  
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Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree

oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city’s responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

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