

APPROVED

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, February 4, 2010

Special Meeting to Discuss SR 520 Project, 7:30-9:00 am

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee

State of Washington

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

Excused:

- Tim Gallagher, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Other Staff Present:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Project Manager
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Associate Director
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Planning & Development Deputy Director

Members of the Public Present:

- Chris Leman, Eastlake Community Council
- Larry Phillips, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks

ABGC Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

The Chair called this special meeting to order at 7:30 am and thanked everyone for attending. The WSDOT SR 520 project team will attend the ABGC's February 10 meeting to discuss the recent release of the

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The ABGC will begin developing its response to the SDEIS project following the presentation.

Members agreed that the SR 520 project is moving swiftly, with the release of the SDEIS and actions being taken by the State Legislature, federal and State agencies, municipalities, and community organizations.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine the structure of the February 10 presentation and what questions the ABGC wants to ask of WSDOT. Attendees discussed the format of the meeting and requested that the Chair finalize a list of questions to send to WSDOT several days prior to the presentation. The Chair agreed to do so; the e-mail, questions, and other information sent to WSDOT is copied in below. See minutes of February 10, 2010, meeting for WSDOT responses, as well as follow up discussion by the ABGC and members of the public.

Note: both Larry Sinnott and Chris Leman made comments for the ABGC's consideration and Chris distributed written information.

(1)
February 7, 2010

Hello Julie,

Thank you for coming to the February 10 ABGC Meeting to discuss the SR 520 project. As I mentioned to you in my phone message, ABGC members would like you to focus on specific issues impacting the Washington Park Arboretum rather than presenting a general project overview. I have attached ten questions the ABGC members would like you to address along with some background information about the committee membership. The Guiding Principles adopted by ABGC in November 2009 are also attached again so you have everything in one document.

We will begin our meeting at 8:30 a.m. with your responses to the ten questions. I would like to hold ABGC follow-up questions until you are done so we can get through everything. There will be a public comment period and we anticipate a few people will want to make comments. Following public comments, the ABGC members will begin work on their response to the DSEIS. You or your team members are welcome to stay for the entire meeting if you would like. A copy of the agenda is attached for your information.

Thank you again Julie. I know your team has worked incredibly hard through this long process and we appreciate you taking the time to meet with us. If you have any questions about the upcoming meeting, please let me know. It would also be nice to know who is coming so I can introduce them at the beginning of the meeting. See you on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wright, Chair
Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee

(2)

**ABGC Meeting
February 10, 2010
SR520 Discussion with WSDOT**

Background

The Washington Park Arboretum is a stunning gem of the Seattle Park system, a 230-acre oasis of gently rolling land, bucolic watery islets and home to the best of the City's wildlife. It provides respite, scenery, recreation and solace to thousands of visitors in every season of the year. It provides educational and volunteering opportunities to

thousands of friends, sightseeing to thousands of visitors and cultural enrichment in gardening styles and distant ecosystems to those who seek it out.

In May 2001, the Seattle City Council approved the long-range master plan for the Washington Park Arboretum, creating a road map for Arboretum improvements over the next 20 years. The master plan ensures the Washington Park Arboretum will effectively fulfill three primary purposes—conservation, recreation and education—for decades to come. Together, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Arboretum Foundation are working to implement the master plan.

Substantial public and private funds have recently been raised and spent to improve the visitors' experience. The newly created Pacific Connection Gardens have been created, the Japanese Garden Gatehouse has been redeveloped and a number of other park improvements have been made. All these contributions potentially could be negatively impacted by a newly designed SR 520 project.

February 10 ABGC Meeting

The Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) is an advisory committee established the University of Washington Regents and the City of Seattle in 1934 to assist the City and University in establishing and maintaining the Arboretum. ABGC advises the University of Washington, City of Seattle and The Arboretum Foundation on the management and stewardship of the Washington Park Arboretum for the benefit of current and future generations. Members of the committee include a representative appointed by the Governor, three representatives appointed by the Mayor; three representatives appointed by the President of the University of Washington; and two members of the Arboretum Foundation (Current members are listed below.)

The Arboretum Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) adopted Guiding Principles for the SR520 expansion in November 2009 (see below). In a special February 4, 2010 meeting, the ABGC agreed that “less is better” in all aspects of the 520 corridor design. Specifically, less noise, less width, less impact on Lake Washington Boulevard, less height, less pollution, etc is better.

At the February 10, 2010, ABGC Meeting, the ABGC respectfully requests the WSDOT team to address several specific questions rather than presenting a general project update. The following questions were developed by the ABGC to better understand WSDOT efforts to address our specific concerns about the potential impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum:

1. Has WSDOT looked at ways to minimize traffic on Lake Washington Boulevard, both during construction and once the project is complete. What opportunities are there through the project to encourage vehicles to take alternate routes to and from SR 520 and discourage vehicles from using Lake Washington Boulevard through the Arboretum as an extended access ramp to 520?
2. What has been considered to protect the visitors' experience while visiting the Arboretum, Japanese Garden and other adjacent park areas? Please address issues relating to noise, safety and access.
3. What plans have been considered to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections for all users to access the Arboretum and move visitors between the park sites?
4. What efforts have been made to respect the historic, aesthetic and design integrity of the Park?
5. Has WSDOT negotiated with the Federal Highway Administration to reduce standard design regulations to ones which would alleviate some of the negative impacts on the Arboretum and surrounding areas?
6. What has been done to address negative impacts to the visitors and plants from carbon emissions?
7. As the project is phased during construction, how do you see each phase impacting the Arboretum?
8. What has been considered in design discussions to protect the cultural importance and the visitors' experience when using Foster Island? Please address noise, height, width and pedestrian access proposals when answering this question.
9. There are four significant projects at the north end of the Arboretum which are identified in the Arboretum Master Plan: complete the Waterfront Trail as a loop all the way around Duck Bay; add

access, sitting and viewing areas on the west side of Duck Bay; daylight Arboretum Creek and create an entry at the west/north end of the Arboretum with the same grand character as the south entry. The redevelopment of SR 520 has the potential to negate the potential to undertake some or all of these projects to the detriment of the Arboretum and contrary to the goals set out in the Master Plan which was adopted by the City of Seattle and the University of Washington. What considerations are being given to the Master Plan and how are these potential impacts being addressed?

10. What measures have been considered to ensure that the Arboretum collections and park can continue to be safely used to teach plant identification, soils, water quality, and other natural resource subjects throughout the Arboretum?

**Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee
Guiding Principles for the SR520 Expansion
November 19, 2009**

Introduction

The Washington Park Arboretum is a stunning gem of the Seattle Park system, a 230-acre oasis of gently rolling land, bucolic watery islets and home to the best of the City's wildlife. It provides respite, scenery, recreation and solace to thousands of visitors in every season of the year. It provides educational and volunteering opportunities to thousands of friends, sightseeing to thousands of visitors and cultural enrichment in gardening styles and distant ecosystems to those who seek it out.

Proposed upgrades to State Route 520, the SR 520 I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project, across the north end of the Arboretum threaten significant impacts to the park over a number of years, and a base set of impacts for the life of the freeway corridor.

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC), comprised of representatives from the State of Washington, City of Seattle, University of Washington and the Arboretum Foundation, has established the following Guiding Principles as a way for the ABGC and interested parties to review and comment on the SR 520 I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project and for the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to consider as they move the project forward.

Guiding Principles – The proposed SR 520 project in and around the Washington Park Arboretum should:

1. Enhance the Washington Park Arboretum through the design, construction and operation of SR 520 and the SR 520 I-5 to Medina: Bridge Replacement and HOV Project;
2. Avoid harm to the Washington Park Arboretum and its collections;
3. Respect the historical, aesthetic and design integrity of the Park;
4. Fully compensate the Arboretum for loss of property and function if harm is unavoidable;
5. Reduce traffic on Lake Washington Boulevard below levels that exist today on the boulevard between Montlake Boulevard and East Madison Street; and,
6. Preserve and restore the Arboretum as an accessible place of quiet and respite.

Current ABGC Committee Members

David Towne, Washington State Governor's appointee
Tim Gallagher, Mayoral appointee

Kjris Lund, Mayoral appointee
Jack Collins, Mayoral appointee
Theresa Doherty, University of Washington appointee
Sandra Lier, University of Washington appointee
Iain Robertson, University of Washington appointee
Paige Miller, The Arboretum Foundation appointee
Barbara Wright, The Arboretum Foundation appointee

Old/New Business

The Chair will also review the ABGC's draft 2010 work plan at the February 10 meeting, which is being developed to help the ABGC be more proactive and less reactive in its work.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Barbara Wright, ABGC Chair