

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes
Graham Visitors Center – January 14, 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
- Excused, 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
- 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: Christopher Williams & Michael Shiosaki

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

Michael calls the Agenda to order at 8:34am. Michael asks for approval of the Agenda and December 10 meeting minutes; Michael sent his changes to Rachel. Jack moves to approve the retreat minutes and Iain seconds, retreat minutes are approved. Jack moves approval of the December 10 meeting minutes; Jack moves approval, Kenan seconds, Paige abstains because she wasn't there; minutes are approved.

Sarah introduces new member Dan Sorensen as an ad hoc member. She feels Dan has the skill set to really add something; he has experiences with restoration and landscape management; brings a wider perspective and has worked all over the country. Originally, Dan is from Long Island. Dan is working towards a Master's in Environmental Horticulture; Dan has 2 years to go; Sarah is his advisor.

Jack asks if we can add the ALT public meeting to the Agenda.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Superintendent hiring process has moved forward; 2 candidates interviewed on Monday and Parks' executive team met them on Monday; one is from Washington DC and one is from San Francisco. The gentlemen from DC headed district city parks with a background in education. The woman from San Francisco is the Assistant General Manager in San Francisco Parks and Recreation. The decision will come soon; there will be a bunch of partners meet and greets.

Eric Friedli is leaving Seattle Parks and Recreation and becoming Shoreline's Parks and Recreation Director; there is a lot of change at Seattle Parks and Recreation.

Arboretum Foundation – Jim is in South Africa and he'll be back on the 21st. Year-end financials looked pretty good. The Arboretum Foundation is preparing for the opening night party on February 10 for the Home and Garden Show. The party is more expensive this year; \$175 for early bird. The cost of the convention center is so expensive the Arboretum Foundation is not making a lot on the event without raising the price.

Membership task force – The Arboretum Foundation is reviewing best practices with a new membership taskforce; the new taskforce will research and address membership tier levels and best practices through focus groups and researching other non-profit organizations.

University of Washington – The University of Washington Botanical Gardens is one of the final groups to be considered for the National Association of Office and Industrial Professionals (NAIOP); previously, they performed approximately 250 hours of work. Sarah put together an outstanding proposal; they are going to set up a meeting with UWBG to talk about the project and do some evaluations. The UWBG proposed working on the Ridgetop Trail bridge; however, they provided a wide range of projects for them. It was really a positive experience for everyone. The volunteer day would happen on a Saturday in September.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail (ALT) – City staff are working on getting the project out to bid in February; need the permits that are obtained through the Army Corps of Engineers. The permits are all related; but Michael says they are moving along. In anticipation of obtaining the permits, Garrett is doing a lot of preparatory work such as, moving big trees. The improvements to 31st and Madison will be presented at the upcoming public meeting on January 28; SDOT will be there because there will be

questions about the intersection at Madison; Andy Sheffer does not anticipate any issues. The gas station has been receptive about the proposed changes – but nothing is formalized. SDOT has only verbally committed to the changes on Madison.

The UWBG is doing a great job cataloging the trees and know how many trees are being removed and mitigation replacement. Garrett will have a contractor on board for the replacements of the trees that have not been removed. The idea is to get as many replacements in place prior to or during construction. Doug says if the plantings need water there is capacity.

The legal name in the Agreement is the multi-use trail, adds Paige. Construction will start in June. The contractor will submit construction schedule; as soon as it is received, the ABGC will be briefed. At the end of May/June the staging will happen in the Boyer parking lot. Paige suggests coordinating with the Japanese garden if the construction will be taking the parking lot.

Parks is installing a bike rack in Pacific Connections.

Revisiting signage on the front gate and cleaning up signage to prevent redundancy.

2015 Work Plan

The marketing committee will commit to meet before the next meeting; Jack would like to see the MPIG projects listed on the matrix; priorities could come back to ABGC and be revisited at the next meeting; Michael feels this is already done during the MPIG report.

Lobbying legislature – Paige will be going to the Legislature to lobby for the UW funding and the Specialty License plates; ABGC to lobby for the license plate. Paige says that the license plate will include the Spokane Arboretum in order to get important Republican support.

Briefing City Council and the Board of Regents – Sarah to talk with Stephanie about scheduling an update regarding all of the work the ABGC partners have done in the Arboretum since their last briefing.

Wayfinding from Sound Transit station and signs in the right of way - The signs in the right of way is an SDOT issue. Rachel to figure out with whom the ABGC should meet and include Andy or Garrett.

Iain feels the Renovation of the Collections should be a priority – Sarah says the camellias are high priority and that many of the collections will be renovated during the construction of the ALT. Iain says the intrinsic and monetary value of the collections is a very important talking point when the ABGC/Arboretum Foundation lobbies the legislature for money. Fred suggests developing a priority list of collections that need to be renovated. Iain adds that putting the word out that we're thinking about the collections is valuable. Kenan asks how to effectively get the story out about the renovations needed in the collections. We have the trails to view the collections. Kenan asks how much it would cost to renovate a collection and Sarah responds that it could cost up to \$1million. Michael says priorities need to be established in MPIG.

Paige says the winter garden is fabulous and Iain designed it!

Water plan- related to Azalea Way and the ponds; one of Sarah's students is looking at the hydrology of the area. Paige says they are looking to include the Azalea Way pond rehabilitation with some other projects.

Paige wonders if they could lobby the Capital for project funding from the State. Iain says that this is one of the best places in the world for growing plants. Paige will talk with Brady to find out who to talk with about funding. Fred feels they need to demonstrate their leadership to the rest of the state; what is the Arboretum doing for the rest of the state? Sarah mentions that they do participate in the NAPCC – North American Plant Collection Consortium. Tourism and educational opportunities for people are two talking points for those who go to lobby the Legislature.

Old/New Business

Communications: Paige has a communications problem she needs help with: She sent an Arbor Circle member a request for donations, every year this donor donates \$5000 and this year he refuses because of the Seattle Park District. This donor feels that now that Seattle Parks and Recreation has more funding the Arboretum will be taken care of, which is untrue. How to quash this rumor? Are there good messages? Michael says that most of the money is for major maintenance. The Seattle Parks District takes the place of the big bonds. Paige mentions that in past bonds there has been specific money set aside for the Arboretum but now all of the partners will be vying for the same project challenge funds.

Jack mentions that there is a fairly new bridge that goes over Foster Island and Parks has been very responsive about fixing. Jack makes a motion to congratulate both UW and Parks staff for doing a great job with the maintenance of our parks. The motion is approved unanimously.

Sarah will get an update on GIS mapping phone applications.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:43am.

APPROVED  DATE 2/11/15
Sarah Reichard, ABGC Vice-Chair