

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – June 14, 2017

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is a Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 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 Vice President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director
- James Fearn, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

- Sally Clark, University of Washington, Director of Regional and Community Relations
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Acting Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- *Excused*, Eve Rickenbaker, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG)

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Paige Miller & Jason Morse

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt/Wendy Gobble

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Sally calls the meeting to order at 8:30am. She asks for approval of the June 14 Agenda and May 10 minutes; James moves approval and Kenan seconds; meeting minutes and agenda are approved unanimously. Sally and Michael abstain because they were not present.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

The three UW Botanic Garden director candidates did not fill the criteria. The search continues. All three candidates had great research experience but not much experience fundraising or leadership. The committee did not think any of the candidates were experienced enough. Fred suggests having 2 positions in the interim – a Director of Operations and a Director of Research. It is suggested they re-write the job description and start the process over. The UW will decide whether to pursue the candidates or follow the recommendations from the committee.

Interviews for School of Environmental Forest Sciences director are happening. Three candidates coming in the next few weeks. Fred will keep us posted on the progress of these interviews.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Healthy Environment Action Agenda – SPR is placing more emphasis on sustainability and climate change in its operations. The department owns 12% of land in the city. SPR staff are considering new approaches to talking about what SPR does to combat climate change.

Partnerships retreat – SPR leadership held a retreat to brainstorm ideas on how to create more fulfilling partnerships.

Arboretum Foundation

Paige's last day as Executive Director of the Arboretum Foundation will be August 4. She has accepted a job with a faculty start-up company at LSU Medical School starting August 21. When she began her role as ED for the Arboretum Foundation, her mission was to sustain operations and this special community and get Master Plan projects done. Her new goal is to get a revolutionary late stage cancer cure to market!

An interim Executive Director will be hired. She has provided a list of job duties to the Board. A lot of staff changes are happening. Two new staff hired and two are leaving. Nat, the Operations Manager is leaving. A new Development Associate and a new Events Coordinator are starting. A search for a new Development Director is underway. The Board would like to have an interim Director before Paige leaves.

July 12 ABGC meeting may be her last meeting. She will announce it officially at the annual meeting next week.

MPIG

Centennial Garden – They have made a few changes to meet the budget. The Arboretum Foundation needs an addendum to the agreement. Otherwise, the work is moving along and on schedule. Planting party in late August to get the plants in the ground. Kenan says this is a great media opportunity.

Trail update – Ohno Construction is starting to work on the North end. Fred asked Garrett for a timeframe to keep Broadmoor in the loop. There is still work to do on the slopes and seeping. Trail could be open by end of summer.

Broadmoor – Paige and Andy met with Broadmoor. Paige sent a summary to Broadmoor and they replied. They discussed the traffic situation on Foster Island Road. Broadmoor construction folks are lining up and blocking traffic on Foster Island Road causing Graham Visitors Center patrons to have to go into the wrong lane of traffic, which is dangerous. The ABGC brought forth many possible solutions to fix the situation.

The Broadmoor Homeowners Association voted and they decided to permit the contractors to enter Broadmoor starting at 7:30am. The contractors will sit in their car until 8am when they can commence

working. This will happen until the Arboretum Loop Trail construction is finished and then they will return to the regular 8am opening.

Andy Sheffer is crafting a response.

Paige suggests they wait for the 7:30am gate opening and see if it alleviates the problem, after which, ask them to keep the earlier gate time.

Sally asks if there are photographs and dates to show it is a continuous problem. Fred to follow up with Amanda whether anyone has been documenting the problem.

Opinion survey – SPR held focus groups for specialty gardens. The ABGC felt the questions were inappropriate for the Japanese Garden. Focus group was also off topic for the Arboretum.

Old/New Business

Communications – Centennial Garden is a great media opportunity.

Paige leaving the Arboretum Foundation is a good opportunity to highlight the Arboretum.

Broadmoor – if the queuing does not alleviate with earlier start times, perhaps media attention would help.

Fiber optics – Max has been engaged and says all partners need to be included in the agreement. SPR is putting fiber optics into many parks and they will not be able to get an agreement written before Paige leaves.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:30am for a tour of the Arboretum Loop Trail.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair