

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – June 10, 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
- 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

- 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)
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Construction Manager

Standing Committees

Building Committee:	<u>AF</u> : Paige Miller; <u>City</u> : TBD; <u>UW</u> : TBD
Partners Committee:	<u>AF</u> : Jim Reid & Paige Miller <u>City</u> : Christopher Williams & Michael Shiosaki <u>UW</u> : Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard
Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):	<u>AF</u> : Paige Miller & Jason Morse <u>City</u> : Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer <u>UW</u> : Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard
SR520 Technical Committee:	<u>City</u> : David Graves; <u>UW</u> : Fred Hoyt

Opening Items

The meeting is called to order at 8:34am. The ABGC welcomes Sally Clark and bids a fond farewell to Theresa Doherty. Kenan states Theresa has provided enormous leadership. Jack adds she was stalwart working through the 520 mitigation and says she has done a fabulous job representing the community and the University. Theresa shows a keen sensitivity to the people who love the Arboretum. Kenan tells Sally that this is a fun organization and she will learn much.

Jim asks for approval of the Agenda. Jack wonders about the status of wayfinding signage at the University Sound Transit Station. Michael is working towards having a meeting with SDOT.

Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement - Andy would like to add an agenda item to discuss the Race and Social Justice Initiative and how to attract underserved communities to the Arboretum. Ideas are discussed such as educational outreach at schools and housing communities like Yesler Terrace and Rainier Vista, providing information on the Arboretum and different ways to get to the Arboretum. Paige mentions she has a connection to General Council for Seattle Housing Authority. There are resources through Parks to coordinate this. Sally suggests talking with Seattle Parks Foundation about outreach strategies. Kenan will take this on as part of the Communications Committee. He will talk with Sarah, Michael, Andy, and Niall and figure out next steps.

MPIG

Multi-Use Trail – Andy says they will start advertising at the end of June/beginning of July with a groundbreaking in late August. Kenan says that’s a media opportunity.

Foster Island landscape – Parks staff have yet to receive feedback from the Tribes regarding landscaping on Foster Island. Parks has received agreements from WSDOT saying they will finance but the tribes haven’t signed off. Parks staff are hoping to plant in October so signatures are needed.

MPIG reviewed donor recognition locations.

Education shelter design is moving forward.

Meeting with Broadmoor Golf regarding water issues. The Department of Ecology has thresholds and guidelines and they really applaud these efforts. Sally asks about what the turbidity does? There is an erosion issue, says Andy, and it is bringing loads of silt down into the Arboretum.

Waterfront trail – Parks contacted the Divers Institute to request they add buoyancy to some of the boards. They put the project out to bid but the cost was too high. Parks is holding on to \$475,000 associated to WSDOT mitigation to leverage grant opportunities. The ruts in the trail fixed extensively.

Lights at the Graham Visitors Center parking lot will be coming in. They are LED’s instead of metal allied and they appear much brighter. For added safety, Parks staff will turn the singles into doubles and UW staff will take out a couple of the trees.

Totem Pole – The Faustich Family have donated a totem pole to the Arboretum. They will provide an endowment for maintenance. Paige to coordinate with Andy regarding timeline. The family will send it back to the artist to have him refinish it before it is placed. Kenan feels the totem pole will be well received.

MPIG reviewed the matrix of criteria for capital projects – matching projects to the criteria.

Tonight John Wott and Andy Sheffer are doing a lecture on the Master Plan. John will talk about the history of the Master Plan and Andy will talk about what projects have been accomplished and what comes next. Prioritization can be done by July.

2015 Work Plan

Sarah questions if this is a useful model for ABGC? Retreat was in November. Everyone is busy and takes more of a time commitment. The ABGC will break away into subcommittees during the next ABGC to get work done. Rachel to put it on the agenda for next month.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Jesus has been confirmed. Andy suggests the ABGC invite staff here with Jesus to thank them for their work. Kenan feels the first meeting should be between the new Superintendent and the ABGC.

Arboretum Foundation

Arboretum Foundation has two new staff people.

- Pam Givens is taking over Rhonda Bush's position as volunteer steward. This position is ½ time. She is very personable and great at marketing the program. The stewards are happy to have a fellow steward run the program.
- Michelle Norman is the new events manager. She comes from the Ruckelshaus Institute where she staffed their advisory council. Her work will be focused immediately on the opening night party in February. She was so impressive when interviewed.

Annual meeting is a week from today. The Arboretum Foundation is turning 80! To celebrate Jim and Paige asked Donald Graham, Jr. to come speak. His father was a driving force in making the Graham Visitors Center happen and his mother created the volunteer units. He is 92 years old.

The Arboretum Foundation did not get the specialty license plate. Patrick Dunn is a lobbyist in Olympia who will help us and is being paid for by a donor.

Paige is getting married this summer; she'll be here at least through next spring.

Jim adds the Board has brought on some great new board members .

University of Washington –

The UWBG has hired a new facilities and marketing person named Maureen Black. She worked with Argosy Cruises for 20 years. She was in charge of sales and marketing. She will try to work with the city regarding event rentals and marketing.

Chris Watson – Arborist has been promoted to be in charge of horticultural staff at the Arboretum. David Zuckerman will be doing big picture for the major projects at the Arboretum and the Center for Urban Horticulture.

The UWBG is advertising for 2 new Fiddleheads teachers. They are working to develop new classroom space over the summer.

10 weeks of summer camps coming up. 4-6 grade is not full yet; pre-K and 1-3 grade are full. Education offices are really full.

Adult education – Sarah passes out the summer program brochure.

Eve Rickenbaker, a Masters student, defended her thesis on Monday that asked how University of Washington students perceive the Arboretum? Potential agenda item. She found students weren't engaged enough in the Arboretum. There are several ideas for greater engagement and UWBG staff are following up.

Planting at the Graham Visitors Center around the patio are under way; propagation proposals for the multi-use trail are available now.

Entrances to the Arboretum – tweaks to wayfinding and interpretive – signs and welcomes at various entrances to the park.

The ABGC discuss activation in the Arboretum. In summer 2016. Jazz in the park?

Jack shares his visit to the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden that only features native plants, trees and shrubs. It has been there since 1807. They charge \$20 to get in and it is well endowed. It was very handicap accessible. There is a dam there that was built 1807 and it's still operating. Sarah says they have a very strong conservation connection. Sarah mentions going to an estate garden called Filoli near San Francisco and they had a very fun wine and music event.

Ray Larson is not available today. Postpone tour of Woodland Garden for July.

Urban Forestry Commission Letter

The Urban Forestry Commission contacted Garrett Farrell for a tour of the Arboretum Multi-Use Trail. After the tour the UFC sent an email the text of this can be found [here](#). The letter articulates concerns about the amount of trees being removed and the loss of tree canopy and wildlife habitat. The ABGC feels the Arboretum provides a large tree canopy. The Arboretum Multi-Use Trail is a part of the Master Plan. The Master Plan, developed in 2001, is reviewed frequently to ensure the projects cited are moving forward consistent with the vision for the Arboretum. The Master Plan is taken to the City Council and Board of Regents. The ABGC feels the letter does not acknowledge the long history of the Washington Park Arboretum or the purpose of the park. Fred points out that the collections are the focus of the Arboretum. Jack says the UFC emphasizes the plantings of native trees.

Paige feels the Multi-Use Trail project is aligned with the Mission of the Arboretum and the partner organizations and feels the trail issue is done. At this point, only the details of the trail are being

tweaked. Kenan thinks this is an opportunity for education and says the ABGC should open a dialogue with the UFC.

Fred will talk with Michael and draft a letter discussing the history, building collections, providing canopy, review of the Master Plan, and community involvement. He feels context would be useful to them. Fred adds this park is different than other parks in the city because of the collection. Each tree was assessed and much staff time was spent on deciding where to put the trail and which trees to remove. Sally suggests making clear that the Master Plan lasts 20 years. Kenan adds how thoughtful they are about every decision in the master plan.

The ABGC discuss a deeper engagement with the UFC, perhaps inviting them to a meeting.

Paige mentions that if you talk with John Wott, he's upset about the shading of the collections and feels the Arboretum is overgrown.

The ABGC recognize they share values with the UFC but argue the Arboretum is unique. The Arboretum is a center for teaching and research.

Master Plan update will have to occur in 2021.

Sally talks about how the city is growing and changing. She uses the current controversy surrounding putting a mountain bike pilot project at Cheasty Greenspace. More groups want to use natural areas in a new way. Jack says the perspective between old timers and new comers is very different. Paige says use has increased and using the park for its strength; weekend promenades; enjoying the beauty of the place. Accommodating new pop while maintaining the purpose of this park.

Cynthia Welte did her thesis on visitor experience at the Arboretum and found that the majority of people liked coming here for a walk. When asked people said they use the Arboretum as a place of respite.

Old/New Business

Communications: There is an article by Val Easton in the Seattle Times about the Fiddlehead preschool program. Paige says the article mentioned the Arboretum Foundation support of the education shelter and that really helps. Kenan suggests maximizing the value by sending personal notes to donors with the article.

Kenan will send an email to Niall, Andy and Sarah to follow up on social justice outreach.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 10:22am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Jim Reid, ABGC Chair