

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 8, 2012

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Della Balick, Arboretum Foundation Board President
- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

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

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Other Staff Present:

- Barb DeCaro, Seattle Parks, Natural Resources Manager
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Deputy Director

Public:

- Kjris Lund, Former Mayoral Appointee

ABGC Staff: Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

AF: Paige Miller; City: Donald Harris; UW: TBD

Partners Committee:

AF: Paige Miller & Della Balick

City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams
Michael Shiosaki & Barb DeCaro

UW: Tom Hinckley & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Paige Miller & Roger Williams

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Rick Nishi

SR520 Technical Committee:

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

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

This meeting was held at Graham Visitors Center at the Arboretum. ABGC Chair Theresa Doherty called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. **The minutes from the November 9 annual retreat and the January 11 meeting were approved.**

Budget Updates

Arboretum Foundation: Paige and Della reported the Arboretum Foundation has more than exceeded its goal in event attendance, securing sponsors, and procurements. This is the good news. In other news, no new bequests have been received. The Foundation Board hasn't met since November, due to poor weather conditions. The Foundation's 2011-2012 budget has a significant deficit; it seems unlikely the amount will be reduced before end of June, the end of the budget period.

Paige reminded all to visit the February 8-12 Flower and Garden Show. While there, they are invited to use their smart phones at the Arboretum/Audubon exhibit, enter the QR code, and listen to bird calls at the Arboretum/Audubon exhibit. This is a new partnership.

City: Donald reported that Cheryl Fraser, former Natural Resources manager, has been selected as Deputy Director of the Department's Recreation Division. Barb DeCaro is now acting Natural Resources manager. The City's budget is still devastating, with a possible 2013 reduction of an additional \$40 million. A bit of cheerful news is the City's Real Estate and Excise Tax (REET) and sales taxes have increased slightly.

The City's historic Volunteer Park Conservatory has been much in the news recently. The building needs a great deal of maintenance and the City is searching for ways to keep the Conservatory open to the public, while dealing with ongoing budget problems. Acting Superintendent Williams and Parks staff are researching an aggregation of the Conservatory and the City's specialty gardens. And, a consultant has been hired to evaluate options for the Conservatory. Once the consultant's report is available, Donald will forward it to the ABGC.

University of Washington: Fred reported the UW are now checking references of four candidates for the new Director of the School of Environmental Science and Forestry. Former ABGC member Tom Hinckley is the acting director. Responding to a question from Jack whether an ABGC member will be on the interview panel, UW reps answered they won't. The search committee is comprised of high level UW staff, with Della Balick's husband chairing the committee. Fred will keep the ABGC informed of any developments and noted the interviews will be public.

In other UW news:

- Olympia legislators are still massaging the UW's 2013 budget, with additional cuts of 5% expected. UW staff have scheduled a May 1 tour of the UW Botanic Gardens for the University's new provost, Ana Mari Cauce. UW College of the Environment Dean Lisa Graumlich will also attend the tour.
- UWBG staff are still working with the UW's Foster Business School on a marketing plan for the botanic gardens. The students are working on their master degrees, very smart, and have been fun to work with. Responding to a question from Donald on what the UWBG hopes to get from the marketing plan, Fred responded the goal is a list of

recommendations. Another positive outcome is that the UW's marketing division is now interested in meeting with UWBG staff.

- UWBG Director Sarah Reichard will lead a botanical garden tour to Cuba, February 21-March 6.

Dave T commented that, even in the face of serious budget problems, the Arboretum looks marvelous.

Thank You to Former ABGC Member Kjris Lund

Theresa welcomed former ABGC member Kjris Lund to the meeting and thanked her for all her work on behalf of the Arboretum and for the ABGC. Kjris was presented with a photo of the Arboretum by Roger Williams, who helped design the Arboretum's gardens. Kjris now serves as an ambassador at the Arboretum, will continue to advocate for it, and offered to lobby for it in partnership with Jack.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Update

Fred and Donald reported the MPIG hasn't met since the January ABGC meeting. Recently, MPIG members surveyed the Graham Visitors Center (GVC) to determine ways to make it friendlier and more welcoming and developed a list of other work to be done in and around GVC.

Old/New Business

- Jack noted a couple items on the ABGC web page are out of date. Sandy will work with the web manager to make the updates.
- Jack stated that, at the November 9 retreat, a number of new work assignments were determined and staff are to be assigned to work on each. He urged this be done. Theresa will update the ABGC's work plan with these items. If there are no resources to accomplish the work, it will be shown in a deferred column.
- March 7 Meeting: The WSDOT team will attend to discuss the SR 520 Term Sheet. Michael recently presented them with project cost estimates and hasn't yet heard back. WSDOT is still \$2.2 billion short of funding for SR520 and will not begin the west side construction until the funding is secured.
- Dave will be traveling and miss the March 7 meeting.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Theresa Doherty, ABGC Chair