

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)
October 10, 2007*

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Neal Lessenger, Substitute for 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
- David Maberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director
- 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

Others:

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

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

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 Committee: Paige Miller, representing both the ABGC and Arboretum Foundation

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at Isaacson Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture. The October 10 agenda was approved as amended. The September 12 minutes will be approved by e-mail.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Updates

Pacific Connections Gardens:

Donald recognized Fred and Andy for their excellent management on the Pacific Connections Garden project. David M stated that an enormous amount of work went into the design. Donald reflected that the Arboretum's Master Plan began in the mid-1990s and now in the fall of 2007, the ground breaking will be held. Mayor Nickels will be a keynote speaker.

Andy reported that the bids were opened on October 3. Fourteen potential bidders came to the pre-walk-through, with seven bids submitted. The successful bidder is L.W. Sunstrom, with a bid of \$1.2 million. Andy has worked with this small company on two other projects. Donald stated that many contractors don't want to bid on City contracts. This bid was good enough to include some additives. Andy will issue the notice to proceed for October 15 and the contract award must still go through City contracting. Next week, he will apply for the building permit at the City's Department of Planning and Development. This part of the project is moving along well.

Jack asked how inclement weather might affect the project. Andy answered that the contractor is allowed a weather day if more than 3/4" rain falls in one day. Part of the strategy is to do the project from one end of the site to the other and not have the entire project site open at once, thereby reducing muddy areas. It will all be fenced off during the construction. Neal referred to last year's severe wind storm and snows and asked if a repeat of that weather would impact the project. Andy stated that the contract can be extended 1 day for each weather day; however, it is in the best interest of the contractor to keep the project moving forward.

Andy displayed color drawings showing recent changes to the project. Plans are for native salal, huckleberry, and Oregon Grape to be planted in the disturbed areas of the Cascadia garden.

Plant Procurement:

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the complicated logistics of plant procurement for the gardens. An extensive amount of exotic plant materials are needed and the staging and timing of the procurement is very involved. David M feels confident that the bulk of the needed materials can be procured. Earlier in the project, a local nursery, Wells Medina, believed it could procure the plants but later determined that it could not. Since the nursery made this determination, Andy has been working with local nurseries to see which of the needed plants they can order. He will also work with Dan Hinckley, a project consultant working with Portico, to assist with the procurement. It may require a fulltime person being hired to deal with this, as the plant procurement will take several years. David M stated that it takes years to propagate, grow, and mature the types of exotic plants that are planned for the various gardens. In addition, there is only limited storage space for the plants at the Arboretum's facilities. It was agreed that Dan Hinckley should work to procure the plants, under Andy's oversight, with Andy coming to the ABGC for additional guidance.

Donors' Perceptions

Paige stated that she last heard that Andy can get 10% of the needed plants now and 50% if they aren't planted until April. Donors expect 75% of the area to be planted or they will come to the gardens and ask "is that all there is for our donations?" Jack commented that the gardens are planned for 50 years and more – and not just for how it will look at the dedication ceremony. Paige stated that if there isn't a substantial amount of the garden to show donors in April, she faces a big problem when trying to raise the next \$3-5 million for Phase II. This must be resolved as quickly as possible.

Gameplan

- 1) Andy will determine if Dan Hinckley is available. If so, Andy will work closely with him to procure the plants for the times they are needed.
- 2) If Dan isn't available, Fred Hoyt and Bob Lilly will work through the plant list. For any plants not readily available, substitution plants will be suggested.
- 3) Paige suggested that the best known plants be planted at the entry gardens.
- 4) Donald asked that plant procurement be on every ABGC meeting agenda until this is resolved.

Japanese Garden Entry Update:

Andy stated that the 65% construction documents will be completed within 2 weeks. Funding has come in swiftly for this \$1.25 million project, which includes some minimal landscaping.

Pro Parks Levy	\$450,000
Friends of the Japanese Garden	400,000
Arboretum Foundation	20,000
Miller Foundation	Undetermined amount
Anonymous	200,000
Japanese Garden Advisory Council	80,000

The project is scheduled to begin construction in April 2008.

Holly Relocation:

Fred reported that 34 trees were successfully removed with no comments from the public. David M commented that the transformation is amazing and thanked Iain for his pro bono work on this project. Iain reported that the project looks very good. It will be finished in the spring and he is quite happy with it.

SR520 Update

ABGC/Arboretum Foundation Report:

Paige attended the first of the “Group of 34” mediation meetings and reported on it at the September 12 meeting. The second meeting will be held next week. The group will hold one six-hour meeting every month for 15 months.

In addition to serving on this committee, Paige has been asked to be one of three observers of the oversight committee which includes the governor, Seattle mayor, and others. The observers may add judicious comments to the oversight committee’s discussion. The three were selected as: one representative from east of Lake Washington; one from west of the Lake; and one interested party (Paige for the Arboretum.)

Theresa reported that one result of the September 11 meeting of the “Group of 34” is that a consultant is now looking at the tube tunnel alternative.

She also reported that the community group led by Fran Conley met on September 29 and discussed the 6-8 lane alternative. Some of those present at the meeting are also on the “Group of 34” and plan to take any major results of Conley’s meetings back to the “Group.” Jack received an e-mail from Conley’s group asking for Paige to attend their meetings. He attended and believes that the ABGC should be formally represented at this meeting as well as at the “Group of 34.” Paige stated that the ABGC has not asked her to represent it at Conley’s meetings, only at the “Group of 34.” Theresa agreed with Paige and stated that the ABGC should use its resources wisely – Paige is more effective at the “Group of 34” meetings. Jack believes it is important for the ABGC to keep informed on the focus of the community group. Paige stated that she and Jack will discuss how her being there will benefit the ABGC’s position – after the October 12 groundbreaking and November 6 elections.

Iain commented that WSDOT could later squeeze 8 lanes into the 6 lanes and encouraged Paige to stay tough during the discussions to avoid such a development.

State Legislature

Paige reported that the Governor’s Budget Office called her yesterday regarding the ABGC’s funding request. The Governor hasn’t yet decided whether to put forward any local requests in the interim budget. If it chooses to do so, groups must submit a one-page letter by next week stating why the funding is needed. Dave Towne and Paige will prepare the letter, to be signed by the Arboretum Foundation. They will also determine the amount to request. Jack suggested that the City and State representatives to the ABGC also sign the letter. Dave T said that the logistics of

getting the letter to the various signers within the next week would be difficult. Paige commented that the most important thing is to get the letter there.

Jack moved that the ABGC endorse the letter of support for a budget request for the Arboretum. Teresa seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Jack was at a recent meeting with Senator Ken Jacobson, who is willing to introduce State legislation for \$1 million to endow a curator for the Washington Park Arboretum – if matching funds are raised. Neal was also at the meeting and added that a bill would first have to be drafted, then introduced, and then passed. A short discussion followed. It was observed that it is difficult to, on the one hand, send a letter to the Governor asking for \$1 million or more and, on the other hand, ask the Legislature to fund a curatorship. Dave T, the governor’s appointee to the ABGC, urged that both be done and then the ABGC should work with the Legislature to best strategize both requests.

Old/New Business:

Annual Retreat Planning:

The annual retreat will be held at Miller Community Center on Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 am-12:30 pm. Donald gave a brief overview of past retreats and why the ABGC holds one annually. He, David M, and Paige met last week to prepare a draft agenda and asked those present for their suggestions. Neal commented that the big issue is the SR520 project. Paige stated that the next steps of the Pacific Connection project – sequencing, funding, and fundraising – is another top issue. Wendy and Iain suggested the matching program proposed by State Legislator Jacobsen. Donald asked that all suggestions be sent to Sandy by the end of the week.

Park Board Tour:

The Board of Park Commissioners will hold its regular public meeting at the Graham Visitors Center on Thursday, October 25, 6:00-8:00 p.m. where they will hear a briefing on the Arboretum’s Master Plan and the potential impact to the Arboretum from the SR520 project. ABGC members will take them on a tour of the Arboretum at 4:15 pm. Plans are to tour the Duck Bay, holly, and Pacific Connections projects, to see close up the negative impacts that a re-built SR520 could have on the Arboretum, and take them on a quick tour of Lake Washington Boulevard.

Naming/Recognition Policy:

Paige, Donald, and Theresa met last Thursday to discuss the Naming/Recognition Policy and identified three issues (below.) They will meet again in November and bring a revised policy to the December 5 meeting.

1. Confirm that the UW, City and Arboretum Foundation members are in agreement with the “Donor Recognition Signage for 2007 Groundbreaking Phase of Pacific Connections Campaign” draft outline dated 6/18/07.
 - Paige, Theresa and Don will take the draft to their respective parties and report back at the next meeting of the Naming/Recognition Policy committee.
 - Paige will send Theresa and Don a copy of the “Recognition Opportunities” sheet dated 8/17/07 which will need to be re-worded based on outcome of this committee’s work, then approved by ABGC.
2. Draft a “Naming/Recognition Policy” for gifts to the Arboretum.
 - Review and identify key issues that are included in the City and University naming policies.
 - Review and identify key issues for the Arboretum Foundation.
 - Draft a “Naming/Recognition Policy” to be reviewed and approved by the ABGC.
3. Create an endowment structure for new gifts that covers the maintenance and operation costs.
 - Review and research the cost of maintaining and operating the new exhibits/collections that are coming on line.
 - Write up a policy that ensures the City and the University can maintain the exhibits/collections in perpetuity and bring it to the ABGC for review and approval.

Paige commented that drafting the recognition policy is easier than the naming policy. The group is not looking at doing a lot of naming but the Pacific Connection provides good opportunity for some naming. Naming of endowments is the most difficult element. Jack suggested that perhaps the UW or City would change their policies for the Arboretum's naming process.

Mayor's Proposed Budget:

The Mayor's budget proposal submitted to City Council includes \$58,000 for the City's share of upkeep for the Pacific Connections entry garden. Members were requested to contact City Council members to voice support for the budget item.

Goals & Objectives:

The Goals & Objectives were reviewed and updates made.

ABGC Vacant Position:

Three names of citizens have been mentioned: Bill Arntz, Cathy Baker, and Ann Wallace-Boltz. It will be a plus for any candidates if they live near, and have a special interest in, the Arboretum. Parks staff will check with the Mayor's Boards and Commissions Coordinator for any recent progress on filling the position.

UW Provost & Budget Director Briefing:

Neal suggested that the University of Washington Provost and the Budget Director be invited to an upcoming ABGC meeting for a briefing. Paige offered to extend the invitation.

New Seattle Parks Superintendent:

Tim Gallagher, the Mayor's nominee as the next Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, is scheduled for confirmation before the full City Council on Monday, November 26. Mr. Gallagher will attend the ABGC's November 7 retreat.

Encroachments:

Donald gave a brief update on the encroachments on Arboretum property on the east side of the park. Work on this will resume when the new Superintendent has been confirmed.

Next ABGC Meeting: The next meeting is the retreat on Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 am-12:30 pm, at Montlake Community Center.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 10:50 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Mabberley, ABGC Secretary