



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

November 10, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call
(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2487 203 0102

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
Jessica Hernandez
Stuart Niven
Michael Walton
Jessica Jones
Shari Selch

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler

Public

Steve Zemke

Absent- Excused

Blake Voorhees
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 3:03 and offered a land acknowledgement.

Public comment:

None

Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:

Patti provided the update that there are still questions to solve in how to bring back the in-person option for meetings (technical issues, safety questions.) After some discussion, it was decided to continue with mostly remote participation in December, but with Patti and Jessica Jones doing the December 1 meeting from the conference room in the Seattle Municipal Tower, to begin testing out the technical aspects required to retain remote meeting options while running the meeting from the physical location.

Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations

Patti provided a review of the nomination process initiated at the last meeting. She reiterated the call for Commissioners to nominate others or themselves for the two positions, and will accept nominations through November 24 in order to leave time for verifying nominees' interest. Then at the December 1 meeting, nominees will have a chance to say a few words about their interest in serving, and elections will happen at the December 8 meeting.

Work Plan

Patti pulled up the draft template for the work plan and walked through the elements and structure of it, as well as the content that has been pulled into it so far, which is the result of the prioritization survey provided to Commissioners. Commissioners then had opportunity to provide feedback and discuss the work planning process. Additional functionality such as sorting/organizing tasks by status (finished, needing more work) and tasks by Commissioner were suggested as possible to add.

For work planning for 2022, options include having a separate planning retreat or conducting the planning during a regular meeting. Commissioners discussed options for populating the new work plan template, including starting from scratch and filling items in fresh, or importing all items from the current plan and whittling down and/or adding from there.

Patti will resend the link to the prioritization survey so that any Commissioners who haven't filled it out yet but are interested can do so. The Commission will look to scheduled work planning for January.

Urban Forestry Consolidation SLI Letter

Commissioners discussed some issues and frustration around engagement of the Commission in city processes such as the tree protection updates work, and considered potential actions to take to ensure increased engagement with the Commission, including evaluation of Ordinance 123052, preparing a letter to the City Attorney's Office and/or inviting someone from that office to attend a meeting.

Weston walked through the draft letter, including highlighted areas modified since the last time the Commission discussed it, such as areas calling out the enabling legislation in detail and the role of the Commission in preparing legislation and policies. Shari also explained some edits she made to the letter to increase clarity and strengthen the recommendations. Commissioners worked through the letter and made additional edits.

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

Community Engagement

Jessica H. outlined the work that she, Weston and David have done toward the community engagement effort and expressed their excitement in launching it. The first step is to identify important metrics that will help determine which areas and/or communities to focus Commission attention on. To do this, they created an area in the padlet format where Commissioners can input environmental justice indicators or focus areas specific to their positions, as well suggested community organizations for the Commission to work with for

those areas. Commissioners were then provided some time to fill out their areas in padlet. Once Commissioners fill in their information, Jessica can use the information to create a framework for the community engagement work moving forward. The link for this padlet area will be shared with Commissioners so that information can continue to be input, especially for those Commissioners not present for this initial brainstorm.

Budget letter

Weston recapped the discussion on budget from last week, including the four categories of initial input, and provided a briefing on the draft letter on it prepared by him and Josh. Commissioners discussed the content and structure of the letter, including questions on budget process and city programs, and made edits to both.

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 Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:52 PM

Sorry I am late: I teach before this meeting and today my students had their midterms. Didn't want to call in while driving.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:11 PM

<https://padlet.com/jessica1267/v6zzsm5a9m6qcbiw>

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:12 PM

What we are doing "Please list two main priorities you want us, as UFC to consider in our community and outreach plan. You can focus on what environmental justice topics you want us to prioritize- especially for your specific chair/position. Based on the two environmental justice topics or community focus areas, please identify two organizations that will fit those areas."

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:13 PM

Short Presentation Link:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEsYTMAjDQ/Nqv5f65gPxz42_rcOvPNIQ/view?utm_content=DAEsYTMAjDQ&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:21 PM

We are missing: public health representative, get engaged rep, urban ecologist, economist, hydrologist, and arborist. Correct?

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:21 PM

Are there any other items on today's agenda? If not, then I'll leave since this is an 'in house' matter. Thanks.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:22 PM

<https://padlet.com/jessica1267/v6zzsm5a9m6qcbiw>

from Weston to everyone: 4:22 PM

Yes - we'll be discussing the Mayors 2022 budget, time permitting

from Weston to everyone: 4:22 PM

Yes - Jessica, I believe that is correct

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:31 PM

Also for any commissioners who want to join our community/outreach brainstorm sessions (Weston, David, & myself thus far) please email me at jessica@sustainableseattle.org. Thank you :)

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:38 PM

Are the draft letters, such as this one, located anywhere else? Cannot read on screen, too tiny and doesn't scroll. In future can you post ahead? Thank you

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:39 PM

This part starts with the positive and then proceeds with the negative.

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