

***Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)***

*www.wparboretum.org* select ABGC

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

***Minutes – August 4, 2004***

**Members:**

**Arboretum Foundation**

- Susan Black for Neal Lessenger, President, Arboretum Foundation
- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

**City of Seattle**

- Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Department Manager
- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee

**University of Washington**

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- John Wott, Arboretum Director

**Washington State**

- John Behnke

**Absent Members:**

- Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor

**Guests:**

- Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- Cara Mathison, Assistant Development Director, UW College of Forest Resources
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager

**Staff:**

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 am, with a quorum present. Sandra reminded voting members to notify Sandy (684-5066 or [sandy.brooks@seattle.gov](mailto:sandy.brooks@seattle.gov)) of any ABGC absences. John Wott will be absent from the September meeting.

**Margaret moved approval of the August 4 agenda and July 7 minutes. John Wott seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

**SR520 Arterial/Street Improvement Study Update**

- John W received maps and photos from WSDOT and distributed to the ABGC. Both John and Sandra have been meeting with WSDOT on a regular basis, to discuss SR520 project impacts to the Arboretum specifically and impacts to the UW in general. Sandra is really pushing for the UW to have action and involvement on this, as the implications of traffic patterns are serious for both the Arboretum and UW. WSDOT asked John to assess impacts to the plantings and landscape. Both John and Sandra will continue meeting regularly with WSDOT. Members suggested that Sandra coordinate the UW's efforts with the Mayor's Office and she agreed. Sandra has contacted the UW's real estate office and requested documentation on valuing the Arboretum lands that may be impacted by the project. Sandra will also report back to the ABGC on the expected date of the Draft EIS.

## **Master Plan Implementation (MPI) Group Update**

Deb stated that the MPI Group is again meeting on a regular schedule. No date has yet been set for the yearly informational meeting.

### *Communication Strategy*

Deb is still working with the communication specialist. An excellent draft is ready and will be brought to the ABGC as an agenda item at the September 1 meeting.

Sandra stated that it is important to get the community strategy quickly finalized. John W and Michael stated that it is important to get the word out about what has already happened at meetings and what will happen at upcoming meetings. Margaret suggested that press releases be included in the gardening section of local newspapers. Jerry asked if all press releases should go through one contact person. Deb answered that the press releases will be handled through the MPI Group. A copy of all press releases should also be sent to Sandy Brooks, for inclusion in the ABGC files. Jerry asked if summaries of project meetings may now be posted on the ABGC website. Sandra answered yes.

### *South Entry Madrona Terrace and Irrigation Mainline Project Update*

The contract is near signature on the South Entry Madrona Terrace project and the team is meeting next week. Parks staff members are working with Seattle Public Utilities on this project. The entry project may eventually be impacted by the SR520 project.

The Irrigation project is moving along quite well.

### *Wayfinding Project Update*

Jerry Ernst reported that this project is progressing well. The consultants working on this project have assigned a young and enthusiastic landscape designer. More than 20 people attended the previous evening's open house to discuss their favorite Arboretum sites, which stories should be told through this project, and to fill out a survey. Karen Beck will summarize the survey and share results with the attendees. The consultants are scheduled for a walking tour of the Arboretum on August 12.

Deb stated that she spoke recently to Paul Gibson (citizen representative who has attended many ABGC meetings). He has been out of the country for a number of weeks, has now returned from his travels, and is very interested in participating in the Wayfinding Project.

## **Old Business/New Business**

Donald Graham Visitor Center: Donald reported that Parks staff are doing some research on maintenance of this building.  
Elizabeth C. Miller Arson Follow Up: John W gave an update on the arson investigation of the 2001 fire at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Football Parking: John W and Peter Dewey will discuss adverse impacts on the Center for Urban Horticulture from UW football parking. Football game attendees often park on the grass areas and walk to the stadium. Sandra asked if a gate could be installed at the Center. John W will discuss this with Peter.

Goals & Objectives: Were reviewed and updated. Many of the topics will be added to the September 1 agenda for a more expanded update.

New Business: Sarah Neilson, City of Seattle Board of Park Commissioners representative to the ABGC, recently resigned. A new member will be recruited soon.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary