

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)
June 6, 2007*

Voting

Members:

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

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Representative

Absent:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Vacant position to be appointed by Seattle Mayor

University of Washington

- David Maberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

Others:

- Paul Gibson, Interested Citizen
- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Project Planner
- Susan Golub, Seattle Parks, Strategic Planner
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation
- Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG, Education and Outreach Manager

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am. **Dave T moved approval of the June 6 agenda, as amended, and May 2 minutes, as presented. John seconded. The vote was taken and both items were approved.** David Maberley is in New Zealand working on the plant exchange for the Pacific Garden project.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates

Donald Harris reported that Andy Scheffer has replaced David Goldberg as the Arboretum's master plan project manager. Andy was formerly a landscape architect and is a highly regarded Seattle Parks' project manager.

Pacific Connections Gardens: Donald reported that previous open houses on the Arboretum's Master Plan projects have not drawn large crowds. The most recent one was highly advertised and the *Seattle PI* ran a front page article. The extra publicity resulted in 78 people attending the most recent open house. Some attendees were concerned with the proposed removal of trees in the holly relocation project. Neal was at the meeting and commented that staff and Arboretum volunteers were well prepared and answered the attendees' questions very well. He felt it was a very satisfactory meeting.

Donald reported that MPIG had a good meeting this past Monday, with a good discussion on the Pacific Connections Garden project. The project is nearing construction document phase and staff are being very careful about the bid process. ABGC members and guest had a very brief discussion on the bid process and some components of the budget. Donald reported that a groundbreaking for the project is planned for October 2007. Plans are to move the project before Seattle City Council in July to accept the \$2.2 million dollars that has been donated to the project.

Fred showed a large drawing of Pacific Connection Garden project, pointed out different garden areas, talked about the scope, and briefly described the recent reduction in the holly relocation project that will keep it within its budget. The grading will be done in July, with the plants moved in September.

Elizabeth referred to the October groundbreaking — which is a good donor recognition event, but not a good media event. Neal commented that the grand opening will be a better media event.

Elizabeth reported some confusion on the perception of the "Pacific Connections Garden Phase I" campaign within the Arboretum Foundation. John, Neal, Paige and others from the Foundation will work with Elizabeth to clarify the information.

Elizabeth shared information on the planned signage for the individual gardens in Pacific Connections. This is an exciting plan, with details being refined to include climate, native plants, rainfall, etc., of the regions that will be represented.

Irrigation Project: With the re-paving of Arboretum Drive, Donald reported this project is now complete.

Entry Signs and Wayfinding: Two entry signs are being installed and staff are working on the details. The Friends of Olmsted Parks (FoSOP) have asked whether the entry signs will refer to the Arboretum as an Olmsted-designed garden. Neal and David M have been in discussions on this request. Donald will do additional research on this.

Fred reported that he has contracted with students with GPS equipment to walk the Arboretum. This information will be used in the pedestrian orientation efforts. John reported that the Arboretum Foundation has been submitting comments on the entry way signage to Andy Scheffer. Donald commented that the new signage is a great way to focus on the Arboretum's plant collections.

Update on Japanese Garden Entry Structure: Donald reported that staff will meet with consultants tomorrow morning to determine if fundraising efforts for this project will be resumed.

SR520 Update

At the May meeting, Paige was selected as the ABGC's representative to attend the group recently convened by Governor Gregoire to look at a multimodal transportation plan at the Sound Transit Station at Husky Stadium and a height cap plan for the Montlake areas. Paige will join representatives from the UW, Sound Transit, Metro, and WSDOT, and will receive staff support from David Graves, Seattle Parks' project planner. Jack commented that he has found the City staff (Ken Bounds, Kevin Stoops, and David Graves) to be a terrific source of information on the SR520 project. John commented that it is good news that Paige will have the support of David, as the amount of information generated by such a large project as SR520 can feel like an ocean coming at you.

UW Report: Teresa reported that the Washington State Office of Financial Management interviewed three mediation firms last Friday and plan to have the mediator hired by the end of June to complete its work by the end of this year. (The mediator is being hired per Washington State Bill 6099 to oversee the impact plan of the SR520 project.) Recently, Douglas MacDonald retired as Washington State Secretary of Transportation; a new person has been assigned to lead the SR520 project.

Jack commented that community activists Ted Lane and Fran Conley met with State Speak of the House Frank Chopp with the message that neighborhoods are working together and not against each other, in their negotiations with WSDOT.

City Report: David Graves reported that he has not heard from WSDOT during the last month. He expects WSDOT to release its draft SEIS later this year. He continues working to secure a 4F classification to protect the Arboretum's waterfront trail, which would give the trail a fair amount of protection from the SR520 project. The Department of Interior believes that WSDOT understated the impact of the SR520 project to this area. David commented that this is potentially a big pot of funds for the impacts SR520 may cause to the trails. The mitigation can be in the form of cash or land. Neal was involved in the grant process when the trails were built and can assist David with some of the historical aspects.

Old/New business:

Maintenance & Operations Budgets/State Legislature: Jack, David M, and Fred had a one hour meeting and tour with Washington State Legislator's Speaker of the House, Frank Chopp, last Friday. The tour was made via the golf cart to view as much of the Arboretum as possible. Jack commented that Fred gave an excellent description of how the SR520 project could impact the Arboretum. A highlight of the tour was the site of the Pacific Connection and holly relocation projects, with lots of kids near the project area, enjoying the Arboretum. Representative Chopp walks in the Arboretum several times each month and ABGC members found him to be very involved in the SR520 process. Fran Conley and Ted Lane (citizens referred to in SR520 report above) had also visited him in Olympia.

Representative Chopp asked what the ABGC is requesting of him. After discussion at today's meeting, it was agreed that the ABGC will develop a strategy of three-four requests at its July meeting. Jack suggested that an Arboretum tour also be arranged for Representative Chopp's policy manager.

Discussion then turned to how to better separate the Arboretum's budget requests from the multitude of requests submitted by various departments to the UW budget office — which may or may not move on from the UW to Olympia for funding consideration. Representative Chopp recognizes this as a problem; sometimes State legislators are interested in projects moving through the UW but cannot fund them unless they are submitted by the UW.

It was agreed at today's meeting to bring the other Seattle State legislators, Jamie Pederson and Jim McIntyre, up to speed on the Arboretum and its needs. Dave T urged that the ABGC be very clear on its message before meeting with these other legislators. Donald agreed and stated it is important for any ABGC member talking to these legislators know what track the projects are on, the vision, donor base, etc. Theresa commented that next year is a capital budget year and it is important to act quickly. Next, MPIG was asked to review each project's budget and prepare a concise package to present to the UW for inclusion in the next budget round. Fred suggested that maintenance and operation figures be included in the package.

MPIG will discuss this at its next meeting, review its progress at the July ABGC meeting, and then write a letter to State Representative Chopp. A report on the initial MPIG efforts will be sent to the full ABGC before the July 11 meeting.

Mission Statement: Discussion on re-wording the Arboretum's mission statement was deferred until the July meeting.

ABGC Elections: Jack moved to appoint Paige Miller as Vice-chair of ABGC. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Paige will move to the position of ABGC Chair in January 2008. John commented that Paige

is new to the ABGC and that it is important to know what staff support she will have as ABGC chair. Sandy Brooks, of Seattle Parks, is assigned to work for the ABGC 10-15 hours monthly to attend the meetings, draft the monthly agenda and minutes, coordinate and staff the annual retreat, monitor membership, and support the Chair.

Goals & Objectives: The ABGC's work plan was reviewed and updated. The purpose of each item on the work plan was reviewed as a courtesy to the newer ABGC members.

Vacant Position: One of the three positions appointed by Seattle's mayor remains vacant and members urged this position be filled soon. Members were requested to send names of potential candidates to Susan Golub.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Mabberley, ABGC Secretary