

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

Web site: <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/abgc/>

The ABGC is also closely monitoring the WSDOT SR520 project for impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum. Please see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/520.htm>

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

**Location: Graham Visitors Center
April 9, 2008**

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Property & Acquisition Services Manager

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Acting Director

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Governor's Appointee

Excused:

- John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President
- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

Others:

- Tim Gallagher, Seattle Parks Superintendent
- Julia Maywald, Arboretum Foundation, Director of Development
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Project Manager

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Standing Committees

Funding Requests to State Legislature: John (Arboretum Foundation), Jack (City), Dave T (Washington State)

Naming Recognition Policy: Paige (Arboretum Foundation), Donald (City), Sandra (UW)

Mission Statement: Kathleen Pierce (Arboretum Foundation), Donald (City), Sandra (UW)

SR520 Mediation (Group of 34): Paige Miller, representing both the ABGC and Arboretum Foundation

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at Graham Visitors Center by Dave Towne, Chair. **The agenda was accepted as amended. Jack Collins move approval of the March 12 minutes and Sandra Lier seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

Project Updates

Pacific Connections/Interpretive Shelter: Andy reported that the shelter construction is moving ahead nicely and is 65% complete. 45% of the plants for this project have now been procured. Five large trees are being moved today to a temporary site and will be re-planted later in the project.

Andy stated that there is a contingency fund for the projects in the amount of \$200,000. 70% of the amount, or \$140,000, has been used. \$60,000 remains in the contingency fund and the project should be completed within budget.

Phase II: Dave asked when the next part of the project will be started. Andy is meeting with Berger and Associates (consultants on the project) to determine the time estimates. The estimate for Cascadia Garden should be completed within the next month.

Bicycle Route: Andy is also working on a traffic study/road/stripping/signage project in the Arboretum. He will report more on this at the June meeting.

Japanese Garden Entry Project: This project is moving ahead well. The City's Department of Planning and Development have submitted comments and the contractor is responding to the comments. Staff have some concerns about water detention and are working to solve that issue. It is anticipated that the permits will be issued in May. The project goes before the Landmark Board next week and the Architectural Review Board in early May. Construction is expected to begin in June or July.

Andy attended last night's meeting of the Japanese Garden Advisory Council, where the gate design was discussed. Jerry Tsutakawa, who designed the well-loved gate at Kubota Gardens, submitted an abstract design for the Japanese Garden entry. The primary donor is not thrilled with the design; Jerry will prepare and present a new design.

Jack asked how guests will access the Japanese Garden this summer. Andy stated that plans are to use the historic and original entrance from Lake Washington Boulevard. Some paving would have to be added and some tree root work completed to make a safe walkway. He is also dealing with concerns from the ticket takers' union due to the temporary ticket gate being located along a busy roadway. The union requires bullet proof glass for the booths in such instances and has other requirements. Andy is determining the costs for these measures and will continue working to resolve this issue.

Briefings

City Council Briefing on Arboretum Master Plan

Donald reported that several ABGC members attended yesterday's City Council meeting of the Parks and Seattle Center Committee. Tim, Sandra, and Paige briefed the committee to bring it up to date on the Arboretum and its Master Plan. Tim commented that Sandra and Paige made excellent presentations, which he thought was well received by the Committee. Dave will contact Committee Chair Councilmember Tom Rasmussen to invite him to tour the Arboretum with ABGC members and will extend the invitation to the other Committee members, as well.

Paige commented that Councilmember Rasmussen showed interest in the bike path, Arboretum Creek daylighting, storm water retention, and the SR520 project mitigation. He also asked for a list of Arboretum Master Plan projects. In addition, the \$891,000 donation for the Japanese Garden Entry project was passed out of the Committee to the full City Council for approval.

UW Regents and Provost Briefing on Arboretum Master Plan

Sandra stated that the UW Regents should also be briefed. UW College of Forest Resources Dean Bruce Bare has asked to brief them at their June or July meeting. Dave asked that a written report also be prepared for the Regents; Sandra volunteered to do so and will send to other ABGC members for edits. Theresa has asked the UW Provost to attend the June ABGC meeting. ABGC members will brief the Provost on the Arboretum's needs in preparation for any questions the Regents might later ask the Provost about the Arboretum.

Possible Arboretum Foundation Board/Mayoral Briefing

Jack asked if the ABGC should also do a briefing to the Arboretum Foundation Board. Dave asked Paige to make the offer to the Board and she agreed to do so. Dave asked Tim if the Mayor should be briefed. Tim believes that the Mayor should be briefed when the ABGC is requesting something. Sandra agreed. Jack commented that the Mayor is sensitive to the needs of the Arboretum and stays informed.

Paige distributed a copy of "Renewing the Washington Park Arboretum – Creating the Pacific Connection Garden" for ABGC review.

City Council Considering New Park Levy

At the briefing to the City Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee, Councilmembers announced a Council-sponsored feasibility study for a new parks levy. Tim commented that Mayor Nickels is not supportive of a new parks levy. The Mayor has proposed a levy for Pike Place Market. Both the City Council and Mayor are assembling advisory committees to help determine the feasibility of the proposed levies. Tim added that all City staff report to the Mayor and should not be asked to recommend projects for a new parks levy; however, ABGC members may ask Parks staff for information on capital needs.

Paige stated that this interest in a new levy is wonderful. She and other non-Parks ABGC members will prepare a list of projects, in order of magnitude, and send to City Council. Jack commented that this is a perfect time for the Master Plan Implementation Committee to review the Master Plan and get projects costed that are not yet "off the ground." Dave observed that the project figures were determined in 2001 and should be updated.

Dave added that this is also the year for the ABGC to go to the State of Washington Legislature to ask for funding for the Arboretum. These revised figures will be very helpful in that request. Paige stated that the ABGC must determine what it will ask the Legislature for. Discussion continued briefly on funding needs. Jack urged that the ABGC's request be in the context of a long-term, carefully-defined plan. Sandra agreed and Dave added that it must also be coordinated with the City, UW, and Arboretum Foundation. The Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) will work on this and report back to the ABGC.

Donor Recognition Policy Committee

Sandra has replaced Theresa on this committee, which will report at the ABGC's May meeting. Sandra and Paige will meet soon and inform Donald of any progress. Sandra stated that the policy will conform to both the UW and City's donor recognition policies.

SR520 Project Update

Paige reported that the Governor's "Group of 34" has held two day-long meetings since the last ABGC meeting. The group voted to move three plans forward for a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). The three plans are the: (1) newly-defined base six; (2) the Parkway Plan; (3) and the hybrid option. Governor Gregoire and the Oversight Committee [of which Paige is a member] will determine which plan(s) actually moves forward. The "Group of 34" won't meet again until after June. That will give some time to work through design issues and challenges.

Theresa asked for a description of the new technology for the "cut and cover" at the Museum of History and Industry. Paige explained answered that the concept is to freeze the soil, tunnel under it, and pour the concrete tunnel when the soil warms again. This avoids the need for fish-related construction permits. Paige believes that the end result of the SR520 project will not be a full tunnel through the Arboretum (which would add \$1 billion to the cost of the project.) However, there would be an underground berm at Foster Island and possibly a narrowing of the bridge west of the Island.

Jack watched the SR520 presentation video on Seattle Channel with Paige, Theresa, and Governor Gregoire. He believes Paige and Theresa did an excellent presentation on behalf of the Arboretum and urged other ABGC members to watch it at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/>, choose video #5.

Jack understands that State House Leader Frank Chopp, Ron Judd of Washington State Department of Transportation, Governor Gregoire, and Paige will continue to meet every couple of weeks to work on the Parkway and other SR520 project plans and Paige agreed.

Julie asked if there is any current written information on the impacts of the SR520 project on the Arboretum and the ABGC's position on the project. Paige answered that she will take the lead on drafting this. Jack suggested that community member Fran Conley would also assist with the position paper. Paige commented that City Councilmember Richard Conlin supports the Parkway Plan and Dave reflected that most do want to minimize the projects' impact on the Arboretum.

New/Old Business

Goals and Objectives: Due to time constraints, members were asked to review the latest version of the Goals and Objectives (ABGC Workplan), and mark any changes for discussion at the May 14 meeting.

Park Department Items: Seattle Parks' has provided staffing to the ABGC (Sandy Brooks as coordinator) for almost six years. Sandra thanked Tim for continuing to provide this support and stated that it is invaluable to have agendas and minutes distributed and posted to the website, and Sandy's other support to the ABGC, especially during the Master Plan implementation. Dave added that all three Parks' staff – Donald, Andy, and Sandy – all do a great job for the ABGC. Jack commented that he is pleased Superintendent Gallagher (Tim) is attending the ABGC meetings. Tim noted that Seattle Parks had its first all-staff meeting two weeks ago. Donald commented that, under Tim's direction, Parks' staff are now attending numerous community meetings, which he believes is making a positive difference in Parks' community relations.

Tim reported that Seattle Parks is currently interviewing for three of its director positions: Planning and Development; Parks; and Recreation. The seven finalists will meet with Parks staff, other City officials, members of the Department's advisory boards, and community members at an April 18 reception at Seattle Aquarium, 6:30 pm. Several ABGC members were invited.

University of Washington Items: Sandra, acting director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, has replaced Elizabeth Loudon on the mission statement committee. Elizabeth is an excellent grant writer and will focus her efforts on grant writing.

Dave thanked Sandra for agreeing to serve as the interim director. Donald is a member of the search committee for the UWBG director. The goal is to have a new director in place by September. The five finalists are visiting Seattle soon; Donald will forward additional information to the ABGC about these visits.

Union Bay Master Plan: UW staff will give a report on this master plan at the May 14 meeting.

Broadmoor Activity: It was mentioned that Kjris brought up a Broadmoor community project at the City Council briefing. The project is adjacent to the Arboretum, and includes a large wall and retention pond. Donald stated that the City's Department of Planning and Development oversees the building permit for the wall. Seattle Parks has serious concerns with the retention pond technology and is consulting with the City's Law Department. A letter of concern is being written to the Broadmoor community.

Ribbon Cutting: Paige stated that the ribbon cutting will be in October. Sandra and Paige will contact Tim's assistant in late September and work to schedule the event.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Theresa Doherty, ABGC Secretary