

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

www.wparboretum.org select ABGC

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

Minutes – July 7, 2004

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Susan Black for Neal Lessenger, President, Arboretum Foundation
- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Department Manager
- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- John Wott, Arboretum Director

Washington State

- John Behnke

Absent Members:

- Sarah Neilson, Board of Park Commissioner
- Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor

Guests:

- Susan Black
- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- David Goldberg, Parks Department Project Manager
- Cara Mathison, Assistant Development Director, UW College of Forest Resources
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
- Max Cameron and Mindy Lehrman Cameron, Lehrman Cameron Studio (project consultants)
- Chuck Lennox, Cascade Interpretive Consulting (project consultant)

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 am, with a quorum present. **John Wott moved approval of the May 5 minutes. Donald seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed.**

SR520 Arterial/Street Improvement Study Update

- Donald reported that ABGC members, including Park Department staff, have been present at two recent Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) community meetings to answer questions. It is evident that citizens are most upset about the traffic and other impacts to their lives and less interested with impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum. WSDOT staff stated that the viaduct is in severe earthquake danger and the 520 floating bridge is under severe wind jeopardy. The bridge is also faced with seismic problems at its approaches. WSDOT is determined to push ahead with this project, even though the State is in the midst of serious budget problems. It is urgent that ABGC staff continue meeting with WSDOT staff over the next few months.

- John W reported that the Museum of History & Industry has set aside its plans to move from the Arboretum area to a downtown site, as it currently has no funds to pay for a move, nor does it have a site. MOHAI appears to be out of the information loop with WSDOT and not totally aware that WSDOT intends to tear down the MOHAI building during the SR520 project. Deb and John W stated that the Arboretum Foundation is prepared to fight to keep MOHAI at its present location. Parks Department Pro Parks Manager, Michael Shiosaki, has now joined the team to help with this effort and will provide Deb with parcel #s, copies of land titles, etc.
- Margaret suggested that the ABGC schedule its own community meeting to discuss and focus on how the SR520 project will affect park usage.
- Donald suggested that an ABGC delegation meet soon with MOHAI officials. It is critical that the ABGC stay on top of this project.

Master Plan Implementation Group Update

South Entry Madrona Terrace and Irrigation Mainline Project Update

David Goldberg distributed a handout and gave updates on two projects that are currently under way (1) South Entry Madrona Terrace, and (2) Irrigation Mainlines. For the South Entry project, he reviewed the Portico proposal, the proposed project team, charette participation, and expectations of Portico staffing. A timeline for this project was distributed, listing dates for work through Phase 2 Contract Negotiations.

For the Irrigation Mainlines project, David reviewed the overall scope, schedule, and proposed project team. The irrigation project is more straightforward and will not require the type of public involvement needed by the South Entry project.

Although these two projects are not connected, the work will be coordinated. They will also be coordinated with the Wayfinding project. As soon as the contracts are finalized, staff from the various entities (City, UW, and Arboretum) will be involved in order to take advantage of each one's expertise. Margaret suggested that other Departments and agencies which will review these projects also be involved sooner, rather than later. These agencies could include Seattle Public Utilities, Landmarks Board, ABGC, etc.

Once the calendar of dates is complete, these dates will be added to the agenda for regular status reports.

Wayfinding Project Update

Jerry Ernst introduced the two consultant groups being contracted for this project:

- Chuck Lennox, Cascade Interpretive Consulting, <http://www.interpconsulting.com>
- Max Cameron and Mindy Lehrman Cameron of Lehrman Cameron Studio

The contracts with these two companies should be finalized quickly and the consultants will begin work on the project soon after. Jerry invited ABGC members to the next Advisory Group meeting, 1:00-4:00 pm, Wednesday, July 14, with these consultants. Portico representatives (handling the South Entry project) will also be invited to this meeting.

A Wayfinding Project public meeting will be scheduled Tuesday, August 3, or Wednesday, August 4. Parks staff will use the invitation list for last year's Open House and send out a meeting notice to the public that this project is starting. David will assemble a timeline for the public meeting.

Donald suggested sending a major press announcement that consultants have been selected. Deb will work with David Takami, Parks Department, and Sandra Hines, UW, on the press release. Margaret suggested that a briefing to City Council describing progress/status of the Master Plan be presented yearly.

Working Together Agreement

Sandra distributed copies of the letter from UW Dean of College of Forest Resources Bruce Bare to Parks Department Superintendent Ken Bounds and (outgoing) Arboretum Foundation President Fred Isaac, and reviewed the highlights. Deb and John W will give future updates on the Agreement to the ABGC.

Plan Next Yearly Public Information Meeting

John W urged that this meeting be kept separate from all the other meetings being planned and keep the focus on the ABGC, Arboretum, and Master Plan be shared with the public. Deb stated that a calendar listing all the meetings is currently under construction. Sandra commented that the communication strategy and public relations effort is still “piecemeal”. Deb stated that communication professionals are currently working on the ABGC communication plan and will have a report soon. MPI Group will work to set a date for the Open House.

Old Business/New Business

Operating Procedures: Donald presented the revised version for approval by the ABGC. Two items were changed. Donald moved to accept the Operating Procedures, as amended. Deb seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Deb and Sandra as ABGC Secretary and Chair will sign off on the final version and the procedures will be posted on the ABGC website.

Goals & Objectives: Attendees reviewed and updated the Goals & Objectives. A number of items have now been completed and removed from the list. At the August 4 meeting, a number of the items will have progress report.

New Business: None

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary