

## Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – December 9, 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
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

#### University of Washington

- *Excused*, Sally Clark, University of Washington, Director of Regional and Community Relations
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

#### Washington State

- *Excused*, David Towne

### Other Staff Present:

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

### 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: Fred Hoyt

### Opening Items

Jim welcomes Candace, Kerry and Brian from WSDOT to the meeting. He asks for approval of the Agenda and the October minutes, Michael has one change to the minutes. Jack moves, Michael seconds and the consent items are approved.

## SR 520 Update

Kerry Pihlstrom and Brian Dobbins have come to update ABGC on the SR520 corridor. The Legislature passed full funding of \$4.56billion for the SR520 project.

Exciting milestones achieved:

- The pontoons are done.
- Eastside project is complete.
- Floating bridge will open this spring. They are in the process of planning the grand opening with more details to follow.
- West Approach Bridge North (WABN) is under construction not to be complete until 2017. The lid construction will start when WABN is finished in 2017.
- The Seattle City Council passed a resolution supporting the Montlake lid design in October.
- Eastside transit and HOV project from I-405 to Medina is complete. Two lids are transit centers, WSDOT widened the fish passage culverts between 11 to 18 feet wide and tall.

New floating bridge is twice as wide as the previous one and includes a 14-foot wide shared-use path.

West Approach Bridge – the temporary work bridge is done and most of the casings have been installed. WSDOT fit each one with seismic isolation bearings in solid concrete columns so the bridge could move with an earthquake. The ball bearings are replaceable. The columns go 140 feet below the ground. 150 feet between pillars so there are less pillars in the water.

24th street Bridge will be lengthened; 24th avenue east exit will open in January. This is a temporary measure to get rid of the Lake Washington Boulevard ramp. They are doing improvements to the right of way. Bikes and pedestrians will be safer with widened sidewalks.

Funding package signed into law in July. The funding does not allow them to build all at once, they will receive sums of money every biennium budget. This budget is gas tax funded. They will have to decide what type of bid would be most cost effective: design build versus low bid. With design build, WSDOT does 30% and then contracts for the rest based on deliverable. WSDOT has to implement practical design and go to Legislature every year to show them how they are saving money.

West Approach Bridge South (WABS) will take 2-4 years and would start in late 2017-early 2018. In this phase, the current on ramp would come out and the Montlake Lid could be built if there is funding.

The ABGC discuss doing the North Entry in phases, but Phase 1 cannot get started until the ramp and the old West Approach Bridge gets removed.

Kerry asks the ABGC to start thinking about the content of the next agreement with WSDOT. What are next steps? WSDOT is prepared to enter into commitments and want to know what to incorporate into their contractor contracts to assist SPR with their park development.

2nd bascule bridge is the last phase. The city does not approve of the 2nd bascule bridge. Construction, if approved, wouldn't start until 2025.

WSDOT is planning a process to develop a contract to include the Montlake lid design, this would include a public process.

What does the ABGC want to do going forward? Address all remaining items in an agreement? Paige says they should draft a 2nd agreement for everything that needs to be done. An agreement that highlights the overall program and breaks it down into specifics for phases. Jack adds that a short-term agreement needs to be compatible with the long-term plan.

Thanks WSDOT!

### Budget, Personnel and Other Items

#### **Parks**

Donald Harris is going to retire February or March 2016 after 46 years! Rick Nishi retired last month. Amanda is the permanent lead gardener for the Arboretum after being in the role for the last year out-of-class.

#### **Arboretum Foundation**

Megan Meyer went to Treehouse. The Foundation is facing a lot of staff transition. Job is out on the street. Paige will be holding interviews next week.

Japanese Garden Transition – The legislation for transitioning the Japanese Garden to the Arboretum Foundation will be at Parks Committee on Tuesday. It will be at full Council on January 4. Paige is in negotiations with the current staff person through Associated Recreation Council to come onto Arboretum Foundation staff. She will also be hiring another full-time person to support events at the Japanese garden. A formal agreement will be done soon and staffing in will begin in January.

Sarah and Paige are working on the capital campaign for the preliminary design and studies for the education building. Dr. Wott is chairing. Chris Stollery is fully engaged to help with the fundraising.

Opening night at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show - 30 table captains registered at this point.

#### **University of Washington**

2 temporary gardeners hired for UW Botanic Gardens through June 30. One of their senior gardeners is leaving.

The UWBG has received a bequest for an endowment – \$12,000 a year for scholarships to the preschool programs. Yay!

Yesler Swamp – The entry trail is installed and usable. The whole trail system should be done in a year.

## MPIG

ALT – The Arboretum Loop Trail is back out to bid. They took out much of the concrete walls and put in more rockeries. Reduced the number of plants. Some chain link instead of architectural barriers.

Lighting in the parking lot at the Graham Visitors Center is new and great!

The Shelter – design and feedback from Geotech has been done so almost ready to build.

## 2016 Goals and Work Plan Review

Jim reviews the key agreements and future steps from the Retreat Notes.

Diversity – establish a 6th work group – Inclusive Outreach and Equitable Access; to create and implement a plan, including cultural competency training.

Inclusive Outreach and Equitable Access Committee – Jack, Jill, Pamela, Karimah and Charles, Andy, Kenan, Alicia Blood, and Rachel (chair).

Foundation is working toward creating an Advisory Council – looking to bring in more people of color who could help us make better connections to communities of color.

Work plan for 2016:

>>>January Agenda – break into subcommittees

## Old/New Business

- Election of Officers - Kenan moves to continue with the current leadership for the next year, Jack seconds. Everyone agrees and Kenan thanks Jim for his leadership.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 10:35am.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair