

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – February 11, 2015

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
- *Excused*, 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
- 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
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Construction Manager

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

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

Partners Committee:

AF: Jim Reid & Paige Miller

City: Christopher Williams & Michael Shiosaki

UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG): AF: Paige Miller & Jason Morse

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 meeting is called to order 8:32am. Jack requests to add a discussion about the upcoming meeting with sound transit and the public meeting regarding the Arboretum Loop Trail on February 28 to the Agenda. Fred asks to add an update on the NAIOP application.

Jim asks for approval of the January 14 meeting minutes – Jack moves and Iain seconds and the minutes are approved.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Waterfront trail – Parks is holding \$475,000 to apply for an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant. Parks staff received some good advice after applying last time and will incorporate other elements to make it attractive to them. Paige had some good ideas to make a better application and a solid presentation. The biggest issue with the waterfront trail is the change in the lake level. The connections between path and structures like the boardwalks are not flush. Parks has a solid structural design. Andy states they hired an engineering firm to analyze the piers and they said it was in remarkable condition. The waterfront trail does not meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Ridgetop Trail – There is \$100,000 dedicated funding in the Parks and Greenspaces Levy. Parks staff are saving that funding since there will not be a dedicated funding source for the Arboretum in the new Park District funding.

Multi-use trail – The construction budget has been carefully value added. Andy will discuss in further detail during MPIG.

Arboretum Foundation – Northwest Flower and Garden show was the previous evening; 530 guests and 100 volunteers attended. The theme was romance. Michael Shiosaki and Mayor Ed Murray were honorary co-chairs. Fund-a-need – the Foundation decided to raise money to support the volunteer programs because they have 600 volunteers who give 12,000 hours a year. It takes a lot of support to run a program that large because they need to be trained, recognized, thanked. The Foundation had a \$20,000 gift in honor of Dr. Wott. The auction went very well. The bench sold for \$4000. Now the Arboretum Foundation staff are starting to work on FlorAbundance plant sale that will take place in April.

2 weeks ago Chris Pendel suggested that the Arboretum Foundation ask Delta Airlines for tickets. The Delta representative said they would like to get more involved in the Arboretum. Iain suggests asking if they could get an article in the in-flight magazine. Everyone agrees that is a good idea. Kenan will look into this further.

Etera said they also would like to get more involved with the Arboretum; they make living roofs and made the centerpieces for the auction.

University of Washington – Earlier in the year, Sarah had told the ABGC that the University of Washington had given a mandate to give staff raises but had not dispersed funding to cover these raises. The University of Washington is now saying faculty may have to get their raises the same way. This will be voted on by the Faculty.

Theresa has a new job working on a new master plan, which is a written document that guides the buildings. She will also be working on University District partnerships.

The President of the University of Washington is leaving. Ana Marie Cauce will act as interim until they find a replacement. Ana Marie is popular with faculty and staff.

The UWBG hired a new gardener for Pacific Connections – **Preston Pew**.

NAIOP Commercial Real Estate and Development Association (NAIOP) – The site visit for the NAIOP application went very well. Their response was very strong. There is one other project in competition.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail (ALT) – 100% construction documents are ready. Andy will distribute to the partners for review.

The Master Use Permit (MUP) should get approved within 2 weeks and the building permit will be approved once the MUP is approved. The Army Corps of Engineers gets involved any time there is any drainage to a navigable waterway. Army Corps of Engineers has questions associated with cultural resources. WSDOT identified the cultural resources - Parks is hiring an expert to address any cultural resources that are found during construction. Andy says they are still optimistic for a late spring start for construction but cannot give specific dates.

Public meeting with SDOT went pretty well. It was a full house – close to 30 people came. It was a good conversation. Andy feels a little disappointed and surprised more immediate neighbors on 31st didn't come. Of those that came, the majority prefer it to be one way in, instead of one way out, but everyone prefers it being two way. They also discussed other ways to enhance coordination between cars, bikes and pedestrians. The citizens came prepared to discuss it. The city would never do anything that burdens neighbors significantly and the comments were heard. Everyone recognizes that intersection is confusing and dangerous. No one fussed about the tree removal.

Educational building/parking study and the Azalea way pond/summer garden are scoping exercises. The challenge fund through the Seattle Park District is on the forefront of people's minds.

Water concept: A number of people brought up drainage waste coming down the hillside and how to address the conveyance pattern and the partners are looking at this. Sarah mentions she has a student who is doing a Master's on the hydrology of the Arboretum and she will ask him where he is in his research. The ABGC wonders what is contained in the runoff from Broadmoor. Andy states he feels there should be testing done prior to discussions with Broadmoor about potential remediation.

Jack wants the MPIG project list at the next meeting.

Kenan makes a motion to ask the city to get a proposal for an environmental assessment for water quality testing associated with Broadmoor. Jack seconds.

Jack suggests Broadmoor to help finance the study. Paige suggests looking at the permits for the golf course improvements to see what they had done. They vote for unanimous approval.

Traffic controls on Arboretum Drive – Parks staff will be relocating the speed bumps; the speed bump notification signs will be placed in front of the speed bumps as warning.

Tsutakawa Entry Gate – Andy questions whether the current location is the best place for the gates – and says that MPIG is considering relocating them where the big white gate is on Arboretum Drive. Sarah adds that is a potential NAIOP project. MPIG will meet with Jerry Tsutakawa to make sure he is okay with the move. Iain asks about having them at Azalea way. MPIG discussed Azalea Way. Fred states it becomes a maintenance issue for the staff if they are on Azalea Way. The gates are functional, says Andy. The current location of the gates is neither functional nor noticeable. MPIG will bring a plan to ABGC prior to implementing a gate project.

Temporary signage policy

Jack reviews the temporary sign policy guidelines from pages 16 and 32. None of the partners have been diligent about following the signage policy. The reason for the signage plan is to provide guidelines and have a harmonious look to brand the Arboretum.

There is some discussion that the Give Big signs are more declarative and bold to encourage giving. The Give Big signs were educational and raised significant funds for the Arboretum. Andy suggests hiring a consultant – a graphic designer to further define the language, criteria and develop a template of temporary signage. Fred says there is a template that could be used and agrees a consultant should be used if certain types of signs are not addressed in the signage policy.

All concur that they want less signs in the Arboretum and if there are going to be signs then they meet a standard design quality that does not diminish the experience of the Arboretum.

Fred says he could ask Mindy Cameron to flush out and identify concerns. MPIG could discuss this and flush out the points of concern and request case studies about how this issue has been dealt with in other places.

Jack makes a motion to have Fred and MPIG to discuss the signage policy with Mindy Cameron to request if she could flush out the temporary signage policy; 4 opposed and 4 in favor. The vote fails.

Old/New Business

Communications: Kenan will coordinate to talk with Delta about a feature story in the Inflight magazine.

Florabundance will be in April.

Key messages about ALT – the ABGC will review the public information to ensure consistent messaging between the Partners.

Sound Transit Meeting: There is another meeting at Sound Transit to discuss the Wayfinding Plan; The ABGC agrees that Sound Transit is committed to doing something inside the station. Hopefully, they will get details on where, what kind of signs, and how much space.

Andy mentions King County Metro just put in a bus station next to Jimi Hendrix Park. Jack mentions that Metro was not super receptive to do more wayfinding for the Arboretum. Jim suggests an email to Sound Transit with topics they are interested in discussing.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 10:15am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair