

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes

Web site: <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/abgc/>

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is a Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks Department, and the University of Washington, and designated by Seattle City Council Ordinance 65130, approved December 27, 1934, and Ordinance 116337, approved September 8, 1992.

The ABGC is closely monitoring the WSDOT SR520 project for impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum. Please see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/520.htm>

Meeting Location: Graham Visitors Center, April 10, 2013

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Craig Trueblood, Arboretum Foundation Board President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Asst. Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- Lynne C. Manzo, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

Excused: David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Hillary Burgess, UW Intern
- Michele Daly, Seattle Parks, Acting ABGC Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

AF: Paige Miller; City: TBD; UW: TBD

Partners Committee:

AF: Paige Miller & Craig Trueblood
City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams
Michael Shiosaki & Leah Tivoli

UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Paige Miller & Roger Williams
City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Theresa Doherty & Fred Hoyt

The meeting was held at Graham Visitors Center at the Arboretum and called to order at 8:32 am. Chair Jack Collins noted additions to the April 10 agenda: New Zealand Tour Report will be given later in the meeting.

Kenan Block moved, and Craig Trueblood seconded, approval of the revised April 10 meeting agenda and the March 13 meeting minutes. Michael Shiosaki abstained as he was not present at the March 13 meeting.

Budget, Personnel & Other Updates

City:

Parks Legacy Plan

Michael and Kenan informed ABGC that the 139 page Seattle Parks and Recreation 1st draft of the Parks Legacy Plan is available on-line. To honor Parks 130-year legacy and to plan for the future, the Department is starting an important public conversation to ensure we have a great park system for generations to come. Questions that are being addressed include: What is the public view of our park system? What are the basic services Parks provides? Are our resources deployed in the most effective manner? Six public meetings have been scheduled at various city locations in May. While some of the meetings will focus on certain Parks functions, comments on any Parks issue or function are welcome at all of the meetings. Parks Staff input is due by May 22. The 2nd draft will be released with proposed recommendations in June.

The existing Parks and Open Space Levy expires in 2014. A Parks Funding Plan Citizen Committee is being created to consider several options for funding Seattle Parks and Recreation. The final Plan will be presented to the Board of Park Commissioners in the fall and finalized in time for the Parks Funding Plan Citizen Committee to use as a basis for studying revenue options and make recommendations about how to spend that revenue. The Plan is scheduled to be presented to the City Council in December. The public meeting schedule is available on-line. <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy>. Comments can be emailed to parkslegacy@seattle.gov

ABGC was encouraged to read the Legacy Plan and be prepared to discuss it at the May meeting. Kenan stated written comments will have just as much weight as public testimony. He has been working with the Department on public outreach and will help facilitate the May public meetings. Sarah stated the Committee members could comment as individuals on the Plan as well as through ABGC.

City Budget:

Michael Shiosaki informed the Committee that the City Budget Office will be will be issuing budget development instructions soon. Revenue forecasts are reviewed in the spring to decide if there is enough money to cover the expected costs to continue current services. The Department may need to cut ½% from the 2013 budget.

Arboretum Foundation:

Paige reported the Foundation is preparing the draft budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1. It will be presented to the Foundation's Finance Committee on April 11. Next week the full Board will discuss the first iterations of it in Executive Session. For the past couple of years what the University needs in terms of maintenance, etc. is significant compared to the revenue the Foundation is generating so it is struggling with the budget.

UW:

Sarah reported the University employees will probably be getting pay raises this year of approximately 2%. They are starting to reconcile the budget for the biennium which ends on June 30. They have been thrifty over the last couple of years, as well as the revenues doing pretty well, so they may end up with all the budgets not in deficit for the first time in a while. There are no cuts projected. They are hoping to purchase a new tractor which is a major piece of equipment, costing approximately \$40,000.

Canal Reserve: Jack and Paige commented on their reaction to the UW Regents meeting on March 14. They were impressed with the President who gave his report to the Regents. Paige stated it was frustrating that after working hard to get the written comments to the Regents prior to their budget meeting they were not included in their meeting books. The Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee acted without seeing the comments from ABGC and the Arboretum Foundation. The Canal Reserve item was listed on the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents agenda as a consent item. (*WSDOT 520/Bryant Building – Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with WSDOT and City of Seattle and Settlement Agreement*). Paige and Jack each had two minutes to speak; the Regents listened politely as they spoke. Jack related since there were only two people from the public to address the Regents he thought they could have allowed them another minute or two. Paige noted the Chair did ask the Regents if they had any questions, but none of them did. When they got to the item, nobody pulled it off the consent agenda and it was voted pro forma. Paige further noted the good thing is they raised the visibility of the issue by personally going to the meeting. There may be some follow-up things that can be done. ABGC would like an opportunity to have a conversation, explain what was in the letter and why and to make the thought process understood. Sarah will contact Paul Jenny, UW Vice Provost, Planning and Budgeting.

Parks Personnel: The new Natural Resources Unit Manager, Doug Critchfield, has been hired and starts work today. There were over 100 people that applied for the position. Hopefully he can attend an ABGC meeting soon. He is a landscape architect and has previous park administration experience.

Arboretum Foundation Personnel: A new Development Coordinator has been hired as part of the fund raising team and will start work next week. The Foundation is currently seeking a Volunteer Manager; the job is posted and about 15 people have applied so far. It is hoped resume screening can begin next week. The Volunteer Manager, Randall Hitchens, has become the new Major Gifts and Outreach Manager.

UW Personnel: Ray Larson has been hired as a Curator; he will be starting next Tuesday. Because of budget cuts from previous years there is only 20 hours per week funded. Ray worked for UW in a variety of capacities and came in and worked for five or six months last year on a temporary loan from Grounds and did impressive work. He is a hard worker and knows his plants well. He will also be working for Grounds ½ time.

UW News: Fred informed ABGC that UW had applied for participation in the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC) for the Magnolias. UW already participates with Japanese Maple, Holly and the Oak Collections. They had a visit from Doug Justice, Curator of Collection University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens & Center for Plant Research. He took a look at the collection, visited with the curation committee and looked at the data bases. He was quite impressed and UW will be part of the national collection for Magnolias. It does cost money to join and there is the expectation of participating in a number of work groups so there is also a personnel commitment. It does help to raise the profile of the Arboretum nationally. The NAPCC does a vigorous evaluation of the collections so UW has to have a stellar collection to become part of the NAPCC. It also helps UW strategically improve the collection and enhance conservation.

Master Plan Future Project Priorities: Michael Shiosaki reviewed the Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan projects list dated April 2013 which was revised with suggestions from ABGC at their March 13 meeting. The revised list may not have accomplished everything that everyone wanted but the list is a tool to focus attention on which project is moving forward, which ones should move forward sooner, and which seem to be off in the distance. In addition to the priorities list, Paige has taken a look at the Implementation Plan. What MPIG plans to do for this exercise next year is go back to the Master Plan and recap all that has been accomplished thus far. A lot of the priority projects identified in the first implementation plan have been accomplished. The revised list is more forward looking. Andy Sheffer added the potential or secured funding information to the list. No medium priorities have been identified. Jack suggested for format purposes to take the Outdoor Classroom and move it up to the high priority to keep the “underways,” “highs,” and “lows”

together, and also correct the spelling of Broadmoor. Jack stated the priority list will be helpful for funding purposes.

Paige noted Pacific Connections is not on the list. It is the biggest fund raising "underway." Michael stated we knew what we were working on and the list is looking forward and not looking back. The Pacific Connections is almost done. "Underway" is a project that has been approved and the design is being worked on; it does not necessarily mean construction has started. Michael said a lot of time has been spent on the document during the last 6-8 months and he would like to move forward. **Kenan moved ABGC approve the report, Teresa seconded and the motion carried.** The list will be amended to move the Outdoor Classroom item and correct the spelling of Broadmoor.

Kenan suggested on occasion ABGC should tour some of the projects in the Arboretum to get the full committee aware of what is going on, where something is going to be, and could become an annual survey. Paige noted the June meeting will be right around the time of the New Zealand planting is beginning so the Committee could go up to that area. Jack noted there is a gap between those people who work at the Arboretum for a living and those Committee members that drop in once a month. Jack suggested having the June business meeting from 8:30 to 9:30 and tour from 9:30 to 10:30. Kenan encourages the tour be choreographed so 6-8 things can be viewed.

MPIG Update by Michael Shiosaki:

- New Zealand Garden: things are really progressing. The UW and Parks will be overseeing the plantings. Fred took Jack on a tour of the area. Jack was impressed by how much work has been done. Things were pruned to open the view from the overlook to Azalea Way; likewise, a view from Azalea Way up to the overlook area. A board was displayed that showed the current Pacific Connection project. The grand opening of the garden is slated for September 13-15.

Jack related two porta potties sound awful for that area. Michael stated it has been an issue that has been looked at many times. There is no sewer in that area and it is prohibitively expensive to get connected to a sewer at that site. Permanent toilets were not approved in the Master Plan. Composting toilets were looked at but determined not to be a solution. Septic system toilets are not allowed in the city. Screening will be provided as part of the project. The porta potties need to be as unobtrusive as possible.

- Multi-use Trail: Three firms are being interviewed today – SVR, Jones & Jones, and The Berger Partnership. Proposals were sent to Parks to use for the consultant screening process. Construction expected to begin in 2014.
- Foster Island Undercrossing: Parks/UW Staff are working with WSDOT on the design and plantings/rocky areas of the site to keep maintenance costs as low as possible and funding of the lighting relative to safety issues and for the ability of growing plants. WSDOT does not like the idea of needing to have lighting. There also has been a long discussion of what they should do in the first phase. WSDOT has budgeted about \$400,000 for all the improvements in that three acre area which is unrealistic. The estimate is \$1.2 million. The Partners have been compromising on this idea with WSDOT holding their ground. Fred added the point has been reached where WSDOT needs to come the Partners way a little bit. It has been 1-1/2 year long negotiation. Paige noted WSDOT has been meeting with the Tribes separately and Partners separately. A way to meet with the Tribes with WSDOT present is needed. Jack suggested we may need a mediator. At the last meeting Kerry asked for help developing language in justification of where we are that she can take to her supervisors. Jack stated WSDOT may be worried about setting a precedent around the state but there is only one Arboretum so the answer would be no precedent being set. WSDOT has brought on their

own landscape architects who have not been part of the process and are asking questions if things have been looked at, which have already been tried. Lynne offered her assistance from an environmental psychology perspective. There is direction by the Legislature to enhance the Arboretum through this project.

- Pacific Connection Shelter Globe inlay: Someone had a campfire underneath the Pacific Connections Shelter several months ago and it damaged the terrazzo. We are examining replacement of the terrazzo globe inlay with a more durable material such as brass, bronze, cast iron or some other material that it will not be damaged if there is another fire. The replacement estimate is \$25,000. The replacement needs to be completed before the New Zealand Garden opens in the fall.
- The Overlook Shelter Renovation: A \$25,000 grant from the Seattle Garden Club has been received. Another portion may be from a large construction company's volunteer project. Time is short and we are trying to figure out how to get the renovation done in time for the grand opening of the New Zealand Garden September 13. It is desired to raise the shelter 18-inches, replace timber members, install a new roof with metal shakes, hopefully reappoint the rock work and repaint the shelter. Paige related there are ways to pay for the project and then get reimbursed. 106 funds (\$35,000) probably would not become available until August or September. Recreational Conservation Office (RCO) is working on the agreement now; RCO will look at it at their June meeting and then it goes to National Park Service (NPS). The City has developed a list of things they would like to see funded. The draft list has been sent to RCO. There will be a meeting with the City, University and other agencies that are involved. The agreed upon list would move forward to the RCO Board. Paige noted if things are on the agreed upon list, there are ways to pay for it ahead and be reimbursed if you know funding is coming. The design is moving forward.

Old/New Business

Dave Towne's Appointment: Dave has kindly agreed to remain in the position until a new person is appointed by the Governor. Jack had requested Hillary check on the status of the appointment which she did. As far as we can tell there has not been authority for the State to appoint a person to the ABGC since 2005. We are not listed in the roster of State appointments. Hillary reviewed the history of appointments during Governor Gregoire's tenure and none of the years which went back to 2005 were we listed. If he was not being compensated in any way, such as reimbursed for expenses, it may have slipped through the cracks. The key is to find the letter that Dave received from the Governor. Jack will contact Dave to see if he kept a copy of the letter. Michele will review the ABGC files if Dave cannot come up with a copy.

Michael Shiosaki's appointment: The Mayor appoints three of the ABGC committee members. Two of those are members of the public and the third is the Parks Superintendent or his representative. Michael Shiosaki has been named by the Superintendent and is awaiting Mayoral appointment processing. The ordinance language that formed ABGC does not call for City Council confirmation Michele contacted the Boards & Commissions Coordinator in the Mayor's Office and was told three names were desired by the Mayor. Michele notified the Superintendent of the additional names requirement who then discussed the process with Deputy Mayor Ethan Rapp. Michael will continue to serve on ABGC representing Parks. The official paperwork was delayed. (Note: a day after the April 10 ABGC meeting, the Mayor officially appointed Michael to the Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee).

Annual ABGC Retreat: ABGC approved holding the retreat at CUH's NHS Hall on November 13, 2013. The meeting will be from 8am until noon. The room is reserved from 7 am until 1:30 for set up and lunch time and take down time.

600 people applied to fill the vacancy created when Sandy retired. The screening process was completed and interviews conducted. Michael was on the interview panel and said the two finalists are well qualified. Jack noted it is a difficult job coordinating several boards, subcommittees, and other duties in between the meetings.

Paige and Jack drafted a thank you letter to Paula Hammond which will be sent to her home address; the letter includes thanking Rob, Kerry and Julie. Copies will be sent to ABGC members. The letter includes the fact that we developed guidelines to help us figure out the mitigation and the State did every one of the things in the guidelines. Jack noted it is not in the State's 10 year plan to finish SR520. Two of the three ramps will be removed. The eastbound entrance ramp will remain for now as they are not rebuilding eastbound 520 yet.

Communication: Kenan said the thought is to take a few minutes of the meetings to ask all the Partners if any events are coming up that might be newsworthy. It is a chance to be a little more organized so that ABGC is taking full advantage of any opportunity to let the public know about what is happening in the Arboretum. There is so much comes up in the meetings that may be newsworthy. Kenan noted the University joining the national organization noted in today's meeting is news to report, at least in the Arboretum world.

Paige noted in a couple of weeks the Arboretum Foundation will be conducting a big plant sale which is a major fund raiser for the Arboretum. Kenan's suggestion is to have a checklist that makes sure every outlet in the gardening world is notified of the sale. He would like to sit down with staff to go over a checklist. The Foundation does not have an advertising budget so it looks for free media. Kenan suggested an email be sent to him requesting him to forward the news.

Fred informed ABGC of an event coming up on Saturday with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) which could be the largest volunteer event they have on an annual basis. They do their annual earth day event at the Arboretum with over 300 high school age volunteers. Kenan noted it is a great news story. One student is chosen who gives an articulate presentation. Sarah related there is a meeting scheduled for 10 am on Monday with the new School and College Communications Marketing Directors to talk about how they may provide better support.

Kenan noted it is great to advertise through social media but it is not the same as getting conventional coverage for people still read newspapers and watch television, and it is still one of the most powerful ways to reach the masses. Sarah noted it is a generation thing too. With the younger generation, the news has to come to them they don't seek the news. Kenan noted older folks, elected officials, people who to write checks, tend to read newspapers and watch television so it still is an important way of communicating.

Kenan suggested we could start working with the Seattle Times' Pacific Northwest Magazine to get coverage for the grand opening of the New Zealand Garden in September. Sarah will pitch that to Val Easton who writes the garden column for the Pacific Northwest Magazine as she is always looking for items for the column. Kenan is thinking about a cover story; Val does write feature articles. Jack thinks it is important for ABGC to do a better job with communication. Kenan asked the Committee members to call or email him with ideas.

Michael noted Cinco de Mayo is coming up on Sunday, May 5, and wondered if security should be added to protect the palms. Kenan suggested calls be made to the campus police as well as Seattle Police to remind them of possible vandalism in the Arboretum. Sarah can also speak to the fraternity council again. \$43,000 worth of damage occurred last year. The palms are used as party decorations. This would be a story for Facebook and Twitter.

Fred noted there was a good meeting held last Monday with the Foundation, City and University with regards to staff and client security. Because of a recent violence in the workplace incident they are heightening some awareness and the Operations Committee will be following up with suggestions for proceeding with protocols that need to be practiced just like an earthquake drill. There was great support from all three organizations.

The next regular ABGC meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the Graham Visitors Center.

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

APPROVED _____ signed for JBC by RA _____ DATE May 8, 2013
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair

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