

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 – December 1, 2004

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Department Manager
- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner

University of Washington

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

Excused Members:

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative

Guests:

- Karen Bech, Lehrman Cameron Studio (Wayfinding & Interpretive Project)
- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Peter Dewey, UW Transportation Manager
- Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- David Goldberg, Parks Department Project Manager
- Fred Hoyt
- Chuck Lennox, Cascade Interpretive Consulting (Wayfinding & Interpretive Project)
- Iain Robertson, Japanese Garden Society
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
- Larry Sinnott, Board Member, Friends of Olmsted Park Board

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 am, with a quorum present.

Citizen Update on SR 520 Widening Proposal

Larry Sinnott, of the Ravenna Bryant Community Association and now a Board member of Friends of Olmsted Parks Board, appeared before the ABGC at its May 5 meeting. He attended the December 1 meeting to give an update on his and the community's efforts since that meeting, including his attendance at a SR520 Widening Proposal briefing before the Board of Park Commissioners and a meeting with Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin. He distributed copies to the ABGC of a letter written from Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks to the WSDOT SR 520 Executive Committee. Today he is asking the ABGC to write a letter to Mayor Nickels voicing opposition to any project adversely affecting the Arboretum. The Friends of Olmsted is requesting an analysis of the impacts to the Montlake community; Mayor Nickels and his executive group oppose this analysis. There is a small window of opportunity to act on this proposal.

Action: *Larry requested the ABGC to write a letter to Mayor Nickels.*

MPI Group Report

Tom H distributed a two-page report from this committee, which provides oversight, strategy, and coordination on Master Plan projects, communication plan; and donor recognition. The report included a timeline of MPI Group efforts, beginning with its October 14 meeting. Two projects are in process and verbal reports were given on both:

(1) David Goldberg reported on the Madrona Terrace Schematic Design Update. He thanked Portico and ABGC members for re-arranging meeting dates. This has been a very successful project, with the final product, review, and acceptance scheduled for early February.

More information is available at the Arboretum's website: <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/souhentry.htm>

(2) Jerry Ernst reported on the Wayfinding and Interpretation project. He distributed a two-page handout on "Washington Park Arboretum Site Elements and Wayfinding Techniques", which described the proposed Arboretum identification, existing entrance marker, orientation kiosks, pedestrian orientation, pathway directional, interpretation at shelters, interpretation at nodes; freestanding interpretation, collection titles, plant id; and temporary signs styles. Karen Bech and Chuck Lennox gave further details on the various types of proposed signage. Samples of each were displayed for the ABGC to view. For consistency, the symbols on the paper maps that Arboretum visitors use would match the styles presented today. More information on this project is available at the Arboretum's website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/wayfinding.htm>

A brief discussion followed on the number of signs and their visual impact. Jerry discussed the advisory group guidelines which were followed to develop the signs presented today. He suggested that the Arboretum consider assigning a specific staff member to approve the installation of future directional and interpretive signage.

Action: Jerry will distribute the draft Arboretum Interpretive and Wayfinding Plan final report on Friday, December 4, to ABGC members and select others.

Action: MPI Group will present regular written report and timeline at future ABGC meetings.

Update/Questions and Answers: WSDOT SR 520 Widening EIS and 2002 Traffic Study

WSDOT staff Peter Kruger and several of his staff were scheduled to attend the meeting to discuss the SR 520 proposal. No one from WSDOT appeared. Sandra will contact Peter and re-schedule the update.

Sandra instead gave a report of her last meeting with WSDOT on the proposal. After a brief discussion of the ABGC, it is the understanding of the group that WSDOT will release its preliminary draft EIS in January 2005, the final draft EIS in June 2005, and its preferred alternative later this year. Sandra introduced Peter Dewey, Assistant Director of Transportation Services at the UW, who gave an overview of the UW's traffic strategy and its concerns with any actions that would degrade the Montlake/520 corridor access.

There was a brief discussion on whether it is necessary for WSDOT staff to meet separately with the ABGC, Arboretum, City of Seattle, and University of Washington. It was agreed that this is necessary. There was also a brief discussion on whether ABGC members represent ABGC or the entities they are representing (Arboretum, City of Seattle, or University of Washington.) Donald stated that he must clarify his role, as the Mayor's Cabinet took a stand on the proposal and he has not yet had clear direction to take the same stand.

It was agreed that the ABGC would send a letter to Mayor Nickels voicing its concerns. Sandra and Neal agreed to draft the letter, which will be more general than specific. A draft will be distributed before the January 5 ABGC meeting for input and edits. Iain urged that the letter be more specific than general and include references to the proposed land take, traffic, ramp height and widths at Foster Island, and the loss of the Museum of History and Industry building.

Action: Sandra will contact WSDOT and ask them to another meeting in the near future.

Action: Sandy will add Larry Sinnott to the "ABGC & Interested" e-mail distribution list.

Action: Neal and Sandra will prepare a draft letter from ABGC to Mayor Nickels and his Executive Committee.

Approve minutes

Neal moved approval of the minutes, as corrected. Deb seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Old business/new business

—Determine Yearly ABGC retreat date & location: March 2 was selected as the date, location to be determined. Sandra asked everyone to think about retreat agenda suggestions.

—Review Goals & Objectives: Updates were made.

—John W is giving David Maberley, incoming Center for Urban Horticulture Director, regular updates on the ABGC.

—Amend Original Working Together Agreement: Neal presented a final version of the document for signature by Superintendent Ken Bounds, UW Dean of College Resources Bruce Bare, and Arboretum Foundation President Neal Lessenger.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary