

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
September 10, 2008**

*Voting
Members
Present:*

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Barbara Wright, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Property & Acquisition Services Manager

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Acting Director

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Governor's Appointee

Excused:

- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture
- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee

*Others
Present:*

- Kelly Gould, Seattle Parks Japanese Garden Project Manager
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks Pacific Connections Project Manager

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Standing Committees

Funding Requests to State Legislature: John (Arboretum Foundation), Jack (City), Dave T (Washington State)
Naming Recognition Guideline: Paige (Arboretum Foundation), Donald (City), Sandra (UW)
Mission Statement: Kathleen Pierce (Arboretum Foundation), Donald (City), Sandra (UW)
Provost's Presentation: Tim, Paige, Sandra, & Dave
SR520 Mediation (Group of 34): Paige Miller, representing both the ABGC and Arboretum Foundation
Joint Fundraising Policy: AF: Allen Ferrin, Julia Maywald, John Johnston, Paige Miller & Barbara Wright
UW: Fred Hoyt, Wendy Kelley, Sandra Lier, & Greg Sheridan
City: Donald Harris & Tim Gallagher
Staff: Sandy Brooks & John Howell (Assistant & Facilitator)

Upcoming Events:

September 18:	UW Regents presentation, briefing on Arboretum
September 19:	Night-before-party for ribbon cutting
September 20:	Pacific Connections, ribbon cutting – afternoon
September 30:	Joint Fundraising Committee Meeting (5:30-7:00 pm)
October 14:	Joint Fundraising Committee Meeting (5:00-8:00 pm)
October 28:	Joint Fundraising Committee Meeting (5:00-8:00 pm)

ABGC Chair Dave Towne called the meeting, held at Graham Visitors Center, to order at 8:30 am. **The minutes from the July 9 meeting were approved as presented.**

Updates

Pacific Connections Phase I: Dave commented that Phase 1 of the project looks good. Andy stated that a number of crews are working hard to finish up by the September 18 & 19 ribbon cutting events. Crews are also removing invasive plants at the Cascadia site. Responding to a question from Jack on the amount of funds remaining from Phase I, Andy answered that there is about \$80,000 which could be used on some portions of Phase II components, listed below:

- Pacific Connections plant contingency
- Holly collections grading and drainage
- Holmdel rockery clean up
- Foster Island/Arboretum Drive improvements
- Cascade, New Zealand, Gateway to Chile tree removal
- Cascadia plant propagation
- New Zealand plant propagation
- Gateway to Chile nursery stock
- Additional pedestrian orientation maps

Bike/Traffic in Arboretum Survey:

Andy next distributed and reviewed a handout about the possible bike trail through the Arboretum. Possibilities for the bike route for Arboretum Drive could include that it stays a two-way drive, becomes one-way, has a split access, or has sharrows painted onto the pavement. It was agreed that any option must not require a revisiting of the Arboretum's Master Plan.

Barbara commented that the public needs more information about sharrows and that she believes any symbols painted on Arboretum Drive would make it appear to be more of a "thoroughfare" than a lane. Andy agreed and stated that changes to Arboretum Drive would also need to be reviewed by the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks.

Responding to a question from Jack on whether Seattle Department of Transportation must approve the plan, Andy answered that it doesn't because Arboretum Drive is inside a park. Jack also requested that wherever paving projects are added to the Arboretum, that the most feasible permeable surface be utilized. He believes the City should set a good example for dealing with runoff. Dave noted that the amount of asphalt at the Arboretum projects is being substantially reduced and Andy agreed.

The Park Department's ProView Committee reviewed the options at its August 26 meeting and the following is from its *Record of Decisions...*"2) One-way will not work, speed issue, bike share, seniors. Closure proposal not vetted in Master Plan; 6) Do not close Arboretum Drive East to vehicles; 7) Need more public process." Paige noted that Proview's recommendation is unfortunate and asked Andy and Donald to discuss this with Superintendent Gallagher. They agreed to do so.

Jack asked if the City can do a moratorium to keep Arboretum Drive closed indefinitely. Fred stated that other parts of the project will also require it to be closed. After a short discussion, **Jack moved to refer a recommendation to the Superintendent to keep Arboretum Drive closed during an alternative plan review and an MPIG and ABGC review. Sandra seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed.** Donald

will relay the ABGC's recommendation to the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is in agreement, Andy will meet with Seattle Fire Department and Police Department about the closure.

Paul Gibson added that about 15 years ago the east end of Interlaken Boulevard was closed because of landslides. The public became accustomed to the closure, liked it, and the area remains closed to this day.

Japanese Garden: Kelly reported on this project and stated that construction has begun, with a completion date expected in mid-February. A1 Construction is the contractor for the project.

Paige asked if Parks staff are keeping the Japanese Garden Advisory Council and key donors in the loop on this project. Donald answered that they attended the pre-construction meeting. Jack recommended that the next meeting dates be set for October and December and that they be invited to attend both. Paige also asked Parks staff to let her know if there are any problems with the project or whenever milestones are reached and she will report to the Arboretum Foundation. Both Kelly and Andy agreed to do so.

September 19 Pre-ribbon Cutting Event: This event will be held on Friday to coincide with the Pacific Connection ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for the next day. Sandra has asked that notice of the event be posted on the UW's web page. The schedule includes a 10:00 am presentation, tour of the Pacific Connection gardens, and a small ceremony with Deputy Mayor Ceis and UW Provost Phyllis Wise. After a Chilean musical program, lunch will be served at the Graham Visitors Center.

September 20 Ribbon Cutting: This is the second day of celebration for the Pacific Connection's gardens and is a large public celebration. Mayor Nickels is a guest speaker, as well as a representative of the Duwamish Tribe. There will be tours, lots of kid's activities, refreshments, etc. The event has been well advertised with bus ads, a large banner, some media attention on the radio, and by Cisco Morris in his televised gardening show.

Seattle Parks' communication staff person, Karen O'Conner, is handling the public outreach for this event and is working with Paige and Sandra. The UW and Arboretum Foundation are sharing the costs. The Broadmoor community is letting its parking lot be used for the event and golf carts will be available to transport people from the parking lots to the event.

Naming Recognition Guideline: Sandra reported that UW's Dean Bare has submitted his comments on the policy. She will next give the draft to City staff for comments.

Joint Fundraising Committee: The Committee's goal is to present a Joint Fundraising Policy in November; hopefully at the November 12 ABGC retreat. John Howell, of the Cedar River Group, is the facilitator. Sandra reported that the group is working in good faith to develop the policy and to understand the other's point of view.

Donald noted that, while City staff are present at these meetings, the City does not have the same interests as the UW and Arboretum Foundation, other than seeing a successful fundraising strategy as a result of the committee's work.

Paige referred to one of the documents that has resulted from the meetings, "Roles of the Three Parties", and observed that the UW and Arboretum Foundation have discovered that both are doing many of the same things at the Arboretum and not communicating about them.

July 22 Provost Meeting and September 18 Meeting with UW Regents: Sandra reported on the meeting with UW Provost Phyllis Wise to review the September 18 presentation to the UW's Regents and to get her input. Ms. Wise will attend both the September 19 and 20 Pacific Garden ribbon cutting events.

They discussed the history of the Master Plan, agreements, Pacific Gardens, the new parks levy, and the packet that will be given to the Regents prior to the presentation.

Donald commented that it was important to note to the Provost that the Arboretum is used for education. He also urged that the ABGC work to get the UW to commit support for the Arboretum's maintenance and operation (M&O) needs on the level that the City already does. Sandra stated that she discussed the need to fund the curator position, as well as the maintenance and operations needs, with Ms. Wise.

Paige commented that the Arboretum is a reflection of the UW as an environmental laboratory. Sandra added that a primary concern of the Provost is the UW's new College of the Environment. Sandra has planted the seed that the Arboretum needs matching M&O funding from the UW to match what the partners already give.

Legislation & State Budget: Last year the ABGC put in two requests to the State Legislature for funding to the Arboretum and it is time to do so again. Dave T will contact Senator Jacobsen and ask if he may speak before the Legislative Committee. **Jack moved that the ABGC ask that the Arboretum Foundation write a letter to the Legislature similar to the one written last year requesting \$1 million in funding for the Arboretum. Donald seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

Arboretum Foundation and UW staff will report on the progress of this at the ABGC's October meeting.

UWBG Director Search: Sandra reported that the search process is ongoing.

Arboretum Mission Statement: Sandra and the Committee are still working on this and may have a draft version to present at the October 9 meeting.

Councilmember Rasmussen Tour: Jack reported that City Councilmember Rasmussen and three of his staff will tour the Arboretum on September 11 at 10:00 am. Councilmember Conlin may also attend. ABGC members on the tour include Jack, Fred, Donald, Paige, and Sandra. Paige will also give the Powerpoint presentation that she has shown to the ABGC.

SR520 Project Update

Paige reported that three options will go forward in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): alternatives A, K, & L. Her committee has recently focused its efforts on the design, lids, and berms for two of the plans.

Teresa reported that the Washington State Department of Transportation will write a project impact plan for all 3 alternatives and then each of the 34 stakeholders will be asked to submit comments on each. This information is due to the State Legislature by January 1, 2009.

Responding to a question from Dave about the project's timeline, Paige answered that the mediation group is scheduled to finish its work by the end of December 2008 and the EIS is due to be released one year later.

Sandra asked about mitigation for the project. Theresa will send the information to Sandy, who will forward it to the ABGC.

New/Old Business

Annual Retreat: The ABGC's annual retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 8:00 am-12:30 pm at Laurelhurst Community Center. Paige, Sandra, Dave, and Donald will meet to develop the agenda and plan to present it at the October 9 meeting for review. Dave and Donald will invite Councilmember Rasmussen to attend the first portion of the retreat.

Parks and Greenspace Levy: Paige is a member of the new Levy's Steering Committee, which met on September 8. Karen Daubert, Executive Director of the Seattle Parks Foundation, is the Steering Committee Chair. Seattle Art Museum and its foundation are supporting the levy. Jack suggested that the Steering Committee contact the Sierra Club to request help with doorbelling to garner support for the Levy. The Levy website is located at <http://parksandgreenspaceslevy.ning.com/>.

Wayfinding Plan Update: Paul Gibson asked for a status on the Arboretum Wayfinding Plan. Jack answered that there is inadequate funding to install all of the wayfinding signage at once. Instead, as each project is completed, that project's wayfinding components will be installed. Donald added that staff may prioritize the wayfinding project components and look for funding sources to install them as soon as feasible.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Theresa Doherty, ABGC Secretary