



Aaron Clark (Position 1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Lani Chang** (Position 3 - Natural Resource Agency or University) • **Maeve Gillis** (Position 10 – Get Engaged) • **Melanie Ocasio** (Position 11 – Environmental Justice) • **Lia Hall** (Position 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

Commissioners Absent

Facilitators

Drue Epping (Position 5 – Arborist) • **Andrea Starbird** (Position 12 – Public Health) • UFC staff

Briefings

Briefing: Nate Moxley, Foresting Seattle Initiative

Briefing: Jonathan Morales: “Faster, Denser, Taller” Implementation Phase

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

Minutes

July 8 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m

1. **The meeting was called to order at 3:05, the Chair conducted roll call, and the agenda was reviewed.**
2. **The Chair facilitated Public Comment and provided a guideline to the public for engaging in this period.**

No public comment was made during this time.

3. **Vote: Approve Meeting Notes from 06/10/2026**
 - Maeve motions to approve. Andrea and Melanie seconds.
 - UFC unanimously approved.
4. **Updates & Announcements**
 - Drue provided the following updates:
 - Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is providing grants that are coming out in August and discussion about Emerald Dash Borer

- Suggested seeing if someone from the State/City can give a presentation or training on the Emerald Dash Borer
 - Lauren touched on the City's work on this and clarified the UFC's interest in having an update on the City's Pest Readiness Plan
 - Lia/Andrea expressed interest in having this information shared
- Hannah provided the OSE/UFC updates:
 - OSE updates:
 - Noted that materials were sent to the Commissioners containing follow-up from Tim Lehman's presentation at the 05/13 meeting
 - Details about the Pacific Northwest Climate Week
 - Climate Action Plan survey was extended to July 20th
 - Lia asked what channels the survey is being distributed, and Lauren shared some background.
 - OSE will follow-up to have information about the broader community engagement strategy shared with the Commissioners.
 - Environmental Justice Fund application is open until July 14th
 - Trees for Neighborhood Planting program open until July 31st
 - Concerned about capacity. OSE + City staff attend when needed.
 - UFC-specific updates:
 - Noted to the entire Commission that Councilmember Rivera requested a meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Phase II Recommendations. Will schedule with the corresponding subcommittee that drafted this letter (Drue, Lia, and Lani).
 - Provided an update on having OIR Tribal Relations Director, Francesca Murnan, to join the EDI subcommittee at a later date instead of the full UFC meeting as mentioned in a previous meeting.

5. Discussion: Governance Subcommittee Recommendations

- Andrea provided a recap of what work the Governance Subcommittee has done, what the full UFC has contingently approved up to this point, and what to expect after
- Andrea did an overview of the second round of protocols before opening it up to the UFC for discussion.
- Questions and comments:
 - Lia: Asked clarity on the number of seats that would count for a supermajority
 - Andrea/Sean clarified that it is a minimum number of seats, not an addition, and provided context.
 - Maeve: Asked about the subcommittee checklist and when it is to be used.
 - Andrea clarified it can be used ahead of the formation of a subcommittee, including during a meeting if needed. She and Sean also provided reasoning for the checklist.

- Lia noted the staff capacity in joining subcommittees in the memo and provided feedback/concerns on managing capacity and whether it may become a bottleneck in the process.
 - Drue asked on whether there is documentation to help decide this on a as needed basis
 - Lia provided some historical context for how the UFC handled subcommittees in the past to consider
 - Melanie referenced the first round of protocols and reflected on how that would apply to this inquiry
 - Sean expanded on how this process/next round will lead to a cohesive agreement and how it will provide opportunities to create tools and systems to determine capacity for clarity. Encourages formal comments to be made via email to OSE staff.
- Lia recognizes the subcommittee's hard work and thanks them for everything they have done.
- Drue motions to contingently approve the protocols. Lani seconded.
- UFC unanimously approved (note: Aaron Clark joined the meeting after the vote was taken)

6. Briefing: Foresting Seattle Initiative

- Nate provided an overview of what to expect in this presentation
- Lauren provided context on the Seattle Urban Forestry program, and it's approaches that underly the Foresting Seattle program
- Foresting Seattle: Three Program Areas
 - Prefaced this section with funding information and additional context
 - Focused on two priority neighborhoods (Beacon Hill + CID)
- Neighborhood Teams
 - 12-person team that is comprised of community members that represent their neighborhood
 - Dedicated to social justice and environmental justice work
 - Discussed opportunities and who/what departments can be involved
 - Goal is to establish set of recommendations – brings draft to the community through outreach for feedback, reviewed by City, then brought back to the Neighborhood Team to follow-up/take action
- Coordinated Urban Forest Restoration in Beacon Hill
 - Work is focused on restoring areas that SPR owns
 - Nate discussed the opportunities to work with contractors and what is they do, and provided several examples of restoration
 - Looking for opportunities to engage in light restoration, fun events
 - Examples: Cheasty Greenspace, ECOSS & MTSMT
- Career Exposure
 - SPR Youth Green Corps (YGC)

- Historical context of this program was given and how partnership was established, and what is expected to be a part of it.
 - Focus is training and job experience with a wrap-around approach, focusing on urban forestry and the natural areas/restoration work and provide job opportunities within Parks/other departments at City
 - Notes there is efforts to bring everyone (Neighborhood teams, etc.) together to find overlap and connections
 - Elevating connections to local arborists and arboricultural companies
- Nate discussed what's next for Foresting Seattle, what to look out for, and encouraged folks to reach out about this information if it interests anyone.
- Questions and Comments
 - Aaron: Regarding GYC, is the Duwamish Infrastructure Restoration Training (DIRT) Core connected? And do the contractors are a part of that training/workforce career path?
 - Nate: No, they are not directly involved to his awareness, though notes that they are connected with broader Duwamish Valley work. Most training happen in house for YGC with the Seattle Green Partnership.
 - Lia: Asks clarification on the maps that were showed and whether the neighborhoods were chosen as a pilot, is the intention throughout the program?
 - Lauren: Clarifies that this work is being done throughout these areas in the Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan, but the Foresting Seattle program allows for deeper dive to putting these recommendations into action for these neighborhoods. Also noted federal prioritization selection.
 - Lia: Regarding the planting that was mentioned, is the five (5) year maintenance of water applicable to this situation? And who does this mean?
 - Nate: Definitely including maintenance cost for street trees. On the restoration side, may not be applicable due to whether the trees need it.

7. Briefing: “Faster, Denser, Taller” Implementation Phase

- Drue provided context/background on what led to this briefing before introducing OPCD staff
- Jonathan and Michael gave more background about the Comprehensive Plan and previous stakeholder meeting purpose
 - Discussed current administrations interests and priorities
 - OPCD is now studying a range of options to give Mayor and Council choices on zoning changes
 - Delved deeper into the additional environmental study review requirements
- Discussed the key goals that Mayor Wilson announced to expand a unified Phase 3 package of zoning changes
- Shared themes that were discussed during the stakeholder meetings previously
- Timeline on the draft SEIS and major public comment is sometime in mid-2027
- Questions and Comments:

- Drue: Thanks OPCD staff for their presentation and appreciates their updates and related it to her interests/UFC work.
- Andrea: Noted excitement at the scope of this work. Asked for more details on what the community feedback was regarding the GreenFactor scoring and specific environmental needs of the individual neighborhoods.
 - Jonathan: There was a lot of discussion on taking a community centered approach in density proposals, and GreenFactor came up as a topic to tailoring it to the specific environmental needs. Notes the larger report will go more in-depth in it.
- Aaron: Appreciates that this opportunity to engage exists, and would like to know when in the timeline there will be opportunities for this Commission/public to weigh in again? Notes how there were some concerns about the public openness of these meetings as well.
 - Michael:
 - Formal opportunities will be what are standard for environmental review process, and a draft of the SEIS will be released in 2027 which will then have a public comment period to follow. Ramp up for intensive period for outreach, which the UFC will be considered for. Not precisely marked due to unknowns due to other legislation.
 - Informally, OPCD is doing outreach now to start launching work and doing some small engagement to get more information and strategize some ways to reach a complete set of stakeholders. Is also open to more conversations.

8. Second Public Comment (if time allows)

There was no time for public comment.

9. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Team Chat:

Drue Epping Arborist #5, Unverified, 07/08/2026, 3:05 PM

To ensure a respectful and productive meeting for everyone, please keep the following guidelines in mind while using the chat box: Refrain from Disrupting Presentations & Business Items: Please refrain from using the chat box during presentations or business proceedings to respect our presenters' time and keep focus on the task at hand. Public comments should only be made during the designated public comment periods. Be Respectful: We ask that all comments remain kind, and respectful of all participants, including presenters, volunteer commissioners, staff, and fellow attendees. Disrespectful or off-topic messages may lead to changes for chat accessibility in meetings. Stay On Topic: Please keep your comments focused on the agenda items and topics being discussed during the meeting. We accept email submissions of other items and topics that can be distributed to UFC commissioners between meetings. By participating, you agree to follow these guidelines so we can maintain a respectful and effective meeting environment for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

Drue Epping Arborist #5, Unverified, 07/08/2026, 3:13 PM

Emerald Ash Borer: <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Emerald-Ash-Borer-Guide.pdf>

Sean Watts (He/Him), Unverified, 07/08/2026, 3:18 PM

Yeah, there are lots of look alike here

Urgenson, Lauren, 07/08/2026, 3:27 PM

Sharing the Climate Action Plan website which describes the broader engagement strategy including a summary blog on the Community Assemblies [Seattle's Climate Action Plan Update - Environment | seattle.gov](#)

Pascual, Hannah, 07/08/2026, 3:28 PM

PNW Climate Week:

- [PNW Climate Week · Events Calendar](#)
- [PNW Climate Week Opening Ceremony](#)

Climate Action Plan:

- [Webpage](#)
- [Climate Action Plan Survey](#)

2026 Environmental Justice Fund: [Application](#)

2026 Trees for Neighborhoods Planting Program: [Application](#)

Urgenson, Lauren, 07/08/2026, 4:19 PM

CPTED = Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Aaron Clark (pos. 1 Wildlife biologist), Unverified, 07/08/2026, 4:21 PM

Applied Ecology?

Nate Moxley, Unverified, 07/08/2026, 4:38 PM

nathaniel.moxley@seattle.gov

Melanie, Unverified, 07/08/2026, 4:49 PM

I'll need to head out a bit early. Thanks for all the hard work

Sean Watts (He/Him), Unverified, 07/08/2026, 5:01 PM

Have to run, thanks all!

Drue Epping Arborist #5, Unverified, 07/08/2026, 5:03 PM

OSE_UFC_Liaison@seattle.gov