

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes
Graham Visitors Center – December 11, 2013

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.

Voting Members

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Excused, 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
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Lisa Chen, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Parks Horticulturalist

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 & John Wott
City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer
UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

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

Opening Items

The December meeting of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is called to order at 8:35am. The Agenda is approved.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

The Parks budget has been approved. No cuts and a few minor adds, but nothing that impacts the Arboretum.

Legacy plan: There is a meeting this Thursday at which time they will finalize the list of potential investments. The recommendation regarding the size has not moved forward. Also, they are not doing a straw poll on the kind of funding initiative - MPD v. Levy. Michael states there are definitely mixed opinions on which funding is best. Magnuson Park people were at the last Legacy plan meeting talking about their issues; Kenan thinks we should go to the public meeting in January. Rachel will get the dates out to everyone for the public hearings. On the January agenda, the ABGC will discuss the proposed testimony at Legacy Committee Public Hearing.

Michael mentions there may be a special city council committee for the Legacy Plan in order for Sally Bagshaw to stay involved after the transition to a new Councilperson for Parks starting in 2014.

Arboretum Foundation

Finance manager gave notice to go back to the organization he was with before; it is a great opportunity and we are happy for him. The job is posted and .6 time.

Arboretum Foundation had a good holiday plant sale last weekend.

A generous donor offered to pay the fee to do a special Arboretum license plate; it costs \$60,000 to set it up. Each license plate costs \$67 but \$28 goes to the entity that sponsors it and the rest goes to the state. This would require running a special bill in the Legislature. The donor has a high school son who wants it to be a civic project.

The annual Northwest Flower and Garden show party is moving forward. The Arboretum Foundation has \$60,000 in sponsorship for the display garden. Ginny Ruffner will add some of her glass art to the great display created by Bob Lilly, Phil Wood, and Rhonda Bush. David and Katherine Skinner are the honorary co-chairs. The documentary of Ginny Ruffner's life won the Golden Space Needle award. It will be a good party on February 4.

University of Washington

Not much to say regarding the budget. Dean Lisa Graumlich, Tom DeLuca and the Provost are meeting on the 19th of December. Fred and Sarah will meet with Tom DeLuca on the 17th and go over why the canal reserve funds should go to the UWBG.

Personnel: new weekend staff person at the front desk of the Graham Visitors Center. She is great and will be a good representative of the Arboretum.

Loop trails – The markers are being fabricated. Kayak loop signs are being fabricated. It was decided to shift the material to thick aluminum.

New Zealand looks fabulous. Kathleen, NZ gardener, got in there and did the best she could to keep the new plants from getting too cold.

The UWBG are starting to focus on the Camellia collection; they would like to clear the paths and hope to get some outside funding. They are performing an assessment to focus the collection. It's a 2-acre garden and will take some time – it is an ongoing process.

MPIG

Renovation of Camellia collection – ongoing need to renovate the garden; start calling out these renovation as projects. Lisa Chen mentions we need to daylight some of the camellias and they need to be pruned to open up paths; perhaps an additional bench site. Sarah mentions we have over 400 camellia plants. There are some Douglas fir and cedar trees that need to be removed; notification is sent out via the website and email listserv to notify people trees are coming out.

Multi-use trail: JARPA will be submitted on Monday. Public meetings will be held in March or April of 2014. Andy will give a tour at February meeting. The trail has moved and adjustments are being made.

There are 13 wayfinding signs in the Arboretum now.

No news on the totem pole.

Garfield High School Report – Jack received a call from Principal's assistant. Fred, Paige and Jack met with Principal, Ted Howard. He brought the SPD officer who works at the school and the women who run their science and their volunteer programs. The meeting was a huge success!

Paige, Fred and Jack emphasized creating ownership among the students with the Arboretum.

Paige and Fred offered opportunities to the students: internships, volunteerism, Fred offered to have a curator come to the school. They mentioned the security issues and the Garfield SPD officer emailed his superior and advised they could increase patrols in the Arboretum. There is an AP environmental science class that is looking for doing a summer project here.

Fred has meeting with person in charge of horticulture and curation at UWBG. Principal asked for a timeline and they are looking toward the new year. Students also will work with the stewards in the Arboretum for volunteering. Kenan wants a news story out of these opportunities. Garfield turns hazing incident into a community-building event. Everyone feels the meeting was fantastic.

Paige had a meeting with Donald Graham Jr. who is a graduate of Garfield and he loved the idea of working with those kids. The UW is enthusiastic to help develop curriculum and work with the students.

Old/New Business

Bonsai Collection – no news. Paige spoke with Kristen Sawin; George Weyerhaeuser is reviewing the proposals. The feasibility study has done a design and created a model. They have finished most of the work and are doing an interview protocol with 5 other bonsai gardens to find out about their business models, physical facility and operations. The feasibility study should be done in the next couple of weeks.

External signage –Kenan would like to look into better signage outside of the Arboretum - on streets, at bus stops, and along Lake Washington Drive. The ABGC decides it cannot take on new projects due to funding. Signage in the Arboretum has been a negative issue. Kenan and Jack will meet with SDOT, Sound Transit and King County Metro about signage for the arboretum. Michael will confer with city departments.

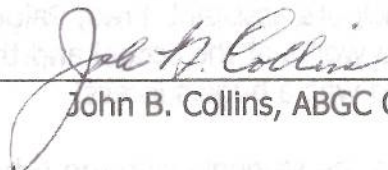
Lisa mentions that people often ask for directions at the Japanese Garden; Fred will give the Japanese garden some of the maps.

Officers for 2014 - Kenan moves to have the officers stay the same. Michael seconds it. Everyone agrees to keep the officers the same. Jack, Paige and Sarah are doing a great job.

Mapping for the GPS project is coming along very well. The UWBG will do a demonstration at a future meeting.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37am.

APPROVED _____



John B. Collins, ABGC Chair

DATE 1/8/2014