

DRAFT

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)

August 1, 2007

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

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

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- David Maberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Governor's Representative

Absent:

Arboretum Foundation

- John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

- Vacant position to be appointed by Seattle Mayor

University of Washington

- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

Others:

- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds 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), Teresa (UW)

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am. The July 11 and June 6 minutes were approved, as well as the August 1 agenda.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates

Pacific Connections Gardens: Andy Sheffer, project manager, could not attend today's meeting; Donald gave an update report. Approximately 100 comments from Parks and UW staff have been received on the 95% drawing. None of the issues are irreconcilable. David M stated that most of the comments pertained to removal of trees, protection of the collections, and signage.

Andy is continuing to oversee some early tree removal. Parks' tree crew will do the next stage of removal and then general contractors will do the remaining work. Staging it this way makes it a more manageable project. Andy prepared a financial report on the project, which Donald will send to Dave T.

The bids will be opened in mid-September and groundbreaking will occur shortly thereafter – a very tight schedule. Donald stated that Andy has done a lot of early work on this project's bid process and feels confident the project will have an acceptable bid. Landscape project bids rarely have the "surprises" that building construction project bids sometimes have.

Paige reported that an Arboretum Foundation board member donated an additional \$50,000 needed to pay for Phase I of the Pacific Connections. The project will keep moving ahead and the plans for Phase I are to finish the Cascadia portion and the trails located next to what will be the Chilean Garden. She will continue working with Andy on the goals for the capital campaign, without distracting him from the current projects' progress.

Paige gave a quick overview of the marketing plan. She also announced that Portico will do a rendition of the Pacific Connections garden for the Seattle Flower & Garden Show. It will be the first exhibit seen when entering the show and will advertise that the garden will open next summer. Donald asked that the exhibit also have information on the Arboretum's Master Plan, so the public has a good understanding of how the Pacific Connections Garden relates to the Master Plan. David M stated that the University of Washington Botanical Gardens will also have a booth at the Flower and Garden Show and will include a focus on the Master Plan.

Japanese Garden Update: Donald met recently with a representative of a group of potential donors for the garden entry structure. He showed the ABGC a scale model of the proposed new entry structure. The project has a budget of \$1.2 million. The City has paid for the schematic design and the Pro Parks Levy has designated \$450,000, while the donor has pledged another \$500,000. An additional \$200,000 is needed. Paige and Steve Garber of the Japanese Garden Advisory Council are working on this project, with Steve assembling a fundraising committee. The project is expected to bid in early 2008, with the work being completed during the winter months when fewer people visit the Japanese Garden. A next step is to firm up the \$500,000 donor pledge.

SR520 Update

City Report: David Graves was not present for today's meeting. Donald reported that WSDOT has pushed back the release date of the Supplementary Draft Environmental Impact Statement until 2009, due to the mediation process requested by the Governor.

ABGC/Arboretum Foundation Report: Paige is representing both the ABGC and Arboretum Foundation at the mediation sessions. She reported that the consultants, recently hired by the Governor's office to manage the mediation process, have sent out a draft document and asked for comments. She will forward it to the ABGC members and asked that any comments be e-mailed to all ABGC members by the end of this week. She will incorporate all the comments and send to the consultants by August 7. Paige noted that the document doesn't call out the Arboretum; it only refers to parks. David M will assist Paige to help ensure the document focuses on the Arboretum.

UW Report: Teresa reviewed the makeup of the committee being assembled by the consultants, which includes 8 Seattle community groups and 5 East Side community groups. There are 34 seats at the table, with some community concern that there are too many bureaucrats at the table. In addition to the 34 seats, there is also a high level oversight group that includes the Governor, King County Executive, Seattle Mayor, etc. The intent is for the group to work for consensus, but it will resort to a vote if necessary. The consultants want people at the table who are not "entrenched" and will work to reach consensus.

Other topics:

(1) Regional Transportation Improvement District (RTID), November Ballot Measure: David M asked if the delay of the SR520 decision will affect the November vote on RTID. Teresa doesn't think it will. Dave T has heard some radio ads speaking against the measure.

(2) The question of a 6F (a federal designation protection of park land) rating for a portion of the Arboretum lakeside trails was raised. The Department of Interior has raised the question on whether the Foster Island trails can be altered for the SR520 project, as they are protected under a 6F rating. Donald is working with UW staff to locate the paperwork determining ownership of the property. Originally the UW received a federal grant to install the trails. The trails failed 10-20 years later and were repaired by the City. Some of the paperwork on these transactions has not yet been located. A meeting is to be held next week with UW and federal staff to try to determine the current ownership; the results of this meeting will be reported to the ABGC.

(3) David M asked when the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), currently located on Arboretum property, plans to move to the South Lake Union building. Dave T, who is on the MOHAI Advisory Committee, responded that MOHAI is waiting to see what the City is willing to spend of the \$2-3 million needed to bring the South Lake Union building up to code. There is also talk of at least a portion of the Museum moving to the Washington State Convention Center.

The City owns the MOHAI building and its fate, due to the SR520 project, is still unknown. MOHAI plans to continue using part of the MOHAI building for storage. During the Arboretum's Master Plan discussions, it was assumed that Arboretum staff, in dire need of additional work space, would move to the MOHAI building. The City has not promised the space for any other uses. It is hoped that Arboretum staff could use the space until at least 2011.

Old/New Business:

State Legislature/Representative Frank Chopp: Working with staff, ABGC members continue to refine Arboretum budget figures, especially for ongoing maintenance and operation costs, to present to State Speaker of the House Frank Chopp. Representative Chopp asked for these figures at a recent Arboretum tour led by David M, Fred, and Jack. A committee was formed to gather the information and ensure that it is correct, as follows: John (AF) Jack (City), and Dave T (Washington State.) They met after the July 11 ABGC meeting and are working to finalize the figures.

Staff must first determine steps and costs for the Pacific Connection project for the next two-four years and also determine updated Master Plan costs. The figures must then be compared to Portico's figures. Dave T commented, and Jack agreed, that these figures must be very accurate – it is critical to give correct information to legislators who go to bat for the Arboretum. Donald commented that it is both important for legislators to see the “big picture” of the Master Plan and also receive very detailed budget information. Paige commented that the \$6 million dollar Pacific Connection Gardens project will end up costing closer to \$10 million by its completion. The figures given to the legislators should reflect the “completion” cost. Andy Sheffer will assist with gathering these costs. Paige pointed out that Andy is already under a tight schedule on the bid process.

Donald, referring to a comment about endowments for maintenance, stated that Seattle Park's budget analyst recently reviewed the legislation to accept the Arboretum Foundation's donation to the Pacific Connections project. She asked why the City is looking at paying for maintenance and the UW isn't. Donald reviewed the 1934 and 1974 agreement between the City and UW, which states that the two are to share equally in the maintenance. He was pleased that the budget analyst focused on this figure and it is included in the Department's 2008 budget request at \$58,000.

This led to a discussion of how many staff work in the Arboretum and Donald commented that the City and UW have the equivalent of 6 full time staff each. The City counts those occasions, like the Jamboree, when many City crew members work at the Arboretum in its total. Donald will forward details of this information to Paige. Paige commented that the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has 250 acres and 50 full-time staff. Washington Park Arboretum has 230 acres and 12 full-time staff. It was noted that the Arboretum does contain more forested land, while NYBG has more gardens that can require more attention than forests. The much higher number of staff at other arboretums should be highlighted when applying for funds. Our Arboretum has a very small amount of staff when compared to arboretums around the world. The number of staff needed to maintain the new Pacific Gardens will also be conveyed to the State Legislature.

Donald will review the Pro Parks Levy funds earmarked for the Arboretum, how much of that is specifically for maintenance and operations, and how the sunseting of the Levy will affect the Arboretum and report back to the ABGC. Some members of the public support a new park levy to focus on daylighting streams, urban environment, swales, etc. Dave T asked if the King County levy, which will come before voters, will affect the Arboretum. Donald answered that this has not yet been determined.

Tour for Representative Chopp's Policy Manager: David M reported that his assistant is working to schedule a tour of the Arboretum before the October groundbreaking. The budget figures should be finalized prior to the tour.

Mission Statement: There is nothing new to report at this meeting. The committee (Donald, Elizabeth, and Kathleen Pierce of the Arboretum Foundation) will continue working on the revision.

Broadmoor Master Plan Being Implemented: Fred reported that Broadmoor, the gated area adjacent to the Arboretum, will begin implementing its master plan in September to include new maintenance buildings, a retention pond, native plants, and other components. The Arboretum is enjoying a great working relationship with Broadmoor.

New Parks Department Superintendent: Interviews were held this week and the candidates narrowed down to 3-4. A final selection will be made and the name submitted to Mayor Nickels. This process seems to be on a fast track, compared to some previous national searches for City department heads.

Donor Recognition Policy: Teresa will set up a meeting with Donald and Paige to work on this policy.

Next ABGC Meeting: The next meeting is September 5. Members noted that this is a couple days after Labor Day.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 9:35 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Mabberley, ABGC Secretary