

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: Center for Urban Horticulture, Isaacson Classroom, February 13, 2013

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

University of Washington

- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- Lynne C. Manzo, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Excused:

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Asst. Vice President for Regional Affairs

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Jan Bultmann, Seattle City Council
- Michele Daly, Seattle Parks, Acting 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) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

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

The meeting was held at Center for Urban Horticulture and called to order at 8:40 am. **Dave Towne moved, and Sarah Reichard seconded, approval of the January 9 and January 14 meeting minutes. Paige Miller noted corrections to the draft January 14 special meeting minutes, corrections accepted, and the amended motion carried.**

Media Updates: The committee commended the work by Kenan Block, as the ABGC media volunteer, on the media event on January 14 at the Graham Visitors Center at the Arboretum. The purpose of the special meeting was the final discussion, approval and signing of the Arboretum Mitigation Funding Agreement.

WSDOT and ABGC members spent 4-5 years development of the agreement. He worked with WSDOT staff as well as media staff from the Seattle Parks Department, the University of Washington and the Arboretum Foundation, which resulted in good news coverage. Paige Miller worked with the Seattle Times. Kenan in thanked everyone and thought it was an impressive example of how agencies can work together for the greater good.

Paige Miller expressed appreciation to Michael Shiosaki and his staff for all the work on the WSDOT agreement.

MPIG Update

Michael gave a brief report:

- Historic Overview Shelter: The plan is to renovate the shelter and dedicate it with the grand opening of the New Zealand Garden. The structure is in poor shape with many things needing replacement including the roof, posts and stairs. Design is moving forward. Section 106 funds probably are not available. Paige reported she is working on grants for construction funding.
- Multi-Use Trail: The project will need funds from the Arboretum Mitigation Agreement to move forward, with construction expected to begin in 2014.
- Foster Island Undercrossings/SR520 Project: Parks and UW staff will continue to discuss the project with WSDOT. Both are working with WSDOT on the design and plantings/rocky areas of the site, to keep maintenance needs as low as possible. UW/Parks working with WSDOT for funding of the lighting relative to safety issues and for the ability to grow plants.
- Arboretum Project Prioritization:
 - Wayfinding and Interpretation Signs – Andy Sheffer working on final designs of the signs before having them fabricated. It was noted the goal of having wayfinding signage completed by Mother's Day, the biggest Arboretum attendance day, would be ideal.
 - Trail Loops & Signage: UW staff are working on the loops and signage project by project.
 - New Projects:
 - Foster/Arboretum Drive – Design for the 3 way stop and crosswalk project will be a high priority.
 - Ridge Top Trail is high priority – schematic design will begin.
 - Trail connection between Graham Visitors Center and Duck Bay/Foster Island is high priority.
 - Future priorities include repaving Duck Bay parking, storm water improvement, increase parking by Graham Visitors Center, Education Building parking. Outdoor classroom is high priority.

Michael will provide the Committee with a copy of the Future Project Prioritization list which the ABGC will vote on the priorities at is March 13 meeting. It is timely to update the list while future sources of park funding are being evaluated.

- New Zealand Garden – project mostly on schedule; planting scheduled for the spring. The Committee was assured the contractor will do a good job with the plantings. The UW and Parks will be overseeing the plantings. Committee Chair Collins desires a tour in near future of New Zealand Garden area.

- The Pacific Connections Gardens – Australia Garden – not ready to move on this project. China & Chile are big projects which are probably 10 years out as will need to wait for funding.
- Cascadia - The infrastructure (grading, irrigation, paths) was completed as part of the previous Pacific Connections project. Planting of the forest is being installed as it becomes available.
- Overlook shelter – would be an addition to the project. Bus Turnaround was added into contract; screening of portable potties is being constructed. On time, on budget.

Budget & Other Updates

City: Michael Shiosaki reported:

- Parks Legacy Plan – Citizen committee being established with equal numbers (5) selected by the Mayor and City Council. It is anticipated the committee will begin meeting in June/July and present a recommendation by early next year.

Arboretum Foundation: Paige reported:

- Canal Reserve: Paige made a motion for ABGC to send a letter to UW (with a copy to the City) that when WSDOT pays for the transfer of the Canal Reserve and its collections (estimated to be \$3.3 Million for the property and \$1.4 million for the value of the living collections), that those funds be placed in a dedicated fund to benefit the Arboretum. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Paige will raise this same issue at the Arboretum Foundation Board meeting tonight and ask that the AF Board also take action on this issue.
- The opening night event for the Northwest Flower & Garden Show is scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 19, and the Show is scheduled February 20-24. Committee members were urged to share the Opening Night Party invitation with their contacts. Patron and Benefactor level attendance is on track,; about 100 people behind at the member/non-member level.
- Plant Sale in April.
- New Zealand Garden Dedication: September 13 VIP event; September 14, public dedication.
- Doug Beighle passed away on February 3 while in Myanmar. (A celebration of his life will be held on February 27 at 3PM at Daniels Recital Hall / First United Methodist Church. A card from ABGC was circulated for signatures to be sent to his wife, Kathleen Pierce.

UW

- Sarah Reichard reported Christchurch, New Zealand Sister City group wants to be involved in the September Garden dedication event.
- Fred Hoyt reported a Blessing of the Bridge and the construction workers by Native Americans will occur on June 8, 2014
- UW working with WSDOT regarding the Canal Reserve agreement.

New Name for the “North Entry” project: Jack Collins suggested Committee members think of a new name for this project. “North Entry” is the official current project name in the Master Plan and it would be confusing to change it at this point as the name is referenced in many documents. There is a better opportunity to consider changing the project name during future planning and design for the project.

Old/New Business

Communication Plan: Michael Shiosaki noted Kenan’s extensive background in media and communications. Kenan has volunteered to help develop a more coordinated outreach plan for the Arboretum. Initial steps would include determining the communication team’s primary message as well as empowering the team to work together to implement the message. This idea will be discussed further at future meetings with ABGC and Partners Committee.

Dave Towne's Appointment: Dave has kindly agreed to remain in the position until a new person is appointed. Jack will check on the status of the appointment.

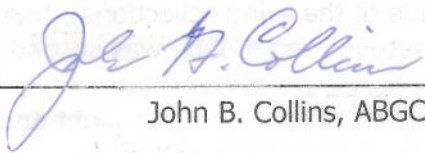
Cross Country Runners/Bikers in Arboretum: Jack has been researching the coaches' names and has forwarded the letter to Paige for editing. Runners sometimes run several abreast, forcing other visitors off the trails.

Thank you's were extended to the WSDOT team, legislative bodies and city staff who have worked diligently over the past years in finalizing the \$7.8 million agreement; formal letters from ABGC not necessary.

Committee members may forward items for the agenda to the Coordinator with a cc to Jack; he does not have to review the agenda prior to publication.

The next regular ABGC meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at the Graham Visitors Center.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

APPROVED  DATE 3-13-13
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair