

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

Web site: <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/abgc/>

**The ABGC is also closely monitoring the WSDOT SR520 project for impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum. Please see**

<http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/520.htm>

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

**Location: Graham Visitors Center**

**January 14, 2009**

*Voting*

*Members*

*Present:*

**Arboretum Foundation**

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

**City of Seattle**

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Property & Acquisition Services Manager

**University of Washington**

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Acting Director

**Washington State**

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

*Excused:*

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

*Others*

*Present:*

- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Helen Payton, Arboretum Foundation Development Director
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks Deputy Director, Project and Planning

*Staff:*

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

**Standing Committees**

Funding Requests to State Legislature: John (AF), Jack (City), Dave T (Washington State)

Fundraising Policy: AF: Paige Miller & Barbara Wright

City: Tim Gallagher (Chair) & Donald Harris

UW: Bruce Bare & Sandra Lier

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Michael (lead), Donald, Fred, Julia, Paige, and Tom Hinkley

Mission Statement: Kathleen Pierce (AF), Donald (City), Sandra (UW)

Naming Recognition Guideline: Paige (AF), Donald (City), Sandra (UW)

SR520 Mediation (Group of 34): Paige, representing both the ABGC and AF

ABGC Chair Dave Towne called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The agenda was approved, as well as the minutes from the October 8 and December 10 meetings.

## **Updates**

### **Pacific Connections**

Phase II: Michael reported that The Berger Partnership has now completed 95% of the design plans for Phase II. He will forward an electronic drawing of the design to Sandy and she will forward to the rest of the ABGC.

The discussion next turned to whether the Arboretum can benefit from a possible State or federal stimulus package. The stimulus package would look for projects that are "shovel ready." Tim reported that he recently submitted a list of projects that could be included in the stimulus package, totaling \$100,000, to the mayor for consideration. Pacific Connections was not on the list. Paige suggested the bridge project at the south end of the Arboretum could be a good candidate. Tim asked that ABGC members send any specific projects to him and he will try to add them to the list. Paige, Donald, Michael and MPIG members will review projects to propose for any stimulus programs.

Japanese Garden Entry Project: Kelly Goold could not attend today's meeting and sent a written report. He reported that the project is three weeks behind schedule, due to the severe weather in December and January. The framing is well under way and a Shinto ceremony is being planned to bless the structure. A dedication ceremony is also being planned for late spring/early summer.

Arboretum Drive Closure Status: Arboretum Drive has been closed for several months to automobile traffic and is now being considered for permanent closure as part of the Mayor's Summer Streets program. Tim stated that Parks staff will brief the Board of Park Commissioners at the Board's February 12 meeting, followed by a public hearing on February 26. He invited the ABGC to testify at the public hearing. A decision will not be made until after the Board has made a recommendation; however, the road will not have a mid-point closure (bollards, etc.) as has been discussed at previous ABGC meetings.

Arboretum Foundation members of the ABGC voiced concerns at the December meeting about this and agreed to discuss the topic with the Arboretum Foundation Board. Paige and Barbara stated that there are two issues of concern: that the road be opened during the Arboretum's summer plant sale and during other large events. Paige will next discuss the possible closure with the Foundation's volunteer advisory committee. Jack asked if a permit system could be used to allow elderly or physically challenged people to access Arboretum Drive by vehicle. Tim responded that he isn't insensitive to those needs and that the closure would be on an "honesty" policy. He believes that encouraging people to walk is a bigger benefit than allowing them to drive the ¾ mile route.

Barbara and Paige stated that the Foundation is not disagreeing with this; however, the soft closure would allow both cars and pedestrians to be on the road at the same time and that is a matter of concern. Tim asked that Parks staff send the "Summer Street" project manager's contact info to Paige and the Park Board's agendas to Jack and Paige. Jack agreed to testify on behalf of the ABGC at the public hearing.

### **MPIG/ABGC Decision Making Process**

Questions arose at the December meeting on how the Master Plan Implementation Group, which is a subcommittee of the ABGC, makes decisions about projects and how it conveys that information in a systematic manner to the full ABGC. Donald reported that MPIG hasn't met since the December ABGC meeting and asked for suggestions from the group. Dave stated that the ABGC doesn't want to impede MPIG's process; however, it does want to formalize that MPIG will regularly report to the ABGC. Sandra agreed that this is good to do, as the work of MPIG will then be recorded into the ABGC's minutes as a permanent record of decisions and recommendations on the Master Plan projects.

Responding to a question from Jack whether MPIG is a subcommittee of, or independent from, the ABGC, Sandra responded that it is a subcommittee. Jack asked if MPIG makes and votes on motions; MPIG members responded that they do not.

Paige suggested that notes be taken at all MPIG meetings and sent to Sandy who will distribute them to the ABGC. Michael agreed that this will begin at the January 26 MPIG meeting. State Legislation: Sandra submitted a document, Senate Bill #5061, to State Senator Ken Jacobsen for a curator for the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. Jack and Kjrjris both volunteered to testify in favor of the bill. Sandra thanked them and asked that they meet with her beforehand. She will also send a one-page summary of the bill to the two of them and to Tim. Kjrjris also volunteered to work on the ABGC's Capital Committee with Sandra and Paige.

Jack commented that Paige wrote a wonderful letter to Governor Gregoire, as follow up on the request for \$1 million for the Chilean Garden, and Paige added that she has received a general response from the governor's office. Dave suggested that Jack and Kjrjris could follow up on this when they testify at the Legislature; however, Michael stated that any follow up should be done after the legislative session and not during.

### **Annual Retreat -- What went well and suggestions for improvement:**

*Tim*  
Comments: Not a retreat, dog and pony show  
Suggestions: Change structure and talk about conflicts and goals; leave the retreat with goals and objectives; Seattle Parks has several facilitators who are non-ABGC members and he could ask one of them to facilitate

Sandra responded that the ABGC developed a set of goals and objectives several years ago that, in the past, were regularly reviewed and updated. A discussion of this will be added to the February 12 meeting agenda.

*Jack*  
Comments: Keyhole (part of WSDOT's SR520 project) discussion was very helpful; thought the retreat had a broad education purpose, however, there were too many people to get down to issues

*Helen*  
Comments: Not a traditional retreat, but very informative to her and her staff; retreat was well done  
Suggestions: Next one be part reporting, part interaction on goals; consider hiring an outside facilitator

*Barbara*  
Comments: The relationship of the Arboretum Foundation, City, and UW is complicated and it is a good opportunity for staff to learn more about this; she thought Dave and Donald did a good job as facilitators

**Reminder**: the next annual retreat is scheduled on Wednesday, November 4, 8:00 am-12:30 pm.

### **Joint Fundraising Committee**

The Ad Hoc Committee has completed its work on the agreement and the members all have signed off on it, except for the Arboretum Foundation. Barbara noted that the Foundation will vote on the agreement on Wednesday, January 21. Jack asked that a copy of the agreement be circulated to the ABGC. Sandy will send an unsigned copy to him and, once the agreement is signed, will send that to all the ABGC.

### **Update: SR 520 Project**

Dave thanked Jack for testifying in favor of Alternative K on behalf of the ABGC at City Council's recent public hearing. Jack had worked with Paige and Dave prior to the hearing and offered to lobby on behalf of Resolution 31109. City Council discussed the three alternatives last Monday and voted 8-0 to move all three

alternatives (A, K, and L) forward. Approximately 200 people attended the hearing. It was noted that Maurice Cooper, supporter of Alternative K, asked those in the audience who supported K to stand and about half the audience stood. Jack commented that Fran Conley did a good job of organizing the K supporters.

There was some discussion as to why City Council held a public hearing, if its outcome was to move all three alternatives to the State Legislature for consideration instead of selecting one to move forward. Barbara's perspective is that Council, rather than selecting one alternative to move forward, instead looked at all the criteria. In retrospect, she would prefer that the ABGC had also done that – embrace the principles that most support the Arboretum and not just embrace one alternative plan. Jack believes that the resolution (copy attached to these minutes) that the ABGC sent to Council did go back to the basics and believes that Alternative K best follows the basic support of the Arboretum, except for the keyhole element. Jack noted that Alternatives A & L provide no accommodation for Foster Island.

Paige stated that the Alternatives now go before the State Legislature and Governor to determine what happens next. It has been challenging to make plans without the Environmental Impact Statement, which will not be out for another year or so. She understands that the State is leaning towards early tolling on the SR520 bridge and no early tolling on the I-90 bridge. Dave asked Jack to assist Paige with the Alternative K work and Jack agreed.

UW Report: Theresa reported that the UW's technical review group is now working to determine the impacts of the three alternatives. The UW is not supporting any of the three at this time; instead it is looking at the aspects of each. The UW will remain neutral, but work to protect its property.

Naming Recognition: Sandra has forwarded the final version of the Naming Recognition Policy to Barbara and Paige for Arboretum Foundation review.

*Correction*: She noted that the December ABGC minutes read that she is being paid 40% of the UWBG Director's salary; in actuality she is paid at that rate but works much more than 40%.

Snow Damage to Arboretum Collection: Sandra is working with the State Public Assistance Program and will also ask the UW's Facilities Service for assistance with the Arboretum's damaged plantings, trees, etc., from the recent heavy snows. Kjis also works with Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) and asked if there are any designated emergency volunteer crews to do snow removal in such cases. Sandra answered that there isn't and a protocol needs to be established for such instances. Paige commented that, over the next year, the Arboretum Foundation and University will increase coordination of the volunteers' work and look at ways to deal with needs (such as the heavy snow on the collections.)

College of Forest Resources Budget: Sandra thanked ABGC members who wrote letters of support for Dean Bare and the College of Forest Resources (CoFR) budget and has forwarded those e-mails to the Provost. The CoFR has significant budget cuts on the table at this time and has had no increases since 2001. The budget includes no extra funding to help care for the new Pacific Connection gardens. **Jack moved that the ABGC write a one-paragraph letter to the UW requesting that the UWBG have only minimal budget cuts. Barbara seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed.** Donald will draft the letter and Dave will sign it.

Mission Statement: Sandra reported that this work is still in progress and will be discussed further at the February meeting.

Graham Visitor Center Management: Sandra is working on an agreement for the management of the Visitor Center and will present information at the February ABGC meeting.

## **New/Old Business**

Broadmoor Pond/Drainage Issues: Donald reported that the retention basin, installed on Broadmoor Golf Club land and near the Arboretum, apparently worked properly during the recent flooding. He has also learned that the City's Department of Planning and Development did not require the Golf Club to install any type of screening to hide the large maintenance building recently built next to the Arboretum at the Graham Visitor Center. It is very visible from the Arboretum.

Invite Councilmember Rasmussen to ABGC Meeting: Dave agreed to invite Councilmember Rasmussen to the March ABGC meeting. It is important that the ABGC have his support and understanding of the efforts for, and complexity of, the Arboretum.

UW Regents: Sandra is working to schedule a tour for the Regents in April or May.

Municipal League Nomination: Kjrjris asked the ABGC for its approval for her to nominate the ABGC for a Municipal League award as "Organization of the Year" and the group enthusiastically agreed. The awards are presented in March; she will prepare the nomination.

Flower and Garden Show: Helen distributed posters for the upcoming Gala and asked ABGC members to distribute the information and to attend the Gala.

Upcoming Celebration: Donald reminded the group that 2009 marks both the Arboretum's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Alaskan-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Centennial. A number of celebrations are being planned for both events.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on February 11, 2009. Dave Towne will be out of town. Paige Miller will chair the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
**Theresa Doherty, ABGC Secretary**

**Resolution of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee  
December 10, 2008**

AT A MEETING OF THE ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN COMMITTEE FOR THE WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2008,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature found the replacement of State Route 520 (SR520) floating bridge a matter of urgency for the safety of Washington's traveling public and the needs of the transportation system in central Puget Sound;

WHEREAS, the SR520 Bridge serves as a vital route for vehicles across Lake Washington, the State Legislature adopted an SR520 bridge replacement project programmatic requirement that provides for six total lanes of traffic;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Office of Financial Management hired a mediator to develop an SR520 project impact plan (PIP) for addressing the impact of the SR520 bridge replacement and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) project design on, among other things, Seattle city neighborhoods and parks, including the Washington Park Arboretum;

WHEREAS, the approved purpose and need statement for the project was to improve mobility for people and goods across Lake Washington within the SR520 corridor in a manner that was safe, reliable, and cost-effective while avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating impacts on the affected neighborhoods and the environment;

WHEREAS, the Mediation Panel developed three options to submit to the Washington State Governor and the State Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee, consisting of Options A, K, and L;

WHEREAS, the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) is the official advisory committee of the Washington Park Arboretum consisting of representatives from the City of Seattle, the State of Washington, the University of Washington, and the Arboretum Foundation;

Whereas the Arboretum contains a world-renowned botanical collection and some of the most important native wetland areas on Lake Washington and is an important recreational and educational resource for the people of the State of Washington;

WHEREAS, the ABGC recognizes guiding principles for the SR520 project on mandating that everything possible be done to minimize the harm to the Arboretum and, if possible, to reverse the damage inflicted on the Arboretum by the original SR520 bridge;

WHEREAS, the ABGC opposes any options that make Lake Washington Boulevard (LWB) the sole or primary southern access point to SR520;

WHEREAS, to the extent that ramp access to LWB must be accommodated, such ramps should be to the west of the heart of the Arboretum, and traffic flow through the Arboretum to and from such ramps should be reduced through design, ramp-metering, and/or differential pricing of tolls;

WHEREAS, Option A features an interchange at the existing Montlake interchange, a second bascule bridge, seven lanes on the Portage Bay Bridge, and LWB ramps;

WHEREAS, traffic studies performed by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) indicate that Option A cannot successfully move traffic and traffic through the Arboretum will probably cause unacceptable traffic back-ups, thus increasing noise and exhaust pollution in the Arboretum;

WHEREAS, Option L features a single-point urban interchange over SR520, a second bascule bridge, and ramp connections directly to LWB and Pacific Street;

WHEREAS, Option L increases visual and noise impact in the Arboretum, creates ramps directly from the SR520 bridge to LWB, has a larger footprint than Options K and A in the east Montlake section, and has produced broad opposition from nearby neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, Option K features a four-lane tunnel under the Montlake Cut, a depressed single-point urban interchange at the eastern edge of Montlake, removal of LWB ramps, a six-lane Portage Bay bridge with a design intended to be consistent with nearby historic structures, and lids over Foster Island, Montlake and Roanoke Boulevards, and I-5;

WHEREAS, WSDOT traffic modeling shows mobility for transit, Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV), and HOVs is better in Option K than any other option;

WHEREAS, Option K separates local and freeway traffic and appears to have broad support from nearby neighborhoods and some key stakeholders;

WHEREAS, Option K would provide a lower profile through the Arboretum, preserves historic views, provides a safer bicycle/pedestrian access through the corridor, and promotes the use of quiet pavement instead of noise walls;

WHEREAS, LWB is a winding, two-lane, 25 mph historic parkway through one of Seattle's most important parks and;

WHEREAS, 23/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a four lane, 20 mph, direct city arterial,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ABGC hereby supports Option K (Attachment 3) as the preferred option for the legislated SR520 project subject to further discussion and engineering modifications necessary to direct traffic movement away from the Arboretum and LWB on the roundabout configuration of the access ramp road south of the SR520 East Montlake interchange and toward the four lane city arterial of Montlake/24<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenues East;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional traffic modifications need to be made by the City of Seattle for surface traffic improvements at East Madison Street and 23rd Avenue East, along 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, and at East Madison and LWB to reduce the commuter use of LWB through the Arboretum and to direct surface traffic to the city arterial of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenues East and that WSDOT work with the City to accomplish such changes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position represents the vote of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, not the individual positions of the entities represented at the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be recorded in the permanent minutes of the ABGC, and that copies be sent to WSDOT, the City of Seattle, the SR520 Mediation Panel, and to appropriate officials at The Washington State Governors Office and among Washington State legislators.

*Adopted by the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, Seattle, Washington, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008, and signed by the Chair in authentication of its adoption:*

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*David L. Towne, Chair*