

## APPROVED

### *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: Isaacson Classroom at Center for Urban Horticulture*

*February 13, 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
- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee

#### **University of Washington**

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

#### *Others:*

- Tim Gallagher, Superintendent, Seattle Parks & Recreation
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Wendy Kelley, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Project Manager

#### *Staff:*

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

#### *Absent:*

- John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor
- Dave Towne, Governor's Appointee

### ***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)

**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 Isaacson Classroom at the Center for Urban Horticulture by Acting Chair Donald Harris. Dave Towne, elected chair at the December meeting, is working out of state for two months and has asked Donald to chair the January and February meetings. The agenda was accepted as presented.

**Jack Collins moved approval of the January 9 minutes as corrected. Theresa Doherty seconded.**

**The vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

## Upcoming Meetings

Donald reviewed information on several meetings:

Apr 7: Graham Visitor Center Management. Donald and Fred reviewed the history of the GVC's management. The Arboretum Foundation has developed a proposal to manage the building in lieu of the UW. Jack stated that the ABGC should get regular progress reports on this proposal and discuss it before there are any changes in management. He believes this is just the type of issue that should be brought to the ABGC for discussion.

Apr 8: City Council. City staff have scheduled a briefing for City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee as a part of the acceptance of the \$891,000 donation from the Arboretum Foundation for the Japanese Garden entry project. Jack commented that it is also important for the ABGC to go before the City Council to report on the ABGC when members aren't asking Council for anything.

Feb 15: Broadmoor storm damage to Arboretum. Donald reported that the December 3 rain storm caused damage to the Arboretum, due to the Broadmoor pond (next door to the Arboretum.) This is a land management and design issue and the City is prepared for legal action. Representatives from the Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW will attend the initial meeting with Broadmoor representatives.

Feb 25: Increased bike use in Arboretum. Donald stated that an initial meeting with bike supporters has been scheduled for 9:30 am at Graham Visitors Center. Tim added that Seattle Parks is looking at a number of parks for greater bike and pedestrian use. Paige, Andy Scheffer, 2 bike community representatives, and Pete Lagerway, the City's bicycle liaison, will attend the first meeting. Staff will report on the meetings to the ABGC.

Apr 9: Second joint fundraising effort meeting. Attendees included Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW staff. These meetings are scheduled to improve how the Arboretum and UW keep each other better informed of fundraising efforts for the Arboretum. The initial meeting will be higher level staff and then it will be determined how many others (ABGC members, etc.) to include in the discussions. Kjis volunteered, as she specializes in private/public fundraising efforts. Jack asked that the ABGC be kept apprised of the outcome of these meetings.

## Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates

### Pacific Connections Gardens

Andy could not attend today's meeting. Fred reported that a stop work order was issued yesterday on the wall, due to shoddy work. The job specs call for a journeyman mason and this was not done. The contractor has also degraded some of the Arboretum's valuable plant materials. Fred stated that this contractor has worked on other Arboretum projects and staff felt that their inspections and management would have provided adequate oversight. Now there are major issues to deal with. Tim recommended that the contractor be notified that he/she is disqualified for future Arboretum projects. He asked that staff work with Seattle Parks' Projects & Development Director Kevin Stoops and the City's Law Department on this.

Plant Procurement: Fred also reported that Andy Sheffer recently formed a committee and interviewed Berger Consultants to take the lead in plant procurement for the Pacific Connections Garden projects; Jason Henry is the principal in charge. Andy has scheduled a February 29 meeting with Berger.

Fred also reported that two gardens, Cascade Upper and Chile Lower, are coming together with only one of them designed. Donald commented that the design and plant procurement are very complicated processes; however, staff are getting a good handle on both.

Holmdahl Rockery Update: Work at the rockery is more extensive than anticipated, due to invasives, and could be completed in 2009. Jack commented that this is a great project and is a visible symbol of the Arboretum to the community.

Ribbon cutting/groundbreakings: Paige reported that the ribbon cutting has been re-scheduled to September. The ground breaking for the next phase is in fall of 2010, with the Cascadia Garden to be planted in 2010 and the New Zealand Garden in 2011. This schedule was discussed at MPIG earlier in the week.

### **Japanese Garden Entry Project**

Paige reported the good news that the \$830,000 goal for this project has been reached and the budget has been revised to \$1,125,000. Several elements that were removed will be added back to the project to include landscape planting, a large meeting room, and additional storage capacity. The donor presented the first check last Friday of \$200,000. Jack complimented Andy Sheffer on his great efforts to get this project moving again after earlier hesitation on the part of the donor.

### **SR520 Update**

Paige reported on SR520 developments since the January 8 ABGC meeting. East side representatives are pushing for an 8-lane bridge and may be more organized than representative from the West side of Lake Washington. The bridge replacement is a hot topic at the State Legislature. State Senators Chopp and Murray have asked the community to come up with a plan, with the State Legislature making the final decision.

Paige has met with representatives of the Montlake community, with Fran Calhoun's neighborhood group, and also with WSDOT representatives. The Mediation "Group of 34" meets again on Tuesday, February 19. Jack commented that he did not attend the most recent Fran Calhoun community meeting, as he felt Paige's presence there was adequate.

Paige reviewed her proposal, which has emerged as a frontrunner with the Group of 34. A plan with no ramps was suggested at the January 9 meeting; however, members agreed that this was not feasible. She will continue her efforts to divert traffic from Lake Washington Boulevard and to minimize any impacts to Foster Island. Engineers have been drawing her proposal and, other than the cost, it looks manageable. Jack commented that although there is concern on the cost, Paige's plan is receiving good community support. It is a big deal to restore Foster Island from the past impacts of the SR520 project, which Paige's proposal would do.

Donald asked how mass transit would fit with Paige's concept. Paige answered that SR520 would only accommodate bus rapid transit for the next 40 years or so. SR520 is not the best site for mass transit that would run into a tunnel. Jack recently met with Bellevue's mayor and it is clear that Bellevue wants an 8-lane replacement bridge. Paige will meet soon with the Montlake Community Club (MCC) to discuss that group's new proposal for the replacement project. Kjris noted that MCC only speaks for some of the Montlake community – not for the entire community. Paige gave additional background on her meetings with WSDOT staff David Dye and Ron Cannaman and about the engineers' drawings of her concept plan. Kjris commented that she has worked with both David and Ron on other projects.

Theresa commented that the new Montlake proposal is interesting. At tonight's meeting, it will be determined what the rest of the community thinks about it.

Donald thanked Paige for all her work to protect the Arboretum from the SR520 project. Kjris commented that it is wonderful to have the Arboretum so well represented on the Mediation Group of 34.

### **David Mabberley's Remarks**

This was the last ABGC meeting for David Mabberley. David has been the Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens for the past three years and recently accepted a position with Kew Gardens near London. David made the following remarks:

- thanked Paige for all her work and stated he is very pleased with her tunnel proposal to protect the Arboretum from the SR520 project.

- many Arboretums from around the world have written WSDOT to asked that it protect the Washington Park Arboretum from the SR520 project.
- the new North American plant collection consortium ratings were recently released and the Arboretum's maple collection has been rated as the most significant in north America.
- thanked new Seattle Parks Superintendent Tim Gallagher. He is very encouraged by Tim's efforts to raise the Arboretum's profile. He also appreciates the nationwide search for and selection of Seattle Parks' new horticulture manager.
- he hears comments from around the world of what a treasure the Arboretum is; however, it is not as well known locally.
- 2009 marks 75 years of the UW and City's agreement to jointly manage the Arboretum. This is a great opportunity to further raise the Arboretum's profile. Kew Gardens will also celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and he suggested some type of joint celebration.
- along with the Master Plan projects, there are other projects that keep momentum going at the Arboretum, including (1) completion of the holly garden in 2009; (2) refurbishing the camellia collection; (3) the strong interest from the Montlake Moms to re-design the Children's Tot Lot into a Children's Arboretum.
- The Arboretum needs a proper pedestrian entrance at Lynn Street that delineates it as the obvious entrance.

He commented that the past three years have been terrific and thanked the ABGC. He asked that all keep in mind what the Arboretum is about – many collections now with more to come.

Jack commented that David's energy and enthusiasm for the Arboretum will be greatly missed. The ABGC thanked David for his dedication.

### **State Legislation**

David M referred to State legislation introduced by Senator Ken Jacobsen, SB6226 (to read the full text see: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/6226.pdf>.) The bill includes a curatorship of \$1 million match to be invested and thus funded in perpetuity. He also reported that the State's legislative resources committee met and Arboretums across the state discussed the Washington Park Arboretum (the official State Arboretum.) David commented that Donald spoke brilliantly before the legislative resources committee on behalf of the ABGC.

### **New/Old Business**

**March Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, at Graham Visitors Center, 8:30 am. Dave Towne will chair.

**UWBG Director:** In March, Sandra Lier will begin attending ABGC meetings as Interim Director of the University of Washington Botanical Gardens. The UW is on a fast track to fill the position and hopes to announce the new director in fall of 2008.

**Donor Recognition Policy:** Teresa and Donald will soon meet to resume work on this policy.

**Madison Valley Drainage Project:** Donald reported that the Deputy Mayor has shown interest in the proposal discussed at the ABGC's January 9 meeting. No decision has yet been made.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 10:15 am.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Theresa Doherty, ABGC Secretary