

## 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)  
July 11, 2007*

### *Voting*

#### *Members:*

##### **Arboretum Foundation**

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

##### **Arboretum Foundation**

- John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President

##### **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
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

##### **Washington State**

- Dave Towne, Governor's Representative

### *Absent:*

##### **City of Seattle**

- Vacant position to be appointed by Seattle Mayor

##### **University of Washington**

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

### *Others:*

- Susan Golub, Seattle Parks, Strategic Planner
- Wendy Kelley, University of Washington, Major Gifts Officer, College of Forest Resources
- Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG, Education and Outreach Manager
- Tom Mentele, University of Washington, Director of Development, College of Forest Resources
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks, Project Manager

### *Staff:*

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am. The June 6 minutes will be approved at the August 1 meeting.

## **Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates**

Donald introduced Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks' project manager for the Pacific Connection project. Andy replaces David Goldberg, who accepted a position with another agency. Andy gave a verbal report and will send the ABGC a written report.

Portico will submit a 95% design document on Monday and staff will review the design for a week. We expect the project to go out for bids at the end of August. University of Washington students recently used Geographical

Positioning System (GPS) equipment to map the trails and this information, which is very helpful, will be included in the informational brochures about the project. Andy met with several tree removal companies and accepted a bid from one, and grading will begin on July 26 for the holly relocation project.

The entry boulder signage is proceeding well. These are the entry markers at the north and south entrances to the Arboretum. The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP) asked that these new signs include that the Arboretum is an Olmsted-designed park; however, it was determined that the rainbow signs already include this information. FSOP also asked for a nearby tree that came down to be replaced. UW staff will identify the species and replant the tree.

The Pacific Connection budget is \$2.6 million for Phase One. The Arboretum Foundation is donating 95% of that amount, or \$2,036,000 to the City, which must accept all such donations via legislation. Paige shared good news that remaining fundraising for Phase One is only \$150,000. Donald commented that City staff are carefully watching the budget and have used some Pro Parks Levy funds as contingency funds due to project scope modification. The goal is to try not to scale back the critical elements of the project. Jack asked that staff send the ABGC an e-mail when the bid is received on the project and Andy agreed.

Graham Visitors Center: A donor gave money several months ago to install fans in staff quarters in the upstairs portion of Arboretum Headquarters. There is no air conditioning in the area and the fans will give some relief from summer heat.

Japanese Garden: There are two current projects at the Japanese Garden:

- (1) Entry project, which has a \$900,000-\$1.2 estimate. Donors have agreed to raise \$500,000 and the Pro Parks Levy has \$400,000 for the project. The design schedule is moving along and will continue into the spring of 2008.
- (2) Infrastructure improvements, for which there is currently \$50,000 available to be used for stream and water circulation improvements. More funding is needed before this work begins.

Holly Relocation Area: Jack asked Iain about the new holly area's capacity for future holly species to be added. Iain stated that there is a long list of holly plants he would like to acquire. The question is how and when. He has made a rough estimate of what this would require, but it is only a rough estimate. He also guessed at which geographical area the various hollies would be placed. Many trees in the current collection are being saved. These decisions/determinations constrict the space that is available for future species. As this project proceeds, more trees will be removed, as well as native plants, in phases.

Graphics: Elizabeth is working with Portico on graphics for the Pacific Connections signage. She gave an example of one sign that will compare seasonal rainfall patterns in the Pacific Garden zones in the Arboretum and in the gardens' native country. Signs may also include information on how the plants are used in the indigenous cultures where the plants originated.

General: Donald asked whether the monthly ABGC meetings are working well. Is the agenda meeting the ABGC's needs? Are the meetings productive and moving forward as expected? Jack commented that ABGC members have a responsibility to get wanted agenda items to Donald and Sandy. Dave T commented that he feels the members do a good job of covering issues on the agenda. There was a general consensus that the ABGC is moving in the right direction.

Donor Recognition Policy: MPIG also discussed a donor recognition policy. Master Plan implementation projects are nearing a stage where a clear donor recognition signage policy is needed. Paige and Donald met with UW staff last week to work on this policy. The gardens will not be named after individual donors; rather, they will be named China Garden, Chile Garden, etc., and signage will be installed with wording such as "Made possible by a gift from....." Andy gave descriptions of the two types of donor signs and will send details to the ABGC with his written report. The Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW have a provisional agreement for the first project's donor signage and will next work out a permanent donor recognition policy to be approved by ABGC.

The ABGC Naming Recognition Policy Committee representatives will also work on the policy and ensure that it is in compliance with both the City and UW's donor recognition policies. The ABGC's Naming Recognition Policy Committee is: Paige, representing the Arboretum Foundation, Donald, representing the City, and Teresa, representing the UW and will convene in September. Updates on the policy are to be added to each agenda.

## **SR520 Update**

UW Report: Teresa stated that the UW met with the Governor/State's newly hired mediators, Jody Erickson and Michael Hughes from Keystone of Denver. The mediators are to meet with Governor Gregoire on August 1 to give her a progress report. They have not yet determined the structure of the process they will use for the mediation. They pointed out that they are mediators and not arbitrators. They were selected by the Governor and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) after a national search. Teresa's sense is that they are very competent. Their work must be completed in 18 months, by the end of 2008, and their recommendation will go to the State legislature by the end of 2009.

Arboretum Foundation Report: Paige met with Ms. Erickson the day before this meeting for 1-1/2 hours. The consultants are determining who are the participants and the ground rules. Paige described Seattle's unique decision-making process to Ms. Erickson and gave her other information. This initial discussion centered on the process itself and not on the Arboretum. Paige pointed out that drivers may likely use the SR520 on/off ramp at the Arboretum to "jump the queue" when traffic is backed up. This potential negative impact to the Arboretum has not yet been studied in the Environmental Impact Statement. She also raised the issue of construction impacts that will go on for years. Her sense, too, is that the firm is very competent and is spending its initial time learning the Seattle process.

City Report: David Graves will attend a kickoff meeting tomorrow for the regulatory agency coordination process and will report back at the August ABGC meeting. Teresa stated the UW will not attend the meeting, as it is not a regulatory agency (as is the City.)

A guest, Michael Beneke of the Ravenna neighborhood, Arboretum Foundation, and Friends of Olmsted Parks was present. He asked if the ABGC has taken a stand on the SR520 project. Donald answered that the ABGC recently wrote WSDOT asking that in addition to alternatives it has already studied that it also study the Dalby, tunnel, and green alternatives. Michael believes that the Pacific Alternative continues to be WSDOT's preferred alternative.

A brief discussion was held, including the width of the proposed replacement highway. Paige suggested U.S. Senator Patty Murray be included in the stakeholders' group as she is the area's representative to the federal transportation committee. Iain has met twice with Craig Dalby, who has developed a new version of the Dalby Plan. Iain will send this to the ABGC members. Members suggested this also be sent to City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, not in his role as a Councilmember but from his personal interest in transportation.

## **Old/New Business:**

State Legislature/Representative Frank Chopp: Last month, State Representative and Speaker of the House Frank Chopp toured the Arboretum with David Mabblerley, Fred Hoyt, and Jack Collins. Discussion continued on the best ways to secure additional State interest and funding for the Arboretum. Paige stated that a short budget session is coming up and the ABGC has only one year to cultivate the legislature and must do so in a systematic way. She believes staff should also apply to the Interagency Committee for funding for trails and bike paths. Dave T thinks that cultivating the legislature over the next year is very doable. He recommended that the University [which receives funding from the legislature] be kept aware of any funding requests and be in agreement. Teresa stated that the message that is given to the legislature is very important. The perception of the legislators is that funds are given to the Arboretum through the University. Donald suggested requesting the State to match the amount that the Arboretum raises for Phase Two of the Pacific Connections project.

Jack commented that on the tour, Representative Chopp asked for a list of specific items that he could do for the Arboretum. The Committee (John, Jack, and Dave T) will draft the list and bring back to the ABGC for approval. A tour will also be arranged soon for Representative Chopp's policy manager. It was stressed that this tour should be scheduled after the list is finalized with budget figures and other information is well formulated.

John, Dave T, and Jack will meet immediately after this meeting to strategize the next steps.

Arboretum Mission Statement: Elizabeth, Donald, and Kathleen Pierce of the Arboretum Foundation met two weeks ago to discuss a new mission statement. Elizabeth distributed a three-page document to the ABGC and talked about the philosophy of the Arboretum. Members discussed the need for both a mission and vision statement. The two should be separate to give the public a mental image of what the Arboretum's mission is and how it plans to realize that mission. ABGC made other suggestions for the wording of both. Iain, Elizabeth, and Donald will continue working on this and report back to the ABGC on their progress and for additional input.

Public Garden Association Conference: Elizabeth recently attended this three-day event in Washington, DC, and reported that 700 people attended. She toured the U.S. Botanic Garden, as well as the U.S. Arboretum, and made a number of good contacts. It was a very good conference and she learned much about what other arboretums are doing and developing.

Next ABGC Meeting: The next meeting is three weeks from today on Wednesday, August 1.

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

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
**David Mabberley, ABGC Secretary**