

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

[www.wparboretum.org](http://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 – February 11, 2004**

**Members:**

**Arboretum Foundation**

- Fred Isaac, President, Arboretum Foundation
- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

**City of Seattle**

- Fritz Hedges, Parks and Recreation Department Policy Director

**University of Washington**

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

**State of Washington**

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative

**Excused:**

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington
- Sarah Neilson, Board of Park Commissioner

**Guests:**

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Cara Mathison, Assistant Development Director, UW College of Forest Resources
- Jerry Ernst
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
- Neal Lessenger, Retired UW Administration
- David Goldberg, Project Planner for Arboretum Historic Study, Parks Department
- Mark Mead, Parks Senior Urban Forester, Parks Department
- Julie Meredith, Engineering Manager, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Laurie Parker, CH2M Hill

**Staff:**

- Michele Daly for Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Fred Isaac, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Chair Sandra Lier and members Sarah Neilson and Margaret Ceis were excused from the meeting.

The January 14, 2004, meeting minutes were approved as presented. The February 11 agenda was amended to include a “Review and Approval of Scopes of Work for Irrigation Mainlines and South Entry/Madrona Terrace projects” by David Goldberg, Parks Department Project Planner.

**Washington Park Arboretum South Entry – Madrona Terrace Project Draft Design Program and Washington Park Arboretum Irrigation Mainlines Project Draft Design Programs**

David distributed copies and led a review of the Draft Design Programs for the South Entry – Madrona Terrace Project and the Irrigation Mainlines Project. The design programs describe the:

- Design Intents (project elements, design considerations, scope, and design services)
- Public Involvement Process (schematic design phase, design development, construction documents, bidding, construction, department and City reviews, permitting and environmental review, technical qualifications)
- Schedule
- Design Fees and Construction Budgets
- Review Process (ongoing notification, public meetings and notification, design input group, decision making) and
- Technical Project Reviews (reviews and approvals, environmental review, permits, coordination and compliance and standards).

The South Entry/Madrona Terrace project will be the first major step to implement the Master Plan. Once the ABGC approves the Design Program, any changes must be approved in writing by the ABGC. Tom requested that someone on the team address the sustainable components of the project. David stated the sustainability language is still being developed and will be taken into account as the team is assembled.

**Tom moved to accept the two documents with the following understanding: (1) that there are additional editorial changes that have yet to be incorporated, and (2) that these documents are a work in process and are the foundation to initiate the process. As the process unfolds, these documents may be reworded. Fritz seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**

The next step is to advertise and hire a consultant. Fritz noted the MPI Group would be involved in the consultant selection process. John W asked about the status of the surveying; David will ask if the Park Department’s surveyors have the capability or if a private firm should be selected. Tom noted that the consultant will need to coordinate with the UW, which is leading the Wayfinding and Signage Project. An electronic version of the documents will be sent to the UW for use as a template. The protocol will be written out and reviewed at the next ABGC meeting.

#### **Japanese Garden Forest Exterior Management Plan**

Fritz introduced Mark Mead, Parks Senior Urban Forester. Mark briefed the ABGC on the Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs) for the Japanese Garden Forest. The VMP is used to guide the growth, development, and maintenance of parks and open spaces. The Plan is approximately 40 pages long and will be posted on the web when finalized. It includes an introduction, description, history, goals, public process, and management area recommendations. Parks has reviewed the plan with the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee. The MPI Group will be asked to review the trail improvement and come back to ABGC with a recommendation.

#### **WSDOT — 520 Bridge Status**

Julie Meredith, Engineering Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Laurie Parker, CH2M Hill, briefed the ABGC on the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project status. The project’s purpose is to improve mobility for people and goods on 520 while minimizing negative impacts on neighborhoods and the environment. Aging portions of the corridor are nearing the end of their design life and need replacement. A 46-member Study Committee looked at ways to improve how people move across and around the lake and made several recommendations. Committees, supported by a technical team, are carrying the recommendations forward into further design and evaluation. An Environmental Impact Statement will help the project’s lead agencies and committees select a final preferred alternative for implementation. Two handouts, “SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project EIS Alternatives Summary” and “Figure 6-1 SR 520 Recommended Bridge Profile, Stormwater Treatment and Discharge Locations”, were distributed to the ABGC. Alternatives include a 4-lane, 6-lane, and 8-lane roadway. The 6-lane roadway is the preliminary preferred alternative. A passive, open space area (lid) over 520, near Montlake, is being proposed as part of the project. Public workshops have been held.

Jerry noted the bridge and associated ramps will be quite a bit higher and will cause visual impacts — the entire project will be like a spider over the Arboretum area. A February 10 Seattle Post-Intelligencer article on the Seattle Public Library and Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) was referred to. MOHAI plans to relocate from Montlake to the downtown convention center area, possibly as late as 2017.

John W would like the Arboretum involved in any planting and landscape discussions. Tom asked if a structure could be included for office space on the lid. Tom also stated that bike lane links to the Arboretum need to be considered. The Arboretum Foundation has gone on record to watch this project carefully and is reserving comment.

Laurie stated the next six months are critical for discussions and schedule. The first of the Draft Environmental Impact Statements are being completed this summer. A draft EIS is planned for the spring of 2005 with early construction to begin in 2008 if construction funding is identified. WSDOT staff agreed to give the ABGC regular briefings on the project.

**Old Business/New Business**

Agenda items "Update on Operating Procedures" and "Review Goals and Objectives" were deferred to the next meeting.

**At the ABGC's January 2004 meeting, John W and Margaret formed an ad hoc nominating committee and forwarded their recommendations of Chair Sandra Lier, Vice Chair Fritz Hedges, and Secretary Deb Andrews as 2004 officers to the ABGC for consideration. At the February 11 meeting, the proposed slate of officers was approved unanimously.**

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

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