

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – April 13, 2016

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

- 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

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 calls the meeting to order at 8:31am. He asks for a Motion to approve the April 13 Agenda. Dave Towne moves, Sarah seconds and the Agenda is approved. Jim asks for approval of the March 9 meeting minutes, Jack moves, Sarah seconds, and the March minutes are approved.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Don Harris retired last month. He was sent off with a great retirement party. UWBG and the Arboretum Foundation honored him with a tree planting at the Arboretum. Max Jacobs will be stepping into his giant shoes. He comes from the City of Bellevue and starts next week.

Cathie Andersen – Manager of the Conservation Corps is retiring so Seattle Parks and Recreation will be looking for her replacement.

Arboretum Foundation

Paige thanks Jack for volunteering at the Sound Transit opening. Mike Harbour, Executive Director of Sound Transit came by the booth. The Arboretum was handing out "Tree Cheers for the Arboretum" stickers.

The ABGC discusses getting signage and marketing materials placed in the UW Station. In terms of wayfinding, Sally suggests following up with SDOT.

Early bloomers sale was very successful, best year yet.

SR520 opening – Paige went with her grandson. They took the light rail to the UW station and walked across the bridge. There were a lot of people.

Personnel: New events manager starting on Monday.

Arbor Circle Thank You party at Japanese Garden on May 5.

ArbFest – The summer party will be a progressive adventure in the park with tasting places and will take place on Bastille Day – July 14.

Japanese Garden Party - July 29.

Seattle Garden Club Tour – Sarah, Paige and Jason Morse took a dozen Seattle Garden Club members to see the site. The proposal was a summer garden and Azalea Way pond restoration. This is their Centennial Garden project. Jason has come up with some nice rain gardens to help with the siltation issues. The project would encompass Azalea way pond, summer garden, and rain gardens. Their money would go towards the summer garden. Iain would be collaborating with Jason Morse on the design. The ABGC is competing with 3 other groups. The Seattle Garden Club is voting on the 20th of April.

The summer garden would be done by fall of 2017. There is another summer garden mentioned in the Master Plan that was to be situated over by Crabapple Meadow. The ABGC suggest the name change to Azalea Way Summer Garden or something else.

Jason feels the ABGC could obtain Department of Ecology money for the streams that come from Broadmoor into Arboretum Creek.

University of Washington –

UWBG hired a new arborist from Seattle Tree Preservation who is very high caliber. Kelsey Taylor is a new temporary gardener at the Arboretum.

The stumps from the trees that were cut down earlier in the year due to dangerous conditions and falling over, have been cleared.

Bioblitz will be coming up on opening day of boating season. Kenan will help Sarah get the word out.

Earth Day on April 23rd – big event starts at 9am. Tom Deluca will be here to launch it. The Student Conservation Corps will be volunteering and there will be projects going on throughout the park.

Susan Delbene wants to do something in the Arboretum on Earth Day, also. Sarah will provide more information when it is available.

Bathrooms at the Graham Visitors Center were being used inappropriately. The staff at the Graham Visitors Center will be closing the outside doors to the bathroom after the Graham Visitors Center closes.

Summer camps are full and continue to be successful.

Traffic Solutions to Lake Washington Boulevard

Paige received an email from a local resident concerned about the traffic that runs through the Arboretum and offered suggestions to lessen the impacts.

She suggests SDOT put in a left turn signal onto Madison to ease up some of the backup on Lake Washington Boulevard during evening commutes.

The ABGC would like to invite SDOT to an upcoming meeting to discuss this and the wayfinding signage. Michael will determine the correct SDOT representative. Paige will respond to the woman's email.

MPIG

Loop trail – Construction has begun and the signs are up. Ohno Construction are removing trees. The ABGC has not heard much feedback yet. The contractor is great and very responsive. Large evergreens behind the stone cottage will be removed next week.

Sarah mentions that 859 people came through the GVC over the weekend, which is more people than ever.

The ABGC partnership has been working really well and the communication has been proactive.

Education building – they have put together a rendering and are taking it out to donors. The ABGC is working to find a co-chair for funding.

Education Shelter – Fred is meeting with UW this afternoon to discuss options. This is becoming timelier because donor expectations need to be met.

Drainage off Broadmoor – need to figure out how to get that fixed.

Old/New Business

Communications: Bioblitz and Earth Day– will be in the weekend section of the Seattle Times.

Media Tour for the Arboretum Loop Trail – Capitol Hill Blog and KOMO came and toured.

Due to construction of the Arboretum Loop Trail, Arboretum Drive will be closed for about a week. Fred is working on wayfinding to the Japanese Garden. Paige requests they schedule the work that requires Arboretum Drive to be closed around the Arboretum and Japanese Garden Summer parties. Fred will email Garrett to discuss timelines and keeping Arboretum Drive open for those events.

Equity Committee Update: Leading with a Racial Equity Lens training will likely be May 25 at the GVC. The Equity Committee has invited the GSP Public Engagement Committee and Forterra Leadership to attend. The Committee will be scheduling a meeting with Leadership Tomorrow to discuss their work and offer input end of April/early May.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:50am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair