

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes

APPROVED

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, December 10, 2010

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property Manager
- Kjrjs Lund, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

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

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Absent:

- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

Other Staff Present:

- Nancy Belcher, Arboretum Foundation
- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Senior Planner
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Associate Director
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Planning & Development Deputy Director

SDOT Team Present:

Jenifer Wieland, Transportation Planner

WSDOT SR 520 Team Present:

Katie DeLeuw, Communications Manager for SR520 Project, and Kerry Ruth, Engineering Manager West Side

Consultants:

Lynne Sebastian, Director, Historic Preservation Programs at SRI Foundation

Members of the Public Present:

- Virginia Gunby

ABGC Staff: Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:	Paige (AF); Donald (City); & Sandra (UW)
Joint Fundraising Committee:	AF: Paige Miller & Della Balick City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams UW: Tom Hinckley & Sandra Lier
Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):	Michael (lead), Rick Nishi, Fred, Paige, Sandra & Tom
SR520 Technical Committee:	David Graves (City); Theresa Doherty & Fred Hoyt (UW)

This meeting was held at the Center for Urban Horticulture's Douglass Classroom. Barbara Wright, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Pedestrian Safety/Traffic Calming and Traffic Management for Lake Washington Boulevard Process

Jennifer Wieland, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) traffic planner, distributed handouts for the Lake Washington Boulevard (LWB) traffic calming implementation plan, which is supported by funding from the SR 520 Project. Phase I Implementation is scheduled for April 2011 and consists of these recommended improvements: marked crosswalk with accompanying signage and pedestrian landings at Arboretum Drive; and speed cushions (one per lane) in two locations.

Phase II will be implemented in summer 2011 and include a raised crosswalk (with accompanying signage) north of Interlaken Drive; landscaped curb bulb and striping improvements at Foster Island Road; and radar speed signs, if desired. She reviewed the proposed implementation schedule, the speed cushions, and other details. SDOT will continue to work with ABGC and Seattle Parks Department on the details and implementation schedule. Parks may contribute crushed rock pathways in conjunction with the marked crosswalk.

SDOT has costed out the work and anticipates some leftover funding. There is a crosswalk at Boyer now and SDOT will re-paint it and pay for that work from its budget. No other changes are planned at that location. Kjris is especially interested in additional improvements at the Boyer intersection and wants SDOT to add this to the list of improvements. Luke Korpi of SDOT will attend an upcoming meeting to discuss where the speed bumps will be located. Jack urged that the new signs designating these traffic installations be kept to a minimum and as small as possible. Jennifer stated that SDOT will do a walk-through of the various sites to determine all the changes. The group spent considerable time discussing the intersection at Lake Washington Blvd and Foster Island Drive and how best to improve it. There are a number of multi-use trails in that area which affect the intersection.

Jennifer next reviewed the "Recommended Pedestrian Improvements and Traffic Calming Plan". Kjris was out of town during several ABGC meetings and asked if the ABGC had approved the list. She was concerned that the items seemed generalized and would prefer to see more detail. She stated she will not vote in favor of this list until it includes that detail, as she has repeatedly requested the Boyer intersection be included. Barbara responded that this list is a refinement and summary of ideas that the ABGC has reviewed over the past several months. Donald suggested that, as the phases are implemented, ABGC members do a walk-through and SDOT prepare maps/drawings of what will be installed and the locations.

Jenifer and Luke Korpi will attend the ABGC's next regular meeting to present further information on these three elements of the traffic calming plan:

- specific locations of the speed cushions;
- images of the radar speed signs and other sign details; and

- preliminary ideas for Foster Island intersection safety design

Jennifer repeated that SDOT will re-paint the crosswalk at the Boyer intersection. The list she brought to this meeting is what SDOT has approved as being important to both the ABGC and SDOT. Barbara thanked Jennifer for her work and patience with this process.

Traffic Management

Jenifer next reviewed the 11x17 Traffic Management handout. The actions proposed are: signing improvements; traffic signal modifications; traffic calming treatments; turn restrictions; traffic restrictions, and tolling. SDOT is not recommending some turn restrictions and traffic restrictions, outlined on the handout, including a request from ABGC to implement a full-time restriction of the southbound left turn from 24th onto LWB and preventing traffic from accessing LWB from the SR 520 eastbound off ramp. Jack asked why Item D, which reads to "prevent southbound left turn from 24th onto LWB during off-peak hours" will require a long-term evaluation following construction of the SR 520 project. Jenifer responded that it may be possible to make a determination as early as 2013 or 2014.

Jenifer asked ABGC members if this matrix works to move forward with the Traffic Management Plan into 2011. Kjrj noted that several options aren't recommended (E, G, & I) and they refer to Boyer Avenue. Jenifer responded that SDOT will not recommend those as the Mayor and City Council do not want to increase vehicle capacity on 23rd Avenue. Kjrj asked if these items have been voted on by the ABGC. Michael responded that the ABGC has worked with SDOT to develop this list, in a progressive method, rather than voting on a list. Some of the items that aren't recommended would require the demolition of some homes bordering the Arboretum. The ABGC wants to be a good neighbor to those homeowners and is not recommending those. Paige requested that SDOT add the words "Not recommend at this time and ask City Council to re-visit in the future."

Discussion continued for some time. Jenifer will change the language in the matrix to reflect the ABGC's most recent requests. Barbara stated that, so far, the ABGC has developed the items by reaching consensus. She asked whether the ABGC should now vote on these and Sandra suggested it do so at the end of today's meeting. Kjrj had another meeting to attend and asked that the vote be taken before she left at 9:00 am. (See results of vote on page 5 of these minutes.) Kerry noted that the matrix is online and is part of the Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill \(ESSB\) 6392](#).

Theresa summarized that SDOT and the City have a policy which they are following and Jenifer isn't saying the ABGC has to follow that policy. Today's agenda was then amended to include ABGC vote on the Arboretum Mitigation Plan, including the SDOT traffic management and traffic calming matrix, including and reflecting changes made at today's meeting.

Historic Preservation

Lynne Sebastian, Director of Historic Preservation Programs at SRI Foundation, next discussed Section 106 implications from the SR 520 project. *[The Foundation conducts research and provides information on "best practices" in historic preservation for agencies and the private sector. Foundation staff carry out technical projects such as evaluating preservation, resource management, and compliance programs, as well as organizing and facilitating national conferences and working groups to improve the practice of historic preservation.]* SRI is a private, non-profit consulting party for WSDOT, the City and University [but not the ABGC] on the SR 520 project. Their role is "to examine the historic elements affected by the project and determine if they are eligible for protection under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act which requires federal agencies to review all actions which may affect a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or which may affect a property eligible for listing." There are a number of such sites in and around the Arboretum, including the Arboretum itself and Lake Washington Boulevard.

Prior to today's meeting, Barbara e-mailed the ABGC a copy of the SRI report, "Initial Draft of Potential Measures to Resolve the Adverse Effect to the SR 520 Project on Historic Properties as Required by Section 106." The background of the report is described as follows:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has determined that the SR 520 I-5 to Medina Project will have an adverse effect on historic properties. In order to resolve the adverse effect, the FHWA and WSDOT, along with the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the SR 520 consulting parties, will be entering into consultations leading to development of a programmatic agreement describing measures FHWA and WSDOT will take to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these effects.

The following list of potential resolution measures was compiled by WSDOT and FHWA from suggestions provided by the consulting parties as well as standard procedures and SR 520-specific ideas generated within WSDOT. This list represents FHWA and WSDOT's initial proposal for measures to resolve the adverse effect of the SR 520 project on historic properties. This list will be revised as a result of consultations, and the revised list will form the substantive stipulations of the SR 520 programmatic agreement.

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the timeline and process of her work. The consulting parties, who are not yet in agreement, will meet later today to review the report and suggest changes. After today's review, a new draft will be sent out on January 3, with one month for review and final comments, followed by a second draft. ABGC members may continue to comment on the next drafts. The report will be finalized in March.

ABGC member asked who owns the canal land at the MOHAI site. Ms. Sullivan stated this is a complicated issue and she will send written information to the ABGC in the next couple days.

ABGC Discussion

Jack noted there is a strong effort to shrink the new SR 520 highway from six lanes to four lanes and there are legal challenges to the mitigation. Is a four-lane road better for Foster Island? Kerry responded that even a four lane road will be wider than the current footprint and impact Foster Island. It will also be impacted by the temporary work bridges as the new highway is constructed.

Ms. Sullivan then reviewed the role of the ABGC and others with issues such as mitigation design input, and the construction management plan (how dust, noise, vibration, traffic, etc., will be handled.) There are other groups to involve, e.g., discussions must happen with the Yacht Club on how the project will impact opening day of boating.

Donald noted the report only refers to Seattle Parks and Recreation in one instance, and refers to the Design Commission and Historic Preservation. He asked that some of the references be changed to Seattle Parks and Recreation.

Sandra referenced the vegetation management plan (VMP) shown on page 9 and noted that the area shown is larger than the Arboretum. Kerry stated additional language will be added directing WSDOT to consult with the UW and City on the Arboretum's VMP. The week before this meeting, Paige and Nancy met for several hours with Ms. Sullivan on the 106 process and discussed actions to take to protect the Arboretum.

Barbara thanked Ms. Sullivan for the great report.

Arboretum Mitigation Plan Memorandum of Understanding

WSDOT's team leader, Rob Berman, was unable to attend this meeting. Kerry reviewed the latest version of the draft mitigation plan memorandum of understanding, which was updated with input from the ABGC's November 29 meeting. The public comment period is now open and the ABGC should submit any final

comments by December 20. WSDOT will submit the draft mitigation plan to the State Legislature on December 22 as an informative document. The ABGC is asked to approve the draft today. If it has additional comments after the draft is submitted on December 22, it may write letters or testify to the Joint Transportation Committee of the State Legislature.

Theresa stated that it's important to keep in mind the ABGC is generally advisory on the Arboretum; however, in the SR 520 mitigation process, it is the governing body. It is also the governing body on Arboretum Master Plan decisions.

Responding to a question from Jack on the 4f and 6f process in relation to the Arboretum, David Graves answered that those two processes affect much more than the Arboretum. Kerry agreed and added that the MOU document feeds into the larger SR 520 mitigation plan. The WSDOT SR 520 web page contains a report on the broader mitigation plan.

New Comments on MOU

- Sandra distributed a handout to clarify ABGC's "Implementation Role and Responsibilities." ABGC members agreed with her definition;
- Delete the words "governing body" on pages 1 and 6;
- Change all Arboretum Master Plan dates to 2002;
- Delete the words "quiet and respite" on page 2;
- Agree with Enhancement Fund language included in the MOU;
- Alter Box B on page 28 to extend across Foster Island.

There was also a brief discussion on artist involvement in mitigation projects and this will be the topic of a future discussion and focus. Barbara stated that this topic has been discussed several times at the Arboretum Foundation, but not at ABGC. Kerry clarified that the SR 520 project will not receive 1% for Arts funding, in response to a question from Jack. Sandra responded that this is a good catch and requires a thorough discussion in the near future.

Theresa will cut and paste Sandra's suggestions into the MOU. Katie will send out a new draft tomorrow in track change mode showing today's changes. The ABGC will vote today, subject to these changes, and revise any of its comments as needed after December 20.

Dave Towne moved approval with today's edits and a substantive review of edits. Jack seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

Per the discussion earlier in this meeting (and reflected on page 3 of these minutes), the MOU reflects the Traffic Calming and Traffic Management Plan as developed by SDOT. ABGC members SDOT and WSDOT for their responsiveness, creativity, and leadership during this process. Jack offered to draft a letter of thanks.

Kerry thanked the ABGC for its work on this project. When SR 520 was built several of the current laws did not exist and the teams are now trying to respond to those laws. When the draft MOU is finalized, ABGC members will be asked to sign the document.

On December 13, 10:00-11:30 am, the Seattle City Council will be briefed on the transit draft scoping and implementation timeline. Fred, Donald, and Paige will attend the briefing.

Kerry next reviewed WSDOT Handout #2 "Arboretum Mitigation Plan-Draft Scoping and Implementation Timeline, for discussion at ABGC meeting – Dec. 8, 2010", with the following timeline:

Dec 1-Jan 15, 2011	Develop memorandum of understanding (MOU)
Jan 16	Execute MOU
Jan 1-Mar 30	Develop Scoping Agreement
Mar 31	Executive Scoping Agreement
Feb 15-Apr 15	Hire consultant to develop project scopes
Apr 16-Jun 30	Develop project scopes and estimates
Jul 1-Aug 31	Develop implementation plan
Sep 1-Dec 15	Develop agreements necessary to implement plan
Dec 16	Complete agreements

MOU Discussion

After discussion, it was agreed that all ABGC members will sign the MOU, and agreed that attorneys for the Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW will all review the same draft version of the MOU.

On December 14, WSDOT will distribute a new draft version, in track changes mode. ABGC members are asked to provide any additional feedback to Kerry before the January 12 retreat [later re-scheduled to February 9 due to weather conditions.] The WSDOT team will attend the retreat and review any final changes. It will then prepare the document for ABGC signatures.

Interagency Agreement

A determination must be made on which partner(s) will sign the interagency agreement with WSDOT.

Project Scoping

There was some discussion on which party will do the project scoping, WSDOT or Parks. The multi-use trail and north entry projects will be scoped in the spring of 2011. Michael and Kerry will discuss the north entry scoping and project in the near future.

WSDOT requested they receive scoping cost estimates and Michael, Donald, and Parks staff will provide those. Donald asked that Parks collect some staff overhead costs back from WSDOT. Kerry responded that WSDOT cannot reimburse Parks without an agreement; however, she will check into that. Donald asked that reimbursement include the project management costs, as well as Parks' property management staff Terry Dunning and ABGC Coordinator Sandy Brooks' time spent on the SR 520 project.

Old/New Business

2011 Terms of ABGC Voting Members and Upcoming Vacancies:

Arboretum Foundation – term limits not applicable

- Della Balick as the Board's President
- Paige Miller as the Foundation's Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins (through 2016)
- Donald Harris as the Superintendent's representative (through 2016)
- Kjris Lund's term expires 12/31/10; she has applied to Mayor McGinn to re-appoint her to a second term through 2017

UW

- Fred Hoyt to replace Sandra, whose contract with the UW ends in June. Fred will now move into her voting position on the ABGC, which ends December 31, 2012. Sandra will attend ABGC meetings, as her schedule allows.
- Theresa Doherty (term ends 2015)
- Iain Robertson (recently re-appointed to a second term through 2017)

State of Washington

- Dave Towne (through 2012)

Election of 2011 ABGC Officers: Sandra moved the following slate of officers for 2011: Theresa Doherty (UW) as Chair; Jack Collins (Mayoral appointee for City of Seattle) as Vice-chair; and Paige Miller (AF) as Secretary. Donald seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

January 12 ABGC Retreat: Theresa, Paige, Donald, Barbara, Fred, and Jack are the retreat planning committee. Initial plans include:

- Theresa will facilitate.
- To be held at Graham Visitors Center [later changed to Center for Urban Horticulture.]
- Theresa/UW will pay costs for continental breakfast for large group and lunch for smaller group.
- Theresa will distribute a draft agenda for ABGC review and comments.
- Include some time for partners to review this year's accomplishments/challenges.
- Invite Seattle Parks Superintendent and UW Dean to review budget challenges and how this will affect the Arboretum's maintenance.
- Ask crew chiefs to describe changes in Arboretum maintenance as a result of the budget cuts.
- Invite a larger group of staff and Foundation members for the first segment, with key members attending full retreat.
- Sandy will send a "hold the date" to larger group; key members already have the date and time on their calendars.
- Discuss Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WSDOT team and leave with outcome.
- Discuss how the three partners will work together to best accomplish the MOU.
- Present update on the SR 520 project.
- Review work list developed at November 2009 retreat and determine work priorities for 2011.
- Discuss UW Regents' January briefing.

Enhancement Funds: Discuss where these funds will be located at the February 9 ABGC meeting.

2011 Meetings: It is expected the ABGC will resume its regular meeting schedule of the second Wednesday of each month, 8:30-10:30 am, beginning at the February meeting. Much of the 2011 focus will continue to be on the SR 520 project's impact to the Arboretum, the traffic management/calming plan, and Master Plan implementation. To streamline the regular meetings and keep them as efficient as possible, it was proposed the ABGC appoint subcommittees to focus on specific topics and bring reports/recommendations to the full ABGC for discussion.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Theresa Doherty, ABGC Chair