

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes
Graham Visitors Center – December 10, 2014

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is a Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks Department, and the University of Washington, and designated by Seattle City Council Ordinance 65130, approved December 27, 1934, and Ordinance 116337, approved September 8, 1992.

Voting Members

Arboretum Foundation

- *Excused*, Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Jim Reid, Arboretum Foundation Board President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Asst. Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- *Excused*, Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

AF: Paige Miller; City: TBD; UW: TBD

Partners Committee:

AF: Paige Miller & Jim Reid

City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams

Michael Shiosaki & Leah Tivoli

UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG): AF: Paige Miller & Craig Trueblood

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Theresa Doherty & Fred Hoyt

Opening Items

The December meeting of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is called to order at 8:34am. Jack calls for approval of the March, August, and September meeting minutes; Michael moves, Sarah seconds and the minutes are approved. Fred asks to add a discussion about the

Temporary Signage Policy onto the Agenda under Old/New Business. The ABGC agree and the Agenda is approved.

Update: SR520 West Approach Bridge North (WABN)
Presented by James Vansteenburgh

James Vansteenburgh is the Deputy Construction Manager; he moved from Florida to manage this project; he understands environmentally sensitive areas.

Update on WABN: The end result will be to tie in the floating bridge to the Montlake area; they are adding shared use and HOV lanes; the ramps to nowhere will come out; and the exit to Lake Washington Boulevard will be replaced by an off-ramp at 24th Avenue.

Montlake overpass area: WSDOT is repurposing and widening sidewalks, moving bus stops; adding and widening turn lanes.

24th Avenue: Contractors put a fence up to create the lines for the construction area, the neighbors complained so they now have half of the fence opened for bikes and pedestrians. The bridge will be shut down completely because they will be rebuilding it; they have a maximum of 150 days to do it. This will include building a sidewalk path that connects Montlake to canal reserve, and widening sidewalks to 10 feet. This will happen in 4-6 months.

MOHAI area: Asbestos abatement in MOHAI building is extensive; the contractors expect the building to come down in the next 3-4 months.

The temporary work trestle is being built.

Foster Island work: The waterfront path that goes under SR520 from Foster Island will open in the next couple of weeks for pedestrians. The trail has been closed for 50 days and they get 180 total closure days.

Fred asks about the stop order. James explains that a few things have happened recently that has ceased parts of the work. The city pulled the noise permits because the construction team was not adhering to the noise ordinances; the demolition work has been stopped. A crane leaked fuel and it wasn't discovered so when the heavy rains came it washed into the lake; they have put in mitigation measures. It has delayed the project by a couple of weeks. The focus is to get the work trestle put up before April because they have to be out of the water by April when the fish come through.

Rachel to schedule a 520 tour 10:30am after the January meeting.

Ramps to Nowhere: October 14, removed ramp portion that extends over SR520. This is ongoing; it takes some time to take out the ramps. Jack feels because the rest of the ramps are not on a critical path for construction of the bridge, it isn't high priority. James emphasizes that they have a team working on it but it is taking longer than they expected.

Daytime work along Lake Washington Boulevard: between Montlake Boulevard and 24th Ave E – WSDOT crews are repairing potholes; removing trees on North side; and constructing a new westbound right turn lane.

Nighttime work at SR520 eastbound on and off ramp: WSDOT is installing drainage and adding dedicated right turn lane. Their work may include use of loud equipment. 1 lane will be open at all times.

Fred tells James that contractors are parking in the Foster Island parking lot and asks him to have contractors park elsewhere.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

City budget was approved the week of Thanksgiving. The Superintendent search continues – candidates have been interviewed by the steering committee; the short list moves on to the Mayor. The city hopes to name the new Superintendent by the end of the year.

Arboretum Foundation – There was a party last night honoring Arbor Circle members – the room looked fabulous – it was magical in here! Jim says the Arboretum Foundation is resuscitating the major gifts committee, which he will co-chair with Susan Black.

University of Washington – There has been tension between the Japanese Garden and the University of Washington regarding which plants are owned by whom – The UWBG will transfer plants to Seattle and they are working to create policy/procedures to manage those trees.

Center for Urban Horticulture– The North American Industrial Office Professionals (NIOP) have done much work at CUH including a 200-person work party. Sarah applied to NAIOP for the Washington Park Arboretum this year to help with infrastructure; application was submitted this week. They will perform a site visit in January/February. Yesler Swamp funding is doing well. Construction is happening now.

UWBG has ordered a people mover that holds about 15 people and has a microphone so that they can give tours. It will be here in a few months.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail (ALT) – staff are working to minimize impact of trail on existing collections. They are being cautious about number of trees removed; UWBG staff has been working many hours on figuring out how to do this with the least impact. The project will go to bid after the first of the year.

Parks staff are making a few changes to gate outside the Graham Visitors Center; there is some unattractive signage as people enter the arboretum. Parks staff are working with Tsutakawa to find a good place for the gates; Kenan suggests having a plaque with a date and information about the artist.

Joint Operations Committee – UW and Parks staff looking at relocating existing speed bumps to see if they can be used to better slow down bicyclists and cars along Arboretum Drive.

Ridgetop trail – Iain asks the design team to consider a suspension bridge to keep it higher. Sarah mentions there is a canopy walk in the Master Plan.

2015 Work Plan

Sandra Lier had created a work plan matrix a few years back and Jack requests that Rachel create something similar.

Public Outreach Plan – The ABGC discuss whether to hire professional help or find someone pro bono. The goal is to promote the Arboretum to the people. Michael suggests a consultant could help us decide what the priorities should be to improve public participation. The ALT is the perfect opportunity to make it more public friendly. Sarah mentions there are 3 separate organizations all doing piecemeal marketing and it would be good to put it in a pot to see what all partners are doing. They suggest a committee to sit down and work together consisting of: Wendy Gibble (?), Sarah, Kenan, Michael, Jim + marketing staff from the Arboretum Foundation; figure out next steps. **Kenan clarifies within a year the committee will come up with a concrete proposal for the next retreat.**

1. Invite Roger Nyhus to meet with the Committee.

Goal: done by retreat next year

2. Lobbying legislature for funding – go down when legislators are not in session. June/July; ask wsdot when should we go to Olympia to lobby for WSDOT?

Michael to figure out which city council meeting the ABGC representative should attend in order to lobby on WSDOT's behalf.

3. Water and Iain's email: Sarah has a graduate student who is looking at hydrology – how water flows through the Arboretum.

Azalea Way is so impacted that water pools there; the Broadmoor chemicals wash down into the Arb ponds.

4. Meeting with Sound Transit – improve wayfinding between Sound Transit and Arboretum.

Rachel to work with Michael to figure out work plan matrix.

Old/New Business

Temporary Signage Policy: Jack offers background. Paige put up many signs for Give Big, it never came to ABGC. The ABGC appointed a committee. Fred researched and brought us his information. Cites page 3 – the plan will only work if it is carried out with a persistent and insightful leadership and institutional memory.

The interpretive and wayfinding policy is very comprehensive, carefully thought out.

Communications: people mover a good feature story when it's ready to "unveil" let's talk about getting some nice press around that.

2015 Retreat Date: falls on Veteran's Day – November 4 is new Retreat date

Election of Officers: Jack came up with a proposed slate – there is a rotation based on organizations; he suggests Jim be chair, Sarah be vice-chair and Michael be secretary – Kenan moves and Theresa seconds and the ABGC elects new leadership.

Kenan says Jack has done a great job as chair. There is a lot of work that goes into chairing this and he thanks Jack and the conversations have been very productive.

Sarah states there is a new graduate student, she would like to add him to the abgc as an ad hoc member; his name is Dan Sorensen.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 10:11am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair