

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

[www.wparboretum.org](http://www.wparboretum.org) then select ABGC

**Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation (AF), Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks), and the University of Washington (UW)**

**Minutes – January 4, 2006**

*Voting*

*Members:*

**Arboretum Foundation**

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President

**City of Seattle**

- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department Manager

**University of Washington**

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

*Others:*

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation
- Teresa Dougherty, University of Washington Vice-President of Regional Affairs
- David Graves, Seattle Parks Project Planner
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture
- Iain Robertson, Japanese Garden Society

*Voting members*

*Absent/Excused:*

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- David Maberley, Director, University of Washington Botanic Garden

*Staff:*

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

ABGC Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Review: ABGC Retreat**

Members discussed the December 7, 2005, ABGC retreat. Sandra Lier facilitated the retreat and those present thanked her for a great job. It was suggested that the chair facilitate future retreats.

Donald commented that the intent of the retreat is to bring the disparate groups together and review accomplishments and work still to be accomplished. Sandra commented that the three groups (Arboretum Foundation, City of Seattle, and University of Washington) work together much better than prior to 2000 and have accomplished a great deal. A consultant, Marilyn Snyder, was hired to facilitate the first ABGC retreat in 2002. At that retreat, goals and objectives of the group were recorded. Ms. Snyder suggested that a yearly retreat be held to revisit these and add new goals and objectives as needed.

Additional comments/suggestions on the retreat:

- ❖ the mechanism is now in place and working well
- ❖ is a way to get additional people engaged
- ❖ is an opportunity to discuss issues in detail
- ❖ is a great opportunity to have the Arboretum Foundation President, Seattle Parks Superintendent, and Dean of College of Forest Resources to meet jointly with the ABGC — it is very helpful to hear what each is working on as relates to the Arboretum
- ❖ re-emphasize and focus on which community members should attend
- ❖ hold a public meeting prior to the next retreat to engage the community
- ❖ include the Japanese Garden Society
- ❖ focus on the nitty gritty issues at the retreat
- ❖ involve the crews
- ❖ prepare the agenda earlier in the year and include the crews in the planning
- ❖ plan the retreat in early October and limit the number of topics on the agenda

Donald and Fred are attending the quarterly crew meetings. It was agreed that Belinda Gigliotti, Rory Denovan, and David Zuckerman will be invited to periodic ABGC and MPIG meetings.

### **Update - SR520**

Theresa Dougherty, Assistant Vice-president of Regional Affairs at the University, attended the meeting to discuss the status of WSDOT's project to re-vamp SR520 and its impacts to the Arboretum.

The ABGC has serious concerns with the newest alternative being studied by WSDOT, the Pacific Interchange alternative. Montlake Community Club supports the Pacific Interchange and asserts the alternative has the community's support, although to the best of our knowledge at this time, no other community groups have formally stated their support.

The Board of Park Commissioners was requested to schedule a public hearing at its January 12 meeting. David Graves will prepare a written briefing for the Commissioners, describing the project and the alternatives. WSDOT staff will give the verbal briefing. Teresa suggested that maps showing the alternatives be attached to the briefing. Donald stated that the public hearing is being held at this time to establish the position of those agencies that support the Arboretum. It is timely to advance this position, before WSDOT identifies a preferred alternative.

Teresa stated that it is important for Arboretum supporters to speak out if any of the alternatives are unacceptable. She will attend the public hearing and read the October 2005 letter from the University's Board of Regents, which opposes the Pacific Interchange alternative. Teresa stated that the City of Seattle hasn't yet taken an official position, although it favors the four-lane alternative.

Neal stated that the Arboretum Foundation hasn't yet taken a position; however, the Board will discuss this in the near future. He will attend the public hearing and testify. Iain will attend and testify for the Japanese Garden Society. Sandra will attend and testify for the ABGC.

A discussion followed on the structure of the agenda and public hearing. Parks staff had scheduled the South Lake Union Armory — which will accommodate several hundred people — for the public hearing. It was determined that the Board Room at Parks Headquarters would be adequate.

**Neal moved that Sandra write a letter to WSDOT stating the ABGC's concerns with the Pacific Interchange alternative. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Teresa reported that WSDOT has asked to convene a workshop with staff from Arboretum Foundation, Parks, UW, Japanese Garden, and the ABGC to discuss the Pacific Interchange alternative. Representatives from these groups have previously met with WSDOT to review the 4-lane and 6-lane alternatives. It has not yet met to discuss the Pacific Interchange.

David is meeting with WSDOT on Friday and asked that ABGC members e-mail him with any concerns to discuss with WSDOT.

**ABGC Officers and Updates**

Sandra announced that the elections were handled by e-mail. The new chair of the ABGC is Donald Harris, vice-chair is Deb Andrews, and secretary is David Maberley. The ABGC thanked Sandra for chairing the ABGC for the past three years. Deb announced that this is the last ABGC meeting that Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation staff, will attend as she has resigned her position at the Foundation. The ABGC thanked Ashley for her contributions.

A Washington State representative holds one of the nine ABGC voting positions. John Behnke’s term concluded in December 2005 and the State is currently working to select a new representative. Dave Towne has been nominated and is willing to serve in this position. Donald and Sandra will ask the Parks Superintendent and the Dean of College of Forest Resources to write a letter of recommendation for Mr. Towne.

**Old/New Business**

ABGC Website: Sandra reported that the website looks great. The UW paid for the website to be overhauled and Park’s Webmaster is now updating it. Sandra asked that David Maberley’s vision paper, read at the ABGC retreat, be added to the website. In addition, the names of the voting ABGC members will be added. Information will be included that the public may contact the members through Sandy Brooks.

Enhanced Volunteer Program: Jack asked for a history of the volunteer program and Fred will send him this information. Fred commented that the grounds crews have some concerns with the proposed new volunteer program and are especially concerned with equipment needs of the volunteers. John and Fred will give Jack an overview of the current volunteer program.

Foster Island Update: Fred gave the ABGC a “heads up” on work being performed at the intersection at Foster Island. Seattle Department of Transportation is helping with the funding and the public involvement for this project.

City Council Briefing: Donald commented that the ABGC hasn’t briefed the City Council on its efforts in over a year. He suggested that a briefing be scheduled with the Council’s Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee [note: this Committee name has since been changed to Parks, Education, Libraries and Labor] with David Maberley attending to introduce himself and to describe the current Master Plan projects. Sandra will schedule a briefing to the UW’s Board of Regents. ABGC members will strategize these two briefings.

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

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