

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, January 9, 2013

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Craig Trueblood, Arboretum Foundation Board President

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:

- David Graves, Seattle Parks, Senior Planner
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property Manager
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Hillary Burgess, UW Intern

Washington State Department of Transportation Team (WSDOT) Team

Kerry Pihlstrom, Engineering Manager West Side, and Katie DeLeuw, Communications Manager for SR520 Project, Cameron Teller, Agreement Writer, and Daniel Babuca, West Approach Bridge North Engineering Manager

ABGC Staff: Sandy Brooks, Seattle Parks, ABGC Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

Partners Committee:

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

AF: Paige Miller & Craig Trueblood

City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams

Michael Shiosaki & Leah Tivoli

UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

AF: Paige Miller & Roger Williams

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Rick Nishi

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

The meeting was held at Graham Visitors Center at the Arboretum and called to order at 8:30 am. **Paige Miller moved, and Dave Towne seconded, approval of the November 11 retreat minutes and December 12 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion was unanimous in favor.**

WSDOT SR520 Agreement Update

ABGC members and WSDOT have worked 4-5 years to develop the Arboretum Mitigation Agreement and it is nearly ready to sign. Kerry stated it is exciting to now be near the signature stage of the agreement, which will provide the first \$7.5 million in mitigation funds to the Arboretum. Paige and Craig must take the agreement to the Arboretum Foundation Board for approval at its January 14 meeting; the UW staff must also take the agreement back to the Dean for a final review before signing. City staff noted there is language in the agreement that might require Seattle City Council discussion and approval and will work with the City's Law Department on the language. ABGC members and WSDOT agreed to schedule a special signing meeting on Monday morning, January 14, 2013, at 8:30 am. In the interim, both ABGC and WSDOT will work closely together to clarify the outstanding issues, with the expectation a final version will be ready for signature at the special meeting. ABGC members will receive an updated version for final review before signing.

WSDOT SR520 Bridge Design Update

Daniel Babuca, WSDOT West Approach Bridge North Engineering Manager, next presented a Powerpoint and drawing board presentation on the West Approach Bridge, as requested at the ABGC's December meeting. He described bridge elements and design, including rails, spans, expansion joints, trail lighting, undercrossings beneath the bridge, catwalks, view areas, and other elements. He also showed a brief video denoting how the bridge will appear to a kayaker as they travel underneath the new bridge. ABGC members asked a number of questions and made suggestions on the design. WSDOT has scheduled public open houses on February 5 and 6 to review the design.

Kenan will work with Katie and Kerry on a joint press release re: the open houses. Jack suggested the ABGC write a letter to Kerry and the WSDOT team thanking them for the successful corroboration.

Jack next suggested a letter be sent to House Speaker Frank Chopp to thank him for his support.

Budget & Other Updates

City: Nothing new to report at this time.

Arboretum Foundation: Paige reported:

- 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.
- Foundation staff are also raising endowment funds and planning events for spring fundraising.

UW: Sarah reported the mayor of Christ Church, New Zealand, was recently in Seattle. He visited Pacific Connections and is excited about the New Zealand Garden site.

MPIG Update

Michael gave a brief report:

- Japanese Garden: Andy Sheffer is working with a consultant on a study of the Garden's pond to determine the scope of needed maintenance. The pond has a 5-7" thick layer of silt and the study will look at how best to remove the silt and how to capture heavy rains/silt further up the hill. Andy will present the information to both the Japanese Garden Advisory Council and the Japanese Garden Society. Staff are also looking for grants to help pay for needed repairs/maintenance. Paige asked these grant applications be coordinated with the Foundation and UW fundraising efforts. Michael agreed.

- Historic Overview Shelter: Michael and Theresa will bring a report to the February meeting re: the possible use of 106 funds to pay for the repairs. The plan is to repair/refurbish the shelter and dedicate it with the grand opening of the New Zealand Garden.
- Multi-Use Trail: The SEPA was completed this week and the JARPA will be submitted next week. The project will need funds from the Arboretum Mitigation Agreement to move forward, with construction expected to begin in 2014. Paige asked that funds for each Master Plan project be kept in its "separate pot" until the project is completely finished.
- Foster Island Undercrossings/SR520 Project: Parks staff will meet with WSDOT on January 10 re: the maintenance of this area, with neither Parks nor UW wanting the maintenance responsibility. Both are working with WSDOT on the design and plantings/rocky areas of the site, to keep maintenance needs as low as possible.
- Arboretum Project Prioritization: Michael will bring a report to the February meeting.
- Trail Loops & Signage: UW staff are working on the loops and signage and will report at the February or March meeting.
- Other project updates: Seattle City Light has now completed the Lake Washington Boulevard lighting project, and Seattle Department of Transportation has completed the traffic calming project

Old/New Business

Communication Plan Update: Kenan gave a bit more information on the joint press conference and expects to roll this out around January 27

Cross Country Runners/Bikers in Arboretum: A number of complaints have been received regarding cross country runners on Arboretum trails. The runners sometimes run several abreast, forcing other visitors off the trails. This is dangerous to the visitors, especially the elderly and young. Jack drafted a letter to send to the high school and college coaches. Paige had received feedback from the Garfield High School cross country coach. They have developed a good protocol, which could be included in the letter for all the coaches and their teams to follow. Kenan and others agreed with this approach. If this isn't successful, then ABGC will go up the chain of command at the schools and ask that the runners wear some type of school identification if they run in the Arboretum

Dave Towne's Appointment: Theresa and Sandy have sent the Governor's office appointing language from the 1934 City Council resolution that formed the ABGC. The language called for one voting member to be appointed by the Governor. Dave has kindly agreed to remain in the position until a new person is appointed.

The next regular ABGC meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, February 13, 2013, at Isaacson Hall at Center for Urban Horticulture.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

APPROVED Jack H. Collins DATE 2/13/13
 Jack Collins, ABGC Chair