

## 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: Graham Visitors Center*

*March 12, 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
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Acting Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Professor

#### **Washington State**

- Dave Towne, Governor's Appointee

### *Others:*

- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Wendy Kelley, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources
- Elizabeth Loudon, UWBG, Education and Outreach Manager
- Julia Maywald, Arboretum Foundation, Director of Development
- Peggy Pullen, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Northeast District Crew Chief
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Project Manager
- Paul Smith, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Senior Gardener at Arboretum

### *Staff:*

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

### *Absent:*

- John Johnston, Arboretum Foundation President

### **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 Graham Visitors Center by Dave Towne, Chair. Sandra Lier, a former ABGC chair, was welcomed as Acting Director of the UWBG. Dave commented that it is fortunate Sandra is available to serve as the interim director while the search committee works to secure a new director. Sandra commented that she sees her role as making sure the vision is clear and fundraising is in place for the vision's development. She is meeting weekly with Paige.

Julia Maywald was welcomed as the Arboretum Foundation's Director of Development. Peggy Pullen, Seattle Parks Northeast District crew chief, and Paul Smith, Seattle Parks' senior gardener for the Arboretum, were also welcomed. **Donald Harris moved approval of the February 13 minutes as corrected. Sandra Lier seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

## Upcoming Meetings

Donald reviewed information on two meetings held since the February 13 meeting:

Feb 25: *Bike Routes in the Arboretum.* This meeting was held at Graham Visitors Center and went very well, with Donald, Paige, and Andy attending from the ABGC. Pete Lagerway, the City's bicycle liaison, as well as two proponents from the bike community, were present. Several of those at the meeting walked Arboretum Drive. It was determined that it would be very expensive to develop a bike connection at the southeast corner of the Arboretum to meet the proper grades, because the route would cross a wetland.

A consultant will be hired soon to study the proposal for a pilot program on Arboretum Drive of 1-2 bike lanes and one lane of one-way traffic. The consultant will also help determine whether an amendment would be needed to the Master Plan. Andy doesn't think it will need to be amended and Paige added that the pilot could involve a better sharing of the road with bicycles, rather than making the road one way. Jack commented that he applauds this effort to better accommodate bikes in the Arboretum.

Iain and Andy added that this is not intended to serve as a substitute for a bike lane on Lake Washington Boulevard, although Seattle's Department of Transportation may want to consider it as the bike lane from Madison Park to 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Andy will bring the full study to the ABGC for input and consideration.

Apr 8: *City Council.* City staff have scheduled a briefing for City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee to coincide with 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 schedule regular briefings before City Council – not just when members are asking Council for something. The last briefing was in 2002. Sandra, Donald, Dave T, and Paige will work on the briefing. They will also present it to the UW Regents, possibly as a written briefing. The briefing will focus on the Arboretum's Master Plan implementation. Dave will call Councilmember Rasmussen, who is chair of the Parks and Seattle Center Committee, to determine if there is particular information the Committee would like to be briefed on.

## Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates

### *Pacific Connections Gardens*

Holmdahl Rockery Update: Andy reported that, following some problems last month with the repair of the rockery wall, a new mason was hired, began working one week ago, and is doing a terrific job. The project is still under budget, although it is one month off schedule. A July completion is expected.

Jack asked that any discussion of use of the contingency funds be made by the ABGC and not just the Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG). Dave stated that MPIG will do the first review and then make a recommendation to the ABGC on how best to use any leftover contingency funds.

Wayfinding & Interpretation: Andy is working with Denise Dan on a design at Cascadia Overlook. The donor has asked that an interpretation element be installed in the seat wall. It was agreed that the interpretation would follow the Wayfinding & Interpretation standards in the plan funded by the University a couple years ago. Kjr is asked for more information on the Wayfinding Plan. Donald explained that the UW provided funding to develop a uniform wayfinding and interpretation plan for the Arboretum. Jack commented that the current signage varies from site to site. He is so impressed with the plan that he has recommended it be used in all of Seattle's parks.

Paige noted that many of the Arboretum's signs are covered with mold and difficult to read. She asked for a volunteer effort to clean them. Andy will contact the Seattle Conservation Corp to help take care of this.

**Phase II:** Andy reported that he is working with Berger and Associates, landscape architects, on the designs for Cascadia and New Zealand gardens and the work is moving ahead smoothly. He is also working with Iain on the new camellia collection at the north end, and would like to get the ABGC's support for the early planting of a sliver of the Chile garden at the intersection of Arboretum Drive and Lake Washington Boulevard. Staff will clean and spruce up the area to best show it off. Paige commented that the Arboretum Foundation has a donor who may be willing to fund this. Iain recommended that plants from the southern tip of Chile be used.

**Jack moved that the ABGC recommend to the City that the contract be amended so the southern tip of the Chile Garden at Holmdahl Rockery be cleaned and planted per Andy's request. Sandra seconded. The vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Ribbon cutting: Paige reported that the ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for September.

### Japanese Garden Entry Project

*Project Update/Permit Issues:* Andy reported that the project team met on March 11 and reviewed the design. Local sculptor Gerry Tsutakawa will design the gates. A holdup in the project is issuance of the permits; Andy has been calling the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) daily. Paige stated that Andy has done an amazing job in revising the project and assuring donors that the project is moving ahead. Donors have given more than \$800,000 for this project and expect it to move along quickly. Now the regulatory process is bogging the project down. It is critical that it move ahead quickly and smoothly; Paige will call Diane Sigamura, DPD Director, and discuss this.

Paige reported that a \$3,000 donation for the Garden Entry project was just received from Tokyo, Japan, making the total donations \$1,030,000. The fundraising goal was \$830,000 and took only four months to complete. Two grant requests are still pending. If awarded, the funds will be used for enhancements to the project.

Andy reported that he located an old, unused ticket booth at Magnuson Park and Parks' Carpenter Shop will refurbish it. It will then be installed at the historical entrance to the Japanese Garden.

He also reported that five trees must be removed for the project, with the largest one 28" in diameter. Large signs have been posted on each tree stating that it is to be removed and information has also been posted on the project website. The lumber from the trees will be milled and used in the project. Another 15 trees will be hand spaded, moved to a temporary area, and re-planted once the project is near completion. After the project is complete, the 15 trees will be re-planted which will give the landscaping a more mature look. Seattle Parks' Communication Manager, Dewey Potter, will be asked to send out a press release about the tree removal and re-planting.

Large Monkey Tree Donated to Arboretum: Paige reported that Jodi Haug is a Ballard resident dedicated to increasing Seattle's open space. Ms. Haug donated a monkey tree from her garden to the Arboretum for use at the Flower & Garden Show exhibit. It was one of the largest trees at the Show. It has since been planted in the Chile garden. Fred commented that it will take a year or so to determine if the tree is successfully transplanted.

Donor Recognition: Paige reported that recognition of the donations in Phase I has been resolved. She and Sandra will meet to discuss the Phase II donations and how those donations will be recognized. Sandra will also meet with Theresa and Donald.

Theresa, Paige, and Donald are the committee working on a donor recognition policy. Sandra stated that it is vital for the committee to meet quickly to move the policy ahead. The Committee will report at the ABGC's April 9 meeting.

## **SR520 Update**

ABGC/Mediation Committee Report: Paige reported a tremendous amount of work and activity has occurred on the SR520 project since the February 13 ABGC meeting. She showed drawings of the "Parkway Plan" that has recently been written about in local newspapers.

Paige is the ABGC's representative to the State's Mediation Committee "Group of 34." Several weeks ago Jack recommended that Paige also attend the neighborhood meetings chaired by Fran Conley. Paige has been doing so and is now also very involved with Fran's group.

On Saturday, February 16, she attended a meeting called for by State House Speaker Frank Chopp. He directed that the interested parties on the west side of Lake Washington quickly get a plan together for SR520. Fran chaired the meeting, which lasted six hours. At the meeting, Montlake community members presented a new plan that was "married" to the tunnel option put forth by Paige several weeks ago. Paige stated that a major challenge to the plan is its impact to the UW's south parking lot.

Although some members felt very pressed to make such a quick decision, many of those present supported the new proposed design. Those who didn't were Chris Leman, who supports no more than a 4-lane re-build of SR520; Larry Sinnott of the Friends of Olmsted Parks who does not want SR520 to connect to Lake Washington Boulevard; and Jorgen Bader who does not want an SR520 intersection north of the Ship Canal. By the end of the day, representatives of the following groups/neighborhoods supported the new plan: Laurelhurst, Madison Park, Eastlake, North Capitol Hill, Roanoke, Montlake, the boating community, and the Arboretum's supporters.

Jack stated that he believes Paige is a heroic figure who is sticking up for the Arboretum. He stated that some of those present at the February 16 meeting made horrible and personal comments about Paige.

On the following Monday (President's Day) Fran took the plan to Senator Chopp who then took it directly to Governor Gregoire. The Governor liked the concept of the plan and supports moving it forward in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Jack asked if it will be the preferred alternative and Paige is uncertain of that.

On the day after President's Day, Paige attended the "Group of 34" Mediation Committee meeting. The mediators (who were hired by the State to convene the Mediation Committee) were extremely upset with Senator Chopp's direction to Fran and the neighborhood groups to work outside the Mediation Committee process. Jack, who has been attending the neighborhood meetings, stated that he believes the mediation process should now come to a halt.

Paige stated that the legislative session ends tomorrow (March 13) and the legislators are too busy with end-of-session business to focus on the SR520 project. Governor Gregoire is being asked to make a statement on Tuesday, March 18, and the neighborhood representatives will meet this weekend to plan for that meeting. Paige stressed that there is still a long ways to go before a replacement plan for SR520 is completed.

UW Report: Theresa reported that the UW President has many concerns with how this latest plan would impact the UW's south parking lot. The University is working with Washington State Department of Transportation to

determine the impact of the tunnel and bridges on the UW. Senator Chopp reportedly has stated the new plan is too expensive but that he believes a second bridge at McCurdy Park would work. There are concerns that some people say the money will be "found", when it is common knowledge there isn't enough funding for the plan. Jack is concerned that if adequate funding isn't available, the tunnel option under the Arboretum will not move forward. Theresa noted that at least three alternatives will move forward after this week and this new plan will not necessarily be the chosen one.

Paige commented that several months ago the Pacific Interchange plan was WSDOT's favored plan. Now that is off the table. The final product may be a bermed tunnel with 800 feet of roadway under the Arboretum. It is not ideal, but is much better than the Pacific Interchange plan.

Dave commended Paige for taking on a large role in this process and cautioned her not to become a target of community anger. Paige stated that Fran is the spokesperson for this new plan and not her. However, Paige is very concerned at the amount of her time the SR520 project is consuming.

Fred asked if there has been any discussion of the Museum of History and Industry building in McCurdy Park. Paige answered that virtually any SR520 plan assumes that the MOHAI building will be removed; but there has been little discussion of that in this new plan. Iain appreciates that the building's footprint was included in this new plan.

Jack commented that Kirkland's Mayor has the same vote in the mediation as the UW [which could be greatly impacted by the plan.] Paige stated that she would have done the mediation decision-making process very differently. Eastside representatives have developed a united front in voicing what they want from the project. She recently learned that the Eastside will receive the same amount of mitigation as the Westside from WSDOT, even though the Westside will have a greater amount of impacts from the project. Theresa has also heard this and is working to verify the information.

Paige and Theresa agreed that WSDOT is still changing the game plan, even during the State-mandated mediation process.

### **New/Old Business**

Next meeting: The next ABGC meeting will be on Wednesday, April 9, at Graham Visitors Center, 8:30-10:30.

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

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