

APPROVED

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
July 8, 2009

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Skip Vonyx for Barbara Wright, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

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

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Excused:

- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee

Others Present:

- Tim Gallagher, Seattle Parks, Superintendent
- Paul Gibson, Interested & Arboretum Neighbor
- Tom Hinkley, Interim Director, School of Forest Resources
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Deputy Director, Planning & Development Division
- Larry Sinnott, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Board of Directors

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: Tom Hinkley & Sandra Lier

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

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

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

SR520 Mediation: AF, David Graves (City), & Theresa Doherty (UW)

ABGC Chair Dave Towne called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and the agenda was approved, with one addition. The June 10 minutes were approved as presented.

Attendance at Upcoming Meetings:

- Sandra will be absent from the August 5 meeting and Paige may be absent
- Tim will be absent from the October 14 meeting

Budget Updates

Arboretum Foundation

Paige reported that the Arboretum Foundation approved its budget at the last Board meeting. The Flower & Garden Show has been sold to a Portland, Oregon, company and will likely continue. The Arboretum Foundation had projected a \$55,000 revenue loss if this event isn't held in 2010.

University of Washington

No changes since the last report.

City of Seattle

Tim reported that the City's revised revenue projections will be released in August, and Seattle Park's budget may be affected. No budget cuts have been made to the Arboretum.

Jack asked the Arboretum Foundation and UW to provide copies of their annual operating budget at the August 5 ABGC meeting. Sandra and Paige agreed to do so.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG)

Phase II Presentation: At the August 5 ABGC meeting, Parks' project manager, Andy Sheffer, and staff from the Berger Partnership will present an update, including drawings, of Phase II of Pacific Connections.

Plant Sourcing for Phase II: Paige stated that Arboretum Foundation members are concerned that the plant sourcing for Phase II may be from Cistus Nursery, rather than from well-known garden expert Dan Hinkley. Donors were told the plants would come from one source and now they are being told they will come from another. Fundraising efforts are stymied until this is resolved. She believes there are two issues: (1) how to fix the propagation problem; and (2) how to fund the changes made to the Phase II design. Michael responded that MPIG members discussed this at the last meeting and agreement needs to be reached soon on the plant source(s).

Sandra respectfully disagreed with Paige and noted that she (Paige) has been at the table for all the discussions on plant procurement, including the MPIG meetings. The overall design of Phase II hasn't changed and she believes there is still time to resolve the plant procurement.

Dave noted that in most large projects, the design will change somewhat and suppliers may change. Usually there is a mechanism in place to respond to changes. Skip (member of the Arboretum Foundation Board) commented that the Foundation Board may have to change its "pitch" to donors if the plants for Phase II aren't from Dan Hinkley. Donald added that when the City and University do projects, they aren't as concerned with the sources as the donors are. The Foundation's Board is asking donors to fund this project and the source of the plants is important to many of the potential donors.

Tom Hinkley is a member of MPIG and voiced that the group has struggled to find a source to procure all the needed plants. Cistus is the only one that has agreed that has the needed diversity and experience. He believes that Dan Hinkley has propagated plants for Cistus and this could be pointed out to the donors. Fred volunteered to verify whether Dan has provided plants to Cistus.

Dave noted that the issue has been raised and MPIG will work on a resolution.

Foster Island Road: Michael reported that Andy Sheffer has been working on aspects of the re-paving of this road for the past month. The Broadmoor Community Association would like to split the cost evenly in thirds with the Broadmoor Country Club and Seattle Parks. Seattle Parks wants additional asphalt removed and Andy will keep negotiating with the two groups.

Responding to a question from Jack whether this is an operations project, Michael agreed that a simple asphalt overlay would be operations. Jack also asked if the re-paving is part of the Arboretum's Master Plan. Donald responded that it is eligible for Master Plan funds, but must be prioritized with other Master Plan projects.

Paige stated that if the road is improved and a stop sign isn't installed at the north end of Arboretum Drive, it is a pedestrian hazard. Michael noted that the current condition of the road is a hazard to bicyclists. Iain added that poor roads are a great way to reduce/slow traffic.

Update: SR 520 Project

Paige reported that Fred will attend a SR520 committee meeting on July 29. The UW has a new 520 Board Committee to review what WSDOT is proposing as a design and what to ask for in mitigation. Jack commented that the mitigation is a tangled mess. Sandra (UW) and Paige (Arboretum Foundation) responded that they are working together to understand the other agency's position.

Theresa reported on a number of developments:

- State House Bill 2211 created two work groups, including a West Side sub-group to consult with communities on the west side of Lake Washington. UW representatives will meet with the sub-group on July 15. The UW's concerns remain the same as in the UW President's December 2008 letter.
- WSDOT expects to release the SR520 Environmental Impact Statement in December 2009.
- The UW has asked WSDOT for a briefing on the SR520 project's technical maps.
- WSDOT has set up a technical group to look at the three proposed designs (Options A, K, & L) and the potential impact of each alternative on park land.
- Representatives of the UW met with WSDOT to discuss mitigation to the University's properties, shoreline, Center for Urban Horticulture, and other properties. They looked at the various master plans, in relation to a classification of 6F and 4F mitigation possibilities. UW representatives listed a number of sites and asked for water quality improvements and for implementation of the Master Plans. This group will meet again in August.

Fred stated that it is important that any mitigation doesn't interfere with the teaching and educational aspects of the Arboretum and CUH. Responding to a question from Jack as to whether WSDOT will do the same analysis on all three options, which may result in different mitigation requirements, Theresa responded that it will.

WSDOT asked for an explanation of the UW's decision-making process and Theresa explained that decisions must be made through the working group, Provost, Regents, College of Environment, and the ABGC.

Sandra added that the UW needs to consult with the City, as the two are meeting separately with WSDOT. David Graves of Seattle Parks will meet with WSDOT tomorrow, and then a meeting will be scheduled between the City and UW. Paige asked that the Arboretum Foundation be included in these meetings. Jack commented that the Mayor's office does not seem as engaged in this process as he believes it should be.

Later in the meeting, Iain stated that he does not want to see mitigation funds, resulting from SR520 impacts to the Arboretum, be spent on non-Arboretum areas of the UW. He urged the ABGC to keep a close eye on the mitigation proposals.

Fred stated that any funds received are both mitigation and compensation and must come at the front of the project. A huge amount of park property and land is being discussed in the mitigation. Paige added that when wetlands are harmed, the mitigation must be made on at least a 4-1 basis. Suggestions for mitigation included daylighting Arboretum Creek and improvements to Union Bay. Paul Gibson suggested that some mitigation funds be used to set up an endowment fund for the Arboretum. Theresa agreed with this suggestion and stated that she had already suggested an endowment fund. Jack suggested traffic calming for Lake Washington Boulevard and Larry Sinnott noted that Alternative A decreases the traffic, while the other two alternatives increase traffic.

Joint Fundraising Committee

The Committee hasn't met since the last ABGC meeting and is scheduled to next meet on July 16. Sandra reported that she and Paige have been effectively sharing information on the Foundation and UW's fundraising efforts and this has been helpful.

New/Old Business

City Councilmember Rasmussen to Attend August 5 ABGC Meeting: Councilmember Rasmussen will attend the August 5 ABGC meeting. He also recently toured the Arboretum with several ABGC members. ABGC members suggested several topics to focus on during his visit. Paige was asked to propose her idea of adding a 25 cents surcharge to the SR520 toll, to be directed to the Arboretum. This could bring in as much as \$700,000 annually.

UW Regents Tour: The UW Regents will visit the Arboretum on July 15 and will arrive at 4:00 p.m. Sandra reviewed the agenda and listed expected attendees: the Regents, UW President, Provost, and Interim Dean of the College of the Environment. A number of ABGC and UW members will also attend. The visit will include a driving tour of Foster Island, Pacific Connections, Azalea Way, Arboretum Creek, Lake Washington Boulevard, and the new Japanese Garden gatehouse.

Tim will give the presentation and will focus on the fact that the Arboretum is an educational site for the UW for research projects and classroom use. Paige added that the Arboretum is also a major resource for the new College of the Environment, as it is an urban wetland environment. A goal is to restore Arboretum Creek and bring salmon back to the heart of the city. Tom added that he would take it one step further and stress that the Arboretum is a resource for all of the UW.

Graham Visitors Center Management Agreement: Sandra reported that the UW has not yet completed its review of the agreement. She will continue working on this.

Arboretum Drive Operations: Dave asked about the road closure. Donald reported that the new signs have been installed. Fred added that some visitors to the Arboretum were initially confused but are learning that they may still drive on the road, if they cannot walk/bike.

Lake Washington Boulevard: Donald has asked Eric Friedli, Seattle Parks' Policy and Business Analysis Manager, to research which City Department (Parks or Seattle Department of Transportation) has control of Lake Washington Boulevard. This is in response to the ABGC's request to consider traffic-calming measures on the road.

Arboretum's 75th Anniversary Celebration: Paige reported that radio station KUOW has agreed to be the media sponsor for this event and will air 40 or more community service spots. The July 18 community event will include badminton, croquet, barber shop quartet, vintage cars, and a free picnic. Guests are encouraged to dress in 1930's style. Posters about the events are being distributed and a banner will be displayed on the Wilcox Bridge. There are several other events scheduled, including a wine tasting, ice cream social, and kayak tours of the Arboretum. Parks staff will provide and set up tents, chairs, and grills. In addition, Parks communication staff distributed information on the events to the community councils and added it to the City's events calendar.

Jack urged all ABGC members to listen to the Pacific Connections audio tapes and take their friends to visit the garden. The tapes can be rented at Graham Visitors Center for \$6 each.

Arboretum Survey: Sandra asked both the City and Arboretum Foundation to fund \$1,000 each to help pay for the year-long survey of the Arboretum. She hopes to start the survey before school begins this fall. Fred was at a recent national conference and learned that most large public gardens survey visitors both as they enter the garden and as they leave. Donald suggested Fred get information from those surveys as a starting point for the Arboretum survey.

Volunteer Handbook: Sandra stated that the new volunteer handbook is wonderful. She suggested that City and UW staff both review the WPA governance information page.

Citizen Proposal to Tax Lake Property Owners: Theresa reported that Susan Holiday of the Laurelhurst community called her to discuss a proposed Lake Management Plan to tax all property owners on Lake Washington. Ms. Holiday stated that City Councilmembers Conlin and Clark are both interested in the proposal. Property owners would be taxed a certain amount per linear foot of waterfront property, with the proceeds used to remove milfoil and clear pathways for fish.

Dave asked that this be brought up at the August 5 meeting, when Councilmember Rasmussen will be present. Tom suggested Ms. Holiday contact any Native American tribes that would be affected by this proposal.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on August 5, 8:30 am, at Graham Visitors Center.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Theresa Doherty, ABGC Secretary