

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – March 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
- 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 at 8:30am. Doug requests to add an update on vandalism to the agenda. Jim asks for approval of the February 11 meeting minutes – Jack moves and Sarah seconds and the minutes are approved.

MPIG

Sarah mentions that MPIG will be taking a walk at the Bellevue Botanical Garden to see if there is the potential to have a canopy trail at the Arboretum.

Arboretum Loop Trail: The permitting stalled due to the National Historic Preservation Act (section 106) of the Army Corps of Engineers – which works to protect sites that have historic significance. During the SR520 mitigation there was evidence of ethnogeographic zones, primarily north of Wilcox Bridge. Parks staff are pursuing permits diligently, but will not be able to get specific dates for bidding. Parks hired ESA, an environmental consulting firm who specialize in Section 106. They are corresponding with the Army Corps of Engineers and Parks staff maintain communication with the tribes so ESA is optimistic. Construction costs are rising 5-10% per year so the delay could have impacts on the project. The hope is this will all be worked out quickly.

Water quality study – Parks approached OTEC, an environmental consultant who worked with Parks on monitoring Magnuson to test turbidity and potential chemicals from Broadmoor due to herbicides, etc. Turbidity can be tested on site and OTEC will take readings off source points coming from Broadmoor. Andy says it would be best to take samples at the Arboretum after a big storm. OTEC will perform a 3-month chemical analysis.

If the turbidity levels are high; ABGC will have a discussion with Broadmoor about potential mitigation. Best management practices can be employed – conveyance of settlement is a natural process; at this level it is related to the surfaces not being stabilized. If need be Broadmoor could take on additional consulting costs to mitigate water issues.

2015 Work Plan

The ABGC review the 2012/2009 work plan goals. Revitalizing the work plan goals will hold the members of the ABGC more accountable with specific checklists and deadlines.

The Goal to Develop a Comprehensive Volunteer Program was developed but could be strengthened.

Combine Goals 4 and 5: coordinate funding and implementation of the Master Plan
Take a look at Seattle Park District and figure out what funds may be available through maintenance dollars and what funds are available through project challenge funds. Ideas for meeting with new head of parks; take city council on private tours – have concerted plan in place so they know who we are.

Goal 1 – Public Outreach- Identify and maximize events to ensure publication.
Kenan states the loop trail and the GIS mapping phone application will be 2 great news stories.

Educational programs and physical facilities – The programs have changed and how they use the park has changed. Also need to consider future plans. Dave adds that education is very important to the new superintendent. The UWBG is thinking of starting a 2nd pre-school program at a new location. Sarah and UWBG staff are being very thoughtful about putting it together.

- 1) Encourage and strengthen the educational programs – Sarah (Chair), Jim, and Iain
- 2) Public outreach – Kenan (Chair), Sarah, Michael
- 3) Future projects – MPIG-and Iain with Michael (Chair)
- 4) Strengthen volunteer program – Jack, Dan, and Paige (Chair); pull in city volunteers. Dawn Blanche is the lead for the city.
- 5) Public affairs – Paige (Chair), Dave and Kenan

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Jesús spent the last week around the city; he will be here for 1 week/month until his start date on June 1st. He helped turn around a tough park system in Washington DC. He seems humble but inquisitive. He brings a fresh/broad perspective. Intentionality is important to him. Jesús went to the Japanese garden opening. He works well with Acting Superintendent Christopher Williams. Christopher will go back to being Deputy Superintendent.

Doug mentions the crime in the Japanese Garden Parking lot in February – 14 car break-ins in 1 weekend. The city has responded with increased police patrols since that time and there have been fewer issues with vandalism.

Parks is in the process of finding a 9-month gardener to fill Giles' position.

Arboretum Foundation –

Paige has disappointing news: Rhonda Bush, the lead Stewards Coordinator, who helped design and grow the program, gave her notice. She gave lots of notice; she won't leave until the end of May. Paige is putting a committee together to choose her successor. She'll still volunteer at the Arboretum.

License plate bill – Paige received an email from Brady Walkinshaw. The Bill has passed the house and is on to the senate. She thinks the bill is in good shape this year. She went to testify and it was a lovefest! The bill states the Washington Park Arboretum will share revenue 85/15 with Spokane Arboretum. The plate would not be available until January 2017. The visibility is valuable. If it passes the senate, the Arboretum Foundation will start a campaign to get people signed up for the plate. Forestry Association supported the bill, which helps.

Paige is working on finding honorary co-chairs for the Northwest Home and Garden show fundraiser next year. She is having lunch with Anne Wycoff; goal is to ask her to be honorary co-chair along with Cindy Piggott.

Temporary signs – Jim had a meeting with Fred and Sarah about the Give Big signs. Last year, there were 26 sets of 3 signs. This year the number of signs will be reduced to 21 of each set of three

signs and they will reduce the number of days to 11-12 days instead of 14 days. Paige wants to change out a couple of signs to add a sign about the fiddleheads and the Arboretum Loop Trail.

Motion: Jack makes a Motion to support and approve 20-21 sets of 3 signs; for no more than 12 days and recommend this to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. Kenan seconds the motion. It passes unanimously.

Discussion: Signs for an event less than a week away should be exempt from the policy. ABGC will look at this again in a year to see if it raised substantial amount of money and whether it made a difference for fundraising.

There is a discussion about whether or not event signs are part of the signage policy.

University of Washington –

The UW Botanic Gardens education program is stronger than ever. They are putting together quarterly books with all of the different classes they offer:

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/education/CurrentClassCatalog.pdf>

Jack mentions the Lifelong Recreation programs through Seattle Parks and Recreation and wonders if there is a way to cross-advertise since they also have a quarterly booklet.

Old/New Business

ABGC will coordinate with SDOT to have a meeting regarding Right-of-Way wayfinding signage. Sound transit is planning an opening for 1st quarter 2016; the question remains when pedestrians/bikes come out of the station, how do they find their way to the Arboretum? The ABGC will work with WSDOT, SDOT and UW for wayfinding signage.

The ABGC and Sound Transit would like to meet again in late May/June. The ABGC wonder what sort of creative opportunities there are to have a presence inside the station. Sound Transit seems amenable to having some elegant posters.

The Arboretum experienced 37% more visitors last month than last year at the same time due to the warm weather.

Communications: Sarah and Kenan to brainstorm regarding spring brochure.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 10:13am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Jim Reid, ABGC Chair