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**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 2 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, October 08, 2023 1:14:19 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, October 08, 2023 3:10:48 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:56:28  
**IP Address:** 76.135.237.103

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**Q1**

Please share your information below:

Name	<b>Pete Hanning</b>
District	<b>6</b>
City	<b>Seattle</b>
Position	<b>City Council</b>

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**Q2**

As a City of Seattle Council Member, will you commit to prioritizing amending Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance to include maximizing the retention of existing healthy trees, especially large ones, and planting more trees, as part of a climate resiliency plan for low income and economic justice communities to respond to environmental inequities?

**Yes,**  
Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
It is important to safeguard our current tree coverage and plant more trees, particularly in regions that experience excessive heat. Through my own door-to-door campaigning during the election, I have personally observed that neighborhoods with a thriving tree canopy tend to be healthier and more pleasant.

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**Q3**

Seattle's new tree ordinance would allow the removal of all trees when lots are developed without considering alternative site design and building options to save trees.Would you support an amendment to the Tree Protection Ordinance requiring developers to consider alternative site designs to protect more trees? Many trees are the edge of lots.

**Yes,**  
Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
We must get creative moving forward. I believe strongly in "More Trees & More Housing".

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**Q4**

As Seattle's population increases, so does the pressure for increased housing. Significant tree loss occurs in Seattle when lots are clear-cut for development. Advocates for more tree protection believe with better planning and regulations, we can both increase housing and save more existing trees. Trees create healthy communities.Can you think of additional ways Seattle can succeed at saving more of its exceptional and significant trees while building new housing?

Give allowances to builders in more height and mass when trees are saved.

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**Q5**

The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) currently oversees tree protection on private property. SDCI is mainly funded by money from development permits but gets no money for tree protection. This creates a potential conflict of interest. Additionally, SDCI has no Urban Forestry Division or Urban Foresters. Trees and our urban forest need a city department to represent them that does not have conflicting priorities. San Francisco has a Department of the Environment with responsibilities for a diversity of issues, including the urban forest and climate. Would you support moving tree and urban forest protection and oversight to a new independent Department of the Environment and Climate that includes an Urban Forestry Division to specifically coordinate and prioritize tree and urban forest protection?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
While I am wary of creating another department that could lead to more silos, having a department dedicated to the environment is a good idea.

**Q6**

Portland, Oregon requires that a comprehensive Tree Inventory and Tree Plan be done at the beginning of their development permit process. Developers enter the inventory and information into an Excel spreadsheet which can easily be added to a city database. This allows developers to plan around trees from the start of the development process and not a later add on, complicating an already moving process. This will also help Seattle more quickly track tree loss and replacement during development. The current tracking is requiring SDCI staff to remove data from a site plan which is both time consuming and frequently incomplete because all the information is not on the site plan. It also eats up employee time and the SDCI budget. Do you support amending the current Tree Ordinance to add this requirement?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
I strongly believe in early planning as it enhances any project or initiative. Any action taken to eliminate unnecessary processes is beneficial.

**Q7**

Seattle, in 2007, set a 30 - year goal to reach a tree canopy of 30% by 2037. Yet there has been no specific plan developed by the city detailing how we can reach this goal. The recent record temperatures in Seattle and the Northwest confirmed the deadly impacts of urban heat island effects on human life, especially in areas where there is low tree canopy. Mapping has shown these areas to be mostly previously redlined areas and low- income areas. Seattle needs a detailed plan in place to plant in areas needing more trees to address environmental equity. Will you support developing a tree planting plan and prioritizing this goal by moving the 30% canopy goal to 2030 as is being done with other climate mitigation timeline goals in Seattle?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
During my campaign, a childhood friend asked me when Seattle was last referred to as the "Emerald City?" We should focus on restoring our reputation for having a lush tree canopy. It is a goal that the whole city could get behind. Let's become again that Emerald City!

**Q8**

Many trees in Seattle die as the result of invasive species like English ivy, killing them with their climbing vines. On steep slopes this greatly threatens slope stability and increases the risk of landslides. A good time to remove invasives is during development. The current landscaping plan requires that invasives be removed only where a replacement tree is being planted. Do you support requiring developers, as part of their landscape plan, to remove all invasives on the lot undergoing development?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
Our family's property is located next to a steep green belt, and we take great pride in maintaining it. Every year, we allocate significant resources to ensure the trees on this crucial slope are healthy and thriving. We have a well-thought-out plan in place to protect and replenish the trees, and we believe it's necessary for all landowners in the area to do the same. After all, the health of these trees is worth preserving for the benefit of the entire community.

**Q9**

Portland, Oregon in 2020 complied with an Oregon State law to require approval of building 4 plexes in their single-family zone. Last November, responding to continued canopy loss, they amended their building code to require a dedicated 20% Tree Retention and Planting area in multifamily zones and a 40% dedicated Tree Retention and Planting area in their 1-4 family zone as a planning alternative to save trees. Would you support a similar provision to help Seattle protect its tree canopy for climate resiliency and tree equity across the city?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
We should research what other municipalities are doing to combat the global problem of climate change, particularly the loss of the tree canopy. Kudos to Portland for taking action!

**Q10**

The new Tree Protection Ordinance guarantees developers a 100% allowable development area in Midrise, Seattle Mixed and Commercial zones and an 85% allowable development area in the Lowrise zones. Seattle's multifamily zones currently have a 23% canopy cover and Seattle mixed zone has a 12% canopy cover according to the Seattle 2021 Canopy Report. Would you support maintaining the present building code which allows the city to work with developers to try to save trees in these zones instead of a one size fits all guarantee that will result in significant canopy loss in these zones?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
It is crucial to consider each site's unique potential for development while saving trees on site.

**Q11**

The Seattle City Council approved funds to scope a study of Seattle's Natural Capital but never followed through. Would you support funding a Natural Capital Study for Seattle to monetize the economic value of Seattle's trees and urban forest?

**Yes,**

Please share why this is, or is not, important to you::  
I would like to learn more about this.

**Q12**

Share your favorite type of tree and how you like to spend time in nature?

It is hard to pick a favorite tree, but the Western Hemlock is our official state tree, and I have always marveled at her majesty. I am a runner, primarily trail running. When not campaigning, I can be found running in our many beautiful parks, especially Discovery, which is my favorite place in Seattle.

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**Q13**

Is there anything else you would like to share about why tree protection is important (or not) to you?

I extend my sincere appreciation to the tree community for their outreach, advocacy, and patience in educating me about the issue at hand. I am immensely grateful for the support I have received from multiple individuals, such as Toby Thaler, my neighbor, Councilmember Alex Pederson, and Sandy Shettler, who I would like to especially acknowledge. This issue has been a worthwhile learning opportunity for me during my campaign, and I am grateful for the concern demonstrated by many for our shared home.

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