

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

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

Minutes – April 12, 2006

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation 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 Mgmt & Acquisitions Manager

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington, Associate Vice-president of Business Services
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

Washington State

- None

Others:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Rick Reichert, Arboretum, Director of Development and Capital Campaign
- Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Levy Manager

Voting members

Absent/Excused:

- David Mabberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens Director
- Dave Towne, Washington State Representative

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

ABGC Chair Donald Harris called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. One change to the agenda was made and approved. Motions were made and seconded to approve the December 7 retreat minutes, and the February 1 and March 8 minutes.

Update: Goals & Objectives

Donald Harris led a review/update of the Goals and Objectives.

Page 1, #1: Develop and Implement a Master Plan Implementation Communications Strategy and issues of concern to the external community

Sandra Lier distributed a draft ABGC position statement on the SR520 Widening Project, as part of the Master Plan Implementation Communication Strategy. Much of the Goals and Objectives discussion focused on this strategy. David Mabberley is the lead and Communication Specialists Sandra Hines of the UW and David Takami of Seattle Parks are members of the group responsible for this element. Discussion/suggestions/recommendations included:

- It is crucial and timely that the ABGC re-focus on the communication strategy, including the efforts of Sandra Hines and David Takami. ABGC members know the message they want to give, but not how to distribute it.
- The Zoo and Aquarium send out regular press releases describing their events which helps keep them in the public's eye. Similar press releases need to be sent out regularly on the Arboretum to keep it in the limelight.
- The University of Washington Botanic Gardens has a good web site with a fact sheet — could be used as a model.
- It is important that the Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW be connected on the communications strategy so each knows what information the other is distributing.
- Could the UW have journalism students do some of this work pro bono?

Action:

- *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.*
- *Deb Andrews and David Mabberley will meet to discuss the Communication Plan strategy.*
- *MPIG will also discuss it at its next meeting.*

Page 1, #2: Develop and Implement Olympia Committee to Engage State Legislators in Arboretum

- ABGC has two goals to receive funds for: maintenance and operations; and funding for new projects.
- Plan now for the next bi-annum budget process.
- Begin working with individual legislators for future funding for the Arboretum. ABGC members Margaret Ceis, Jack Collins, and Dave Towne are not employed by either the City or UW and it would be very appropriate for them to contact the legislators.
- The City's most recent legislative budget to Washington State included a \$1 million dollar request for the Arboretum.

SR520 Widening Project Report

David Graves, Seattle Parks' project manager for this project, was unable to attend today's meeting. Jack Collins reported on a stakeholders group he has been asked to join, as follows:

At the end of the last legislative session, State Representative Ed Murray called for the City of Seattle to assemble a group of stakeholders to focus on the SR520 Widening project. The stakeholders' mission is to formulate a City consensus for a recommendation on the SR520 Bridge and its connections. There is a \$250,000 budget for the stakeholders, to be used primarily to study the impacts of mitigation and to manage any mitigation. Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis has been designated as the lead for the group, which also includes City Councilmembers Conlin and Drago and Seattle Department of Transportation staff David Allen. Jack Collins was asked by the Mayor's Office to represent both the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee and Board of Park Commissioners. Sandra Lier will serve as Jack's alternate if he is unable to attend a meeting. While no UW staff members have yet been designated as a stakeholder, it was suggested that Theresa Dougherty, UW Vice President of Regional Affairs, would be an appropriate representative. Ms. Dougherty reports directly to the UW President.

The group will meet every three weeks, hold four meetings, and must complete its work by June. The first meeting was held the night before and each member was requested to solicit validation from the group they represent. Each member will then send David Allen the three or four top priorities of their group's interests in the SR520 project. It was agreed that the ABGC's top priority is to protect the Arboretum. After each meeting, Jack will send written reports to the eight voting members, Fred Hoyt, Rich Reihert, Michael Shiosaki, and David Graves.

Margaret moved that Jack be designated as the ABGC representative, with Sandra Lier as alternate. Neal Lessenger seconded. The motion carried, with the vote unanimously in favor.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG)

Michael Shiosaki reported on the following:

April 5 Open House: 2,700 invitations were distributed for the open house, with 6 people attending, other than Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW staff. Fred also sent personal invitations to neighbors of the holly relocation project.

Irrigation Mainline Project: Staff will meet with Herrera Environmental Consultants later today.

Japanese Garden Schematic: The third project team meeting was held last week. MPIG will discuss the design and a presentation will be given to the ABGC at the May 10 meeting. A major donor has stepped forth to support this project.

Signage & Interpretive Wayfinding: Fred Hoyt is working with Maranako’s, a rock company in Fall City, and showed examples of the 10-ton rock size for the proposed major entry signs. Efforts are under way to secure funding.

Pacific Connections Gardens: The design is moving forward. Fred gave information on the design for the Chilean, New Zealand, and Cascadian Gardens. Deb reported that \$1.9 million of the \$6 million needed for this project has been pledged. The holly relocation project must be completed prior to this project.

Public Meetings: Two public meetings have been scheduled to keep the public informed of projects at the Arboretum: April 24, Japanese Garden entry; and May 3, Pacific Connections.

Holly Relocation Project: Fred displayed large drawings of this project and described the current and new location for the hollies. He explained that the hollies are divided into a genetic lineage and include deciduous, Asian, and European species. He described Iain Robertson’s plan for the new holly garden, which will include an educational area displaying invasive types of holly. This area will be caged so birds cannot eat and spread the invasive seeds to other areas. There is some risk in moving mature trees and staff will take cuttings of those before the move takes place. Fred is also working with Seattle Public Utilities on the surface drainage. SPU is especially interested in sustainability efforts and Fred will continue to work with SPU in regards to the Arboretum.

Old/New Business

New Representative to the ABGC: Rick Reichert, the Arboretum’s new Director of Development and Capital Campaign was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Montlake Signs — Update: Several Montlake neighborhood signs were recently installed on Arboretum property. Parks staff members have succeeded in having the Boyer Avenue sign moved; the sign at the SR 520 exit remains unresolved, as Montlake believes the sign isn’t on Parks’ property.

May 10 meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Mabberley, ABGC Secretary