

APPROVED

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)
www.wparboretum.org, then select ABGC

Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks, and the University of Washington (UW)

April 4, 2007

Voting

Members:

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Property & Acquisition Services Manager

University of Washington

- David Mabberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Representative

Absent:

Arboretum Foundation

- John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President
- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation Representative

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

Others:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Project Planner
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG, Education and Outreach Manager
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Pro Parks Levy Manager
- Citizens: Lisa Anderson and Ron Reed

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Donald Harris called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. There was not a quorum so the minutes from March 7 will be approved at the May 2 meeting. Donald announced that one of the Mayor's three appointees to the ABGC, Margaret Ceis, has tendered her resignation. Jack asked if the Mayor would consider a member of the Board of Park Commissioners as one of his three appointees.

There were two guests for this meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Arboretum Proposed Bicycle Route

[Note: Jack brought forth this proposal at the March 7 meeting. MPIG had briefly discussed the proposal prior to that meeting. After a lengthy ABGC discussion, **Jack moved that the ABGC listen to the proposal and Iain seconded, in the interest of not alienating groups who ask to come before the ABGC.** More discussion followed: this proposal would result in many impacts to the Arboretum; there is no funding for the trail; the Master Plan would have to be amended; and it would cause many impacts to the Arboretum. Theresa urged that Jack be very clear when he invites the citizens to attend the April 4 meeting that the Master Plan will not be re-opened. **The vote was taken and motion carried.**]

Jack introduced the two guests, Lisa Anderson and Ron Reed, who recently approached him with a concept for a new bicycle route through the Arboretum. Jack stated that he supports this concept. The timing is good as the City's master bike plan will soon be out for public comment and this would be the appropriate time for the City to consider funding.

Ron and Lisa stated that neither of them are bicyclists; however, she became concerned about the safety of bicyclists who bike through the Arboretum on Lake Washington Boulevard. Ron developed the plan and the two of them have presented it to several groups and agencies, including City Councilmember Jan Drago; WSDOT's SR520 team; Dr. David Mabberley, Director, University of Washington Botanic Garden; Erin Devoto, Projects and Development Director for Seattle Parks; Peter Dewey, UW Manager of Transportation Services; and Pete Lagerway, City of Seattle staff person in charge of city bicycle routes. Everyone she has presented it to likes the plan, but several have reservations due to the Arboretum's Master Plan. The Master Plan was approved by City Council in the 1970s and does not include this bike route.

Lisa distributed copies of the concept plan and she and Ron described the proposal. At the south end of the Arboretum, the bike route would tunnel under Madison Avenue, emerge at the soccer field, and connect to the old service road next to the field. The plan would also require four road shifts to keep the bike trail on the west side of the street. The road shifts would require the addition of asphalt at these sites to make the Boulevard wider. She stated that Lake Washington Boulevard is a fairly wide roadway and could accommodate a bike pathway. She and Ron gave lots more detail on the design.

ABGC members had many questions and comments, including:

- Have Lisa and Ron talked with the Friends of Olmsted Parks to garner their support? Lisa said she and Ron would be talking with them in the near future, as well as to the Cascade Bicycle Club.
- Is the paving a net increase? Lisa answered yes, but only to a limited extent.
- Fitness cyclists will want to continue riding on the main road, rather than a bicycle trail. Would there still be room for cars to pass safely around the fitness cyclists? Ron answered yes.
- Are Lisa and Ron suggesting that Newton Street be asphalted at Lake Washington Boulevard? Ron answered yes. David M stated that he would oppose asphaltting the trail through the Pinetum area of the Arboretum.
- The intent of the current bicycle trail, as envisioned in the Master Plan, was to allow families to ride their bikes through the Arboretum, but not necessarily be on Lake Washington Boulevard. This trail was the result of a lot of work and compromise during the Master Plan process. If additional asphalt is added to the Arboretum, the Master Plan would have to be amended. Dave T was involved in the development of the Arboretum's Master Plan. It was a long and involved process; he recalled that the suggestions for additional bike lanes were always rejected.
- The SR520 project also brings new considerations to the Master Plan and could be a source of funding for a multiuse trail.
- Are there figures available on the number of bikers who use Lake Washington Boulevard? Many use the current bike trail and not the Boulevard.
- We are on the verge of implementing the first major Master Plan project and the Master Plan should not be amended at this time.
- The City is developing an extensive bike plan. Lisa and Ron have met with Pete Lagerway who heads this program. He states that he defers to Seattle Parks when bike trails are located in parks. Michael stated that the City's current bike plan includes enhancements to cycling through the Arboretum.
- Washington Park Arboretum supporters don't have full control of all transportation issues in WPA.
- Would Ron and Lisa consider using Arboretum Drive for this bike path, rather than Lake Washington Boulevard.
- Use permeable asphalt in any areas requiring additional asphalt.

As there wasn't a quorum present, Jack suggested that a determination on this be held over until the May meeting. David M, Donald, and Jack will prepare a motion to present to the ABGC for a vote.

Donald thanked Lisa and Ron for the presentation and all their hard work on this proposal — especially as neither of them are bicyclists.

SR520 Update

Theresa Doherty was absent and there was no report from the University.

Jack reported on the following:

There are two pieces of legislation being discussed in Olympia: (1) SB6099 by Representative Ed Murray requesting that a mediator be hired to help WSDOT develop its SR520 proposal; and (2) Representative Cliburn is proposing mediation to accept only the 6-lane alternative. Jack's understanding is that the neighborhoods are lobbying for proposal #1 and lobbying against #2. Today, the City Council Resolution 30931 is being brought forth. He thinks the Council may dump the Pacific Interchange option and support the 6-lane alternative. Council is scheduled to vote on the alternatives on Monday night, April 9.

Jack also attended a community meeting this past Saturday called by Ted Lane (Roanoke and Tunnel Tube.) Representatives from 20 groups attended the meeting, which was facilitated by Fran Conley. The meeting agenda was not distributed prior to the meeting and Jack was uncomfortable voting on issues without first discussing them with the ABGC. However, he did vote. Theresa Doherty and Aaron Hoard represented the UW and also voted. He noted that they did not vote on issues where the UW has not yet made its determination.

At the end of the meeting, Ted Lane and Bill Mundy wrote a statement asking WSDOT to further study the tube proposal, green alternative, and Dalby Plan. Several of the neighborhood groups at the meeting want WSDOT to include all three of these in its Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact State (DSEIS); however, Ted thinks that WSDOT will not agree to this. Attendees also want WSDOT to budget \$50,000 to hire a European firm, with experience in building tubes, to do an independent study of the tube alternative. Lisa was at the meeting and pointed out that Ted Lane's tube alternative would only tube SR520 near the wetland areas and not the entire bridge. She spoke with WSDOT staff the previous Monday and they said the 4-lane alternative is now off the table for consideration.

This was the first of several meetings of this group. The next meeting is on April 21, 10:00 am-noon, and will focus on mitigation of a 6-lane alternative. Jack cannot attend that meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that Donald would ask Neal or John from the Arboretum Foundation to attend as the ABGC rep. If asked, Jack will brief them prior to the meeting. Donald thanked Jack for attending the meeting and for his efforts on behalf of the ABGC and Arboretum on the SR520 project.

MPIG

Pacific Connections: Michael reported that this project is now in mid-construction document phase and staff are working on the State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Interim Superintendent Brooks wants increased public involvement in the SEPA and is looking at options that include public meetings, mailings, or additional outreach. She recently met with David Graves, Neal Lessenger, and the Mayor's staff on this project.

Michael stated that the Holly Relocation, which includes moving and removing a number of trees and shrubs, is a cloudy issue in the Master Plan. Donald commented that it will result in the most visual change of any of the Master Plan projects. Keeping the public well informed on this project is crucial. Dave T referred to the Park Department's public involvement policy, which was recently audited by request of City Council. Michael stated that there have been some changes to the policy as a result of the audit.

David M commented that the Park's public involvement policy is the Department's internal process. This project is on a tight schedule due to weather. If it is delayed, it could be disastrous for fundraising efforts — he does not want to set

a negative precedent with this project. Donald stated that Interim Superintendent Brooks has requested representatives from the UW and Arboretum Foundation, as well as David M, attend a meeting with her and Mayor Nickels.

Irrigation Project: Michael reported that this project is substantially completed. Arboretum Drive will be repaved when the weather is warm and dry.

Storm Damage: Dave T asked about the large amounts of debris in the Arboretum that resulted from the winter storms. Fred answered that staff are awaiting a possible \$37,000 in funding from the UW to help pay for the cleanup.

Entry Enhancements: Michael and Fred went to Marenakos, stone quarry/supplier near Issaquah, last week and selected (2) 10-ton rocks to be installed at the entrance of the Arboretum as part of the Wayfinding project.

Azalea Way: MPIG discussed a recent letter from Mary Ann Wiley requesting addition of a crushed rock walkway at the north end of Azalea Way. David M commented that the section of Azalea Way that is already graveled receives a lot of compliments. Staff will determine the logistics to accomplish this request. The additional work at the north end may be done, but it is important to make clear that this is only a temporary fix. Major upgrades to Azalea Way probably won't happen until 2015 or later.

Old/New business:

Washington Park Arboretum Mission Statement: David M has proposed that the mission statement be revisited and suggested a few ABGC members work on the re-wording. Elizabeth for the UW and Donald for the City volunteered. Donald will ask Neal for a representative from the Arboretum Foundation. Elizabeth asked for ideas on the re-wording and received the following suggestions: shorten the mission statement; point its focus to the WPA; measurability; remove the reference to "museum"; and use words like creation, education, conservation, internationally significant, forward thinking, dynamic, and that it is the Washington State arboretum.

Communications: Elizabeth is working with Portico on the interpretive content of the signage for the Pacific Connections project. She distributed a flyer for the open house scheduled for later in April.

Endowment: David M announced that 95-year-old Nancy Short has included an endowment fund in her will of \$300,000 to educate students on the Arboretum and University of Washington Botanic Gardens.

Federal Funding: Donald reported that there is no recent news on the requested federal funding for the Arboretum. He reported at the March meeting that \$1 million in federal funds has been requested for the Pacific Connections project, in recognition of the upcoming 100-year anniversary of the Alaskan Yukon Pacific Exposition held in 1909. For more information on the Exposition, see http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=5371. Donald is working with Neal and John of the Arboretum Foundation to write letters to the lobbyist to help speed this process.

New Arboretum Foundation Executive Director: There is a reception tonight to meet Paige Miller, candidate for the vacant Executive Director position. Seattle Parks Interim Superintendent Brooks and UW College of Forest Resources Dean Bare are scheduled to attend.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 10:20 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Mabberley, ABGC Secretary