

## Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – September 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

- 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:

- *Excused*, 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 September meeting of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is called to order at 8:32am. Jack calls for approval of the July 9 meeting minutes; Dave moves Theresa seconds and the minutes are approved.

## Budget, Personnel and Other Items

### **Parks**

Michael states that Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams announced he will be stepping down as Superintendent and returning to his former position as Deputy Superintendent; the process to find his replacement is beginning. Kate Joncas, Deputy Mayor, met with the Executive Team to get feedback regarding the type of candidates for the Superintendent position. It will be an extensive process and similar to the process as the new SDOT director. There will be a committee to review and screen the candidates and another committee to go through the selection process. The goal is to have someone hired by January. City personnel are going to hire a search firm. Acting Superintendent Williams will stay in place until someone is found. The good news is Christopher will be staying with the department.

Deputy Superintendent Friedli will move back to his former position as Strategic Advisor. His position was held.

The Seattle Park District will hold their first meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The board will adopt bi-laws, charters, and the Inter-Local Agreement. Then, they will set the meeting schedule and set up the oversight committee: 1 from each council district, 4 people from Park Board and 4 from other boards and commissions. The Mayor gets to appoint the chair.

Budget: The budget is in the hands of the budget office/mayor's office; the Mayor will give his budget speech on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and then it will be handed off to the City Council.

### **Arboretum Foundation**

Sherry Luetjen and Julie MacAvoy are the chairs for the planning committee for the Opening Night party and they held their first meeting; February 10, 2015 is the date for the Home and Garden Show Opening Night party!

### **University of Washington**

Patrick Mulligan Youth and Family Manager has left. UWBG staff interviewed 3 for his replacement; 2 really stood out. One is an environmental educator and one has more museum experience. Patrick has done an exceptional job.

UWBG hired a new person in the education department to run the Fiddleheads drop-in program.

The name has changed for the large conference room at Graham Visitors Center to Wisteria Hall. This will look much better on wedding invitations than Large Conference Room. Kenan feels this is an excellent change.

Retreat Planning: Michael mentions the committee will be meeting next week to put together the Retreat Agenda.

## MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail- Berger is at the 65% construction document stage. Project has grown in scope; it is a bit over-budget and they are working to reduce it. The construction budget was 5.7million and right now estimates are around \$6.3million.

There have been tweaks to the trails path to make sure to protect the collection trees. Paige asks what happens to the trees that get taken out; Michael responds the contractor gets the value of the trees. Sarah may want to remove some trees for the value of the wood. The contract will go out to bid in January or February. The ABGC agree that it needs to be clear in the language of the bid what they want done with the trees.

Once they figure out the cuts to the trail they will bring it back to the ABGC. Kenan thinks the groundbreaking would be a good media story. Paige did receive a call regarding the ALT from the Capitol Hill Blog.

Next step is to figure out priority cuts to get it back to budget – next MPIG meeting is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Waterfront trail: Parks staff submitted a proposal through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant; they came in the bottom 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 projects. This was very disappointing; they said there was not great alignment with grant criteria. The people counters counted 24,000 users on the trail in July.

Sign committee: Paige adds that she, Kenan, Sarah and Fred are going to form a committee to create the policy. Sarah will check with Fred about the Wayfinding policy.

Broadmoor Discussion: The bottleneck on Foster Island Road has decreased. Enforcement has not been great but Broadmoor has been earnestly dealing with this situation. The horticulture staff will continue to monitor the situation. Kenan feels a more permanent solution will need to be found; Sarah says the golf club is not an option. Paige adds the golf club and the housing association are two separate entities.

Cross-Country Teams: Paige was on Azalea way at 4:45pm; there were about 60 high school kids from 3 high schools: Northwest, Seattle Prep and Garfield. They were running up and down Azalea Way in groups of 6-12 and they were using the entire trail as a jogging or sprinting course. It was intimidating for those who wanted to use it for walking. They weren't staying on the trail. Paige saw only one adult supervising the group. Paige feels Azalea Way is not the appropriate place for track practice. The lawn there already has serious drainage problems; this won't help. Kenan mentions how muddy Azalea Way will get once the rain starts if the kids are running on it.

Jack will talk with each school; there is probably a cross-country organization in the city that could be contacted also.

Motion: Theresa moves that we appoint Jack as the person to contact the schools about the students using Azalea Way for cross-country, Sarah seconds. The vote is approved unanimously.

Sound Transit: Kenan, Paige, Fred and Jack met with the Chief Executive Officer and 2 others. They discussed naming the station, which is a board decision not a staff decision but Sound Transit understood the point. The University of Washington would have to agree to any alterations in the name of the Sound Transit Station. The ABGC will figure out what the UW wants to do first.

The ABGC members and Sound Transit staff talked about signage and wayfinding issues; their communications guy was very impressive and said he would get right on it. The main signage isn't made yet but the place in the station where area information goes has already been assigned.

Between the Sound Transit station and Arboretum – SDOT, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Sound Transit need to coordinate for better, more uniform signage.

Paige adds the communications person mentioned entering "Washington Park Arboretum" into the Sound Transit website for directions and it came up with nothing. First thing they need to do is get the Arboretum in the website so that people can find it electronically. The station naming decision could be amended if the Sound Transit Board wanted it. Kenan adds that none of the staff said the ABGC was too late to have it changed. Would the UW be supportive of this? Kenan feels adding Arboretum would help with the confusion for out of town visitors since there is already a University Street station, a U District Station, and a University of Washington station.

A good map of the area and signage at the station would be very helpful; perhaps a visual graphic about the collections.

Jim wrote a fabulous email to Dean Graulich and so did Sarah. Theresa talked with some folks at the UW and the station name was discussed when Mark Emmert was still at the UW. Husky Stadium and UW Medical Center both wanted naming rights and they compromised on UW; there are a lot of parties that would be interested in getting in on the naming. Someone would have to bring it to the UW and she feels that would have to be the Dean. Theresa isn't sure how high it is on people's priority list. UW did not want to place more emphasis on one part of the UW over another. Jack feels they should wait for a response to Jim's memo from the Dean. Sarah feels it is a value, but a tough sell. Paige wonders whether an outside organization would be a better political sell than UWBG.

Kenan sees it as a public park and not intrinsically part of the UW; perhaps talking with King County Executives. David Towne will contact Dow Constantine's staff to gauge his interest in changing the Sound Transit Station name to include the Arboretum.

Michael agrees this is a heavy lift; the Arboretum is a part of the UW. People inside the UW will not want to play their cards for this.

Good news is that the Arboretum is included now in the UW Wayfinding plan from campus. There will be a direct corridor from Center for Urban Horticulture and the main campus.

Michael will research whether it is SDOT or Parks responsible for signs to the Arboretum.

## **Old/New Business**

Communications: Sarah mentions the new GIS mapping of the Arboretum on the UWBG website; the ABGC will wait to put out the story until after the phone application comes out.

Paige mentions that more people are using the Arboretum which is wonderful but there is not adequate parking. She came back to work in the middle of the day and she couldn't find a place to park and there was no event happening at the time.

The meeting adjourns at 9:37am for the canoe tour.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair