

**Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)**

[www.wparboretum.org](http://www.wparboretum.org) then select ABGC

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

**Minutes – June 14, 2006**

*Voting*

*Members:*

**Arboretum Foundation**

- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation Past President
- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

**City of Seattle**

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Property Management & Acquisitions Manager

**University of Washington**

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington, Associate Vice-president of Business Services
- David Mabberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

**Washington State**

- Dave Towne, Washington State Representative

*Others:*

- Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG, Education and Outreach Manager
- Royal Alley-Barnes, Seattle Parks, Manager of North & Central East Districts
- Kathleen Blanchard, Seattle Parks, Senior Gardener at Japanese Garden
- Rory Denovan, Seattle Parks, Senior Gardener at Arboretum
- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Project Planner
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington, Botanic Gardens, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Peggy Pullen, Seattle Parks, Northeast District Crew Chief
- Rick Reichert, Arboretum Foundation, Director of Development and Capital Campaign
- Kevin Schmitt, Seattle Parks, Central Pro Parks Levy Crew
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Pro Parks Levy Manager
- David Zuckerman, University of Washington, Arboretum Crew Chief

*Staff:*

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

ABGC Chair Donald Harris called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. One agenda change was made. **Jack Collins moved approval of the revised agenda. Motion was seconded and approved. Approval of the May 10 minutes will be made by the voting members, via e-mail, prior to the July meeting.**

Sandra referred to an action requested at the April meeting: *“ABGC members to review the draft position paper distributed by Sandra Lier. Once it is finalized, it will be posted on the web. This information should be out to the public by the May ABGC meeting and Jack Collins would like to use it for a May 3 meeting.”* Sandra stated that only Neal Lessenger sent comments; other ABGC members are asked to review the document and send any additional comments to Sandra so the position paper can be finalized.

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

Michael Shiosaki reported on the following:

Pacific Connections Garden: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/Arboretum-Pacific.htm>

A team meeting was held yesterday afternoon, with the design development phase nearing completion and scheduled to soon go through final reviews. On June 15, the design goes back to the Seattle Design Commission for approval of the interpretive kiosk. The next steps are to take the design to Seattle Parks' Proview, to MPIG, and to the ABGC at its July meeting for review and approval. The Board of Park Commissioners will hear a briefing at the June 22 Park Board meeting.

Deb Andrews reported that the Arboretum Foundation has received donations of \$2.9 million. Once the total project cost is determined, MPIG will determine the elements to move forward in Phase I.

Japanese Garden Entry Structure: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/Arboretum-JapaneseGarden.htm>

This project is near the end of schematic design, with the design being widely accepted. Deb is working closely with the donor. Once the donation amount is determined, MPIG will decide whether to move this project forward or put it on hold. The landscaping design has yet to be determined, as it will rely on donations.

Irrigation Mainline: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/Arboretum-Irrigation.htm>

This project has experienced delays in the finalization of construction documents. The 95% construction documents are due out in July from Herrera Consultants. David M. remarked that the holly collection cannot be moved until the irrigation system project is determined. Delaying the irrigation project until the rainy season could result in a messy project. Fred suggested that MPIG take another good look at the amendments made by Portico and how these affect the irrigation mainline project. Donald commented that this is the first major Master Plan Implementation project and so far has been low key with the community. His sense is that the public is confident that the City and UW are moving ahead correctly and carefully with the Master Plan implementation.

### Action items:

- *Add Pacific Connections review and approval to the July 12 ABGC agenda.*
- *Sandra Lier asked that a counter be added to the Master Plan web page to help determine if the public uses this as a source of information on the Master Plan.*

## **SR520 Widening Project Report**

The ABGC receives regular reports from the Mayor's Stakeholder's Committee (represented by Jack Collins), the City's project manager assigned to monitor this WSDOT project (David Graves), and the UW/ABGC representative to UW/WSDOT workshops (Sandra Lier)

Stakeholder's Committee Report: Jack Collins is the ABGC and Park Board's representative to the special Mayor's Task Force on the SR520 Widening Project. For the sake of members who were absent from previous meetings, Jack described the Committee and its work so far and believes that stakeholders are better partnered with WSDOT as a result of these meetings. (For more information on this Committee, see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/abgc/agenda.htm>, minutes for the April and May 2006 meetings.)

The Task Force had an especially important meeting last night. David Dye, Director of WSDOT's Engineering and Regional Operations — Urban Corridors, attended the meeting to address the community-driven alternative for an underwater tube/tunnel to replace the SR520 bridge. Jack found David to be very articulate and helpful. WSDOT's August 18 release schedule for the EIS is several months later than the originally announced date. WSDOT must make major corridor decisions soon, as it has already spent \$37 million in design costs

During the meeting, a conference call was held with a tube/tunnel specialist in Washington, D.C. The bottom of Lake Washington consists of a deep layer of silt. Jack stated that Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis stated that the tube/tunnel will most

likely not be built because of the substantial impact the disturbed silt would have on Lake Washington fish, and he doesn't believe the National Marine Fisheries would ever approve a tube/tunnel. In addition, Deputy Mayor Ceis stated that a tube would cost much more than standard construction and WSDOT is already short \$1.5 billion. Another complication for building a tube/tunnel is the Montlake interchange.

City Councilmember Jan Drago had recently talked to Washington State Governor Gregoire, who wants a decision on the project now. Councilmember Richard Conlin, who is also a member of the Task Force, agreed with both Deputy Mayor Ceis and Councilmember Drago. As well as stating the tube/tunnel will most likely not be built, Deputy Mayor Ceis stated that both the six-lane and Pacific Interchange alternatives are unacceptable to the City of Seattle. The Task Force wants a design that is as minimally damaging as possible, and added an additional two meetings to its schedule to accomplish this. WSDOT agreed with this decision and stated that it will add additional staff to help ensure a design that is acceptable to all neighbors. Jack believes that a major re-design of the current alternatives will now result from last night's meeting.

Dave Towne asked about the City's feelings on the Alaskan Way Viaduct being rebuilt as a tube/tunnel and Jack stated that Mayor Nickels strongly supports an underground viaduct. Jack believes that WSDOT sees the "no tube" as a moral victory and will now be more flexible on the bridge design. David Mabberley stated that many people favor the option of a tube/tunnel to replace the Viaduct and this will most likely be heartening for the proponents of a SR520 tube/tunnel. He doesn't believe the tube/tunnel advocates will soon go away.

Donald asked if the Arboretum was referred to in last night's discussion and Jack answered that he keeps bringing it up in the Taskforce meetings. Neal commented that the ABGC must remain vigilant in protecting the Arboretum while these decisions are being made on the SR520 project. When asked by David M. if light rail was discussed by the Task Force, Jack answered that there has yet been very little discussion on this.

City staff report: David Graves stated that WSDOT is getting "pushback" from environmental services that have been assessing possible impacts to Lake Washington and surrounding areas. This is now making WSDOT receptive to a re-design that would lessen impacts on water and wetlands (which would make securing needed permits easier for WSDOT.)

University report: Sandra Lier stated that UW staff David Mabberley, Fred Hoyt, and she have had three SR520 project workshops with WSDOT. The University has five goals in the discussions on the SR520 project and its possible impacts to the UW:

1. Promote a vibrant, healthy, and livable academic, business, and residential community at the University of Washington and in surrounding neighborhoods.
2. Promote carpool, bus, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation solutions that improve access to the University and limit the impact of single occupancy vehicles on campus and surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Preserve and enhance the recreational and educational habitat of the Washington Park Arboretum and UW Botanic Garden.
4. Preserve the ability of the University to meet current and future development needs.
5. Allow for the efficient and effective management of construction projects included in the University's Capital Improvement Program for the Seattle campus.

## **Maintenance Operations Report**

Donald Harris commented that the ABGC has focused primarily on development of the Arboretum's Master Plan and less on its day-to-day operations. In the last several years, the UW and City have made great progress working together on the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the Arboretum. Donald recently began attending the monthly joint operations meetings of the UW and City's maintenance crews and their supervisors and reporting back to the ABGC. Today, Royal Alley-Barnes, Fred Hoyt, David Zuckerman, and Rory Denovan have been asked to give a presentation on the joint staff efforts.

Royal Alley "Barnes" is the Parks Resource Manager for the North/Central East areas of Seattle Parks. She introduced other Parks' staff: Peggy Pullen, Northeast Crew Chief; Rory Denovan, Senior Gardener for the Arboretum; Kathleen

Blanchard, Senior Gardener for the Japanese Garden; and Kevin Schmitt, Senior Gardener for the Central East District. Barnes gave a 15-minute Powerpoint presentation with descriptions and photos of work crews do at the Arboretum.

Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens' Facilities and Grounds Manager, also attends the monthly meetings. This joint effort was a direct result of the 2002 ABGC retreat requesting that the management of the City and UW crews meet regularly. He gave additional information on this successful and important joint effort. Fred relays information from David Mabberley, Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, to the crews and takes their feedback to David. He described several upcoming projects, including work at the conifer meadow, the Graham Visitor Center landscape, and the camellia garden. Fred stated that 15 additional staff are needed to maintain the Arboretum to national arboretum standards. Currently, there are six grounds maintenance staff.

#### Getting the Word Out:

- Margaret Ceis commented that the presentation was great and wondered how to best share information to the public on the amount of work required to maintain the Arboretum.
- Barnes suggested that the presentation also be presented to community groups.
- Sandra Lier suggested the Powerpoint portion be posted on the Arboretum website. David Mabberley commented that Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG Education and Outreach Coordinator, is working on the Arboretum website and will add this information.
- An idea suggested at one of the Arboretum's recent open houses was for Arboretum maintenance crews to wear uniforms. David M. is pursuing that possibility.

#### Kudos to the Crews:

- Donald stated that he is impressed with the staff and has found both crews to be amazing workers. It is evident that they don't look at maintaining the Arboretum as just an 8-hour job.
- David Mabberley agreed with Donald's comments and added that, along with the City and UW's crews, there are a number of other UWBG and College of Forest Resources staff dedicated to the running of the Arboretum.
- David Zuckerman commented that 60 new collections were installed by the crews during the last planting season.
- Dave Towne stated that he is very impressed with the current working relationship of the two crews and that this wasn't the circumstance a number of years ago.

#### Arboretum Volunteers:

- David Zuckerman commented that volunteers spent 2,050 hours working on the Arboretum in 2005.
- David Mabberley stated that the Mayor and a number of volunteers were at the Arboretum for Earth Day, which was a very successful event. The number of young people volunteering at the Arboretum is on the rise.
- Peggy Pullen commented that a great deal of management time goes into oversight of volunteers' work. Volunteers are sometimes over-committed and cannot be held as accountable as staff.
- Jack Collins stated that an incentive for Arboretum volunteers is to receive education for their efforts.
- Rory Denovan commented that well-educated volunteers can frequently train and supervise other volunteers.
- Barnes commented that volunteers want to come back to another ABGC meeting and report. She asked that a presentation on the volunteer program be added to the next ABGC agenda. Barnes, Elizabeth Loudon, Jack Collins, and David Mabberley will plan to meet before then.
- Tonight, Barnes and her staff are recognizing the 75,000 hours that volunteers in the north end have contributed to Seattle Parks.

#### Action Item:

*A volunteer report is to be presented at the July 12 ABGC meeting.*

## **Old/New Business**

Donald Harris reported on encroachments on Arboretum property:

Homeowner encroachments: Parks staff completed a survey of encroachments along 26<sup>th</sup> Ave (which borders the Arboretum) from Lynn to Boyer. Letters will be mailed within the next two weeks to homeowners who border Arboretum property, with information about encroachments. The survey is also being added to the Arboretum web page.

Non-Arboretum Signs on Arboretum Land: Montlake Community Council members installed two signs on Arboretum property, "Welcome to Montlake", with one along Boyer and the other on the SR520 exit. Along with being installed on City property, Fred commented that these signs do not fit with the interpretive and wayfinding plan which will be installed during the Master Plan Implementation. Donald commented that this could be the trigger to have the two signs moved off Arboretum property. John Wott stated that previously, when citizens wanted to do something on Arboretum property, they would first get permission from the Arboretum. Sandra asked if the ABGC should write a letter of objection to the community. David M. recommended that this issue be addressed when the interpretive signs are being installed.

Goals & Objectives: These will be reviewed at the July meeting. Sandra noted that Dave Towne's name was added as the lead on page 1, item #2, to "develop and implement Olympia Committee to engage State Legislators in Arboretum".

Dave agreed to this role. Donald commented that Dave brings strong experience to the ABGC with his previous work on capital projects funded by private money. Dave commented that he is honored to be a member of the ABGC.

Coyote in Arboretum: Paul Gibson, who lives near the Arboretum, e-mailed staff that a coyote was spotted in the Arboretum. Fred stated that a coyote den has been discovered in the adjoining Broadmoor community. Residents there will have the coyotes captured and released in another area.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

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