

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, December 12, 2012

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
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property Manager

University of Washington

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

Excused:

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Other Staff Present:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Senior Planner
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director

Washington State Department of Transportation Team (WSDOT) Team

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

ABGC Staff: Sandy Brooks, Seattle Parks, 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) & Rick Nishi
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 8:30 am. **Jack moved, and Kenan seconded, approval of the October 10 meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.**

WSDOT SR520 Agreement Update

The ABGC spent approximately 30 minutes discussing recent developments with the WSDOT Term Sheet agreement, which was forwarded to the ABGC by WSDOT. Theresa, David Graves, and other ABGC members reviewed the document prior to this meeting and proposed several changes. David reviewed the changes, which included strengthening the language of WSDOT's commitment, and ensuring WSDOT maintains property it develops. Several other changes were proposed by ABGC members, which David will incorporate. Corrections on the signature page were suggested; Sandy will work with Katie DeLeuw of WSDOT on this.

Following the preliminary discussion, ABGC was joined by Kerry Pihlstrom, SR520 Engineering Manager West Side, and Katie DeLeuw, SR520 Communication Manager. David led the review of the ABGC's suggested changes. The WSDOT team will continue working with David over the next month and expect to bring an agreement to the January 9 ABGC meeting for final discussion and signature. Kerry stated that discussions will continue on Foster Island maintenance.

Kerry believes this agreement is a good news story on the SR520 project and asked ABGC to consider a joint news release with WSDOT. Discussion followed, with ABGC members supportive of the idea. The press release will be distributed in late January-early February. WSDOT team members will work directly with Kenan, lead for the ABGC's communication plan. The "ramp to nowhere" that will eventually be removed from the Arboretum was suggested as a good site for a press conference.

WSDOT SR520 Program Update

Kerry next gave updates on the SR520 bridge architecture. WSDOT has been working with the Seattle Design Commission, which recently gave its unanimous support of the design. WSDOT has scheduled two open houses on February 4 and 5 to present the design. ABGC members were not aware Seattle Design Commission was reviewing the design and asked that WSDOT staff present the design at the ABGC's January 9 meeting for its review, with one hour allotted on the agenda. ABGC members expect a robust discussion on the design and asked that WSDOT's presentation include different views of the bridge design and models/depictions of the crossings underneath the bridge.

Theresa referred to the State's transportation package and asked how it affects the SR520 project. Kerry answered that one element is lining up tolling and determining what can be funded from the tolls. Theresa stated she is very pleased with the progress made between ABGC and WSDOT.

Budget & Other Updates

City: Donald reported the City is considering a levy, Metropolitan Park District (MPD), or other park funding strategy to be brought to Seattle voters in 2014.

Arboretum Foundation: Paige reported:

- The Foundation received a \$40,000 donation on December 11. This was in response to a donation request and is good news!
- The Gifts & Greens Galore event cleared \$600, directed to the Herbarium. The event had good weather and great leadership. Publicity included coverage by KOMO TV and bloggers also spread the word.
- Opening night of the 2013 Flower & Garden Show is February 19. The annual event will have a Hollywood theme; the Arboretum's New Zealand garden will be based on the movie "The Hobbit."
- The Graham Visitors Center, thanks to a fabulous job by Parks crews, now has a coffee counter in the lobby. Coffee and tea were sold at the Greens Galore event, and packages of "Arboretum" specialty brand coffee beans are for sale in the gift shop.

UW: Fred reported that Seattle Parks and the UWBG will have a combined booth at the Flower and Garden Show. The booth will focus on revenue-generating wedding sites at UWBG and the Arboretum. Sarah added that UWBG received a grant for interpretation and signs for the loop trails. Trail maps will include a history tour, kayak tour, and climate change tour. The focus is on education and health, while learning about the trails. Kenan suggested this is another good news story to share with the public.

MPIG Update

Michael gave a brief report:

- Project Manager Andy Sheffer expects the final permits soon for the New Zealand Garden, with the project mostly on schedule and planting scheduled for the spring. The new garden is expected to be spectacular.
- Parks staff are working on a re-design of the historic overview shelter, with a target date of re-opening it in conjunction with the New Zealand Garden. Paige has applied for a grant to Seattle Garden Club and is looking for other sources to fund this project. Theresa suggested WSDOT 106 mitigation funds as a possible source; Michael will discuss this interesting possibility with Parks' staff.
- Michael and David Graves will bring the slate of potential capital projects to the January or February ABGC meeting.
- In response to a question whether Seattle City Light has completed the Lake Washington Boulevard lighting project, Michael will report on this at the January ABGC meeting. He believes the infrastructure project at Madison will end in June and will also confirm this at the January meeting.

Old/New Business

Review November Retreat Outcomes: This was re-scheduled to the January meeting.

Officers for 2012: The ABGC's Operating Procedures call for a rotating officer process, and generally the three positions are filled by one representative each from the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks, and UW. The proposed slate for 2013 officers are Jack Collins (Parks) as chair; Paige Miller (AF) as Vice-chair; and Sarah Reichard (UW) as Secretary. **Craig moved the ABGC accept the slate as presented; Kenan seconded. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.**

ABGC Positions: Donald Harris announced his resignation from the ABGC; Michael Shiosaki will replace him as the Superintendent's representative. Donald will continue as a member of the Partners Committee. ABGC members thanked Donald for his many years of participation with the ABGC and support of the Arboretum. Members voiced regret at his resignation.

Dave Towne is the Governor's appointee and his term expires on December 31. Theresa is working with the governor's staff to fill the position. While he doesn't want to serve another seven-year term, Dave has agreed to continue serving until a replacement is found. ABGC members recommended Dave's replacement have some connection with incoming Governor Jay Inslee.

Cross Country Runners in Arboretum: ABGC members have previously discussed the ongoing issue of cross country runners using trails at the Arboretum. Often, teams are running side by side and don't always yield to Arboretum visitors, resulting in complaints. After discussion, it was agreed to approach the school coaches first and if results are unsatisfactory, elevate the issue higher up the school's chain of command. Jack volunteered to draft the letter and send to the rest of the ABGC for review. ABGC members recommended the letter include language to remind runners "to be mindful of the spirit of the Arboretum", run single file, and list areas where running is appropriate and where it isn't.

The next ABGC meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Jack Collins, ABGC Chair