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Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)  
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 - July 14, 2005

Voting

Members: Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- > 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
- > David Graves, Seattle Parks Project Planner
- > Fred Hoyt, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture
- > Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
- > Larry Sinnott, Board Member, Friends of Olmsted Park Board

Absent/Excused:

- > John Behnke, Washington State Representative
- > Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appoint ee
- > Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- > David Mabberley, Washington Park Arboretum & Center for Urban Horticulture Director

Staff:

- > Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Donald Harris moved, and John Wott seconded, approval of the June 1 minutes and the July 14 agenda. Motion passed.

A copy of the July 2, 2005, University of Washington's newsletter, University Week, was circulated. The newsletter contains a story titled "Gardens Get New Umbrella Name". More than 320 acres of gardens and woodlands, including the Washington Park Arboretum, Center for Urban Horticulture, Elisabeth C. Miller Library, Ortis Hyde Herbarium, and Union Bay Natural Area all are part of this new designation of the University of Washington's Botanic Gardens.

Sandra distributed a file copy of the ABGC's July 6 letter to Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin regarding the proposed SR520 project.

Donald agreed to chair the August 3 meeting, as Sandra will be out of town.

AABGA Report

Last week, John Wott attended the American Association of Botanical Garden Arboreta (AABGA), which had 7,000 participants. During the convention, he attended the Lily Pond restoration in downtown Chicago. The landscaping at

this site has received landmark preservation designation. John will follow up on how this designation was secured. He described some elements of the meeting and some of Chicago's current efforts in its park system. The 2006 meeting will be held in San Francisco and it was agreed that ABGC representatives should attend. Seattle last sponsored the meeting in 1990. John will check for the dates of the 2006 conference and send to the ABGC.

Donald Harris referred to the recognition Seattle's Mayor Nickels received at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, recently held in Chicago. During the conference, the Mayor accepted the U.S. Conference of Mayors' "2005 City Livability Award" for his Seattle Climate Protection Initiative. City Livability Awards recognize mayors for exemplary leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in their cities. Seattle won top honors in the category for cities over 100,000. Nickels' Climate Protection Initiative is a comprehensive program to improve Seattle's quality of life and reduce global warming pollution.

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#### **Update: MPIG Report**

Michael Shiosaki reported on the following:

- (1) Irrigation Mainline Project: The draft schematic plan will be reviewed by MPIG at next week's meeting. An agenda item for the August 3 ABGC meeting will be a full report on this project.
- (2) Japanese Garden Entry Project: Seattle Parks' project planner, David Goldberg, is working with the Japanese Garden Advisory Council to finalize the draft design program. The Advisory Council is looking forward to raising funds for this project; the Arboretum Foundation will work as liaison for this fundraising. An agenda item for the August 3 ABGC meeting will be a full report on this project.
- (3) Pinetum Trail Project: Fred Hoyt reported that the design has been accepted and construction will begin over the next few weeks. He will arrange a September tour of the site for ABGC members and will present a full report at the September 7 ABGC meeting.
- (4) Madrona Terrace Project: Michael reported that staff are working to scale back this project, due to costs. Timing and funding for the relocation of the holly trees, located at Interlaken and Lake Washington Boulevard, is under way. Sandra asked if the public involvement portion of this project would be ready for a report at the August 3 ABGC meeting and Michael answered yes.
- (5) Fundraising: Ashley Clark distributed a fact sheet on the Pacific Connections Campaign, Phases I and II. She reported that last week an anonymous significant pledge was made with 1/2 the amount being designated for maintenance needs. This announcement was met with a round of applause. The goal for this Campaign, which is still in the private phase and not yet in the public phase, is \$10 million, with \$5.4 of that pledged. The Madrona Terrace Project is a segment of the Pacific Connections Campaign.

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Action: Allow extra time on August 3 agenda for full reports on the above items.

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

Seattle Parks' project planner, David Graves, gave an up date report on this Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project. WSDOT recently approached Parks, UW, and the Arboretum Foundation to sponsor community workshops to discuss the project. It was agreed that MPIG would discuss this request and bring a recommendation back to the ABGC. Members agreed that it is important for Parks, UW, and the Arboretum Foundation to become aligned on this project. A newer development is that State Initiative 912, repeal of the 9.2 cents per gallon gasoline tax, will be on the November ballot. It is unclear, if the tax is repealed, whether the SR520 project will move forward. At this time, WSDOT is moving ahead with its plans.

Sandra stated that the UW's title search for possible impacts to its properties adjoining the SR520 project is almost complete. The Seattle City Council plans to announce a resolution in regards to this project later today. (See link for details: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/council/newsdetail.asp?ID=5359&Dept=28>).

David has been attending the Madison Park Advisory Group meetings regarding a proposed bicycle connection from Madison Park to SR520 and gave a brief report on the proposal.

Action: WSDOT staff will be invited to a future meeting - after the mitigation study is complete.

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**New Business**

- ABGC website update: Sandra will e-mail a link to the new website and asked for input on the design. Only the ABGC agendas, minutes, and Goals & Objectives are planned for the site. All other information will be links to the UW, Arboretum Foundation, and Seattle Parks. A counter will be added to track the number of visits to the site. Donald Harris will check if Seattle Parks will assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the site after the re-design.
- New projects communication plan (press releases): David Takami, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Sandra Hines of the UW's public information office will work on this. David Maberley will act as lead and give a report at the August 3 meeting.
- Goals and Objectives Chart update: The chart was reviewed and a number of updates made.

The next meeting of the ABGC is scheduled for August 3. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary

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Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner

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David Maberley, Washington Park Arboretum & Center for Urban  
Horticulture Director

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*John Behnke, Washington State Representative*

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Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department Manager

Guests:

Nancy Davis, UW College of Forest Resources  
David Goldberg, Seattle Parks Department Project Manager  
Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks Department Pro Parks Manager  
Larry Sinnott, Board Member, Friends of Olmsted Park Board

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Members:

**Arboretum Foundation**

Fred Isaac, President, Arboretum Foundation

Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

**City of Seattle**

Fritz Hedges, Parks and Recreation Department Policy Director

**University of Washington**

Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor

John Wott, Arboretum Director

Guests:

Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development

Cara Mathison, Assistant Development Director, UW College of Forest

Resources

Jerry Ernst, Consultant

Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager

Neal Lessenger, Retired UW Horticulture Professor

David Goldberg, Project Planner for Arboretum Historic Study, Parks

Department

Staff:

Michele Daly for Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

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called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. John Wott moved, and Jack Collins seconded, approval of the minutes and agenda. Motion passed.

**Summary Report of March 2 Annual Retreat**

Sandra and Donald incorporated information from the retreat into the Goals and Objectives and a new version was distributed prior to the April 6 meeting. During discussion and review, a number of additional changes were made; a revised edition will be distributed prior to the May ABGC meeting.

ABGC Website: The discussion turned to the ABGC website, with focus on: (1) determining whether to continue a separate ABGC website; and (2) if it is continued, ways to improve the website. The Communications Committee will work on these issues and report back to the ABGC in April. **April or May** Deb commented that the Committee will look at the ABGC business components of the website as a separate issue from the ABGC's role in the Master Plan.

Arboretum Governance Statement: Sandra distributed a copy of the Statement. After review and one edit, it was agreed that the Statement it will be posted on the ABGC website. **(Sandra, Donald, and Deb: in the last paragraph of the Governance Statement, there is a list of MPIG members based on their titles within their respective agencies. I noted that one is "the Director of Policy and Planning of Seattle's DPR", which was Fritz's title. The position no longer exists.)**  
**Good catch. It would be Don's title then.**

Spreading the News to Government Agencies: Discussion turned to scheduling presentations on the progress of the Master Plan Implementation. It was agreed that regular briefings should be presented to City Council, the UW Regents, and Washington State Governor. The Board of Park Commissioners will be briefed in May. Sandra has some leftover funds which could be used by Jerry Ernst to put together a presentation. It was suggested that David Maberley attend these briefings. **(Does this sound correct?) not sure- I'll leave it for someone else's memory**

Six City Council members recently attended the dedication of Duck Bay. Deb is now working to arrange a walking tour of the Arboretum for all interested Council members. Jack requested that the Arboretum historical report be sent to the Councilmembers. David Goldberg commented that this information is on Parks website and accessible from there. Dr. Maberley commented that it isn't yet posted on the CUH website.

***Action items:***

Sandra will distribute the list of names invited to the March 2 retreat and ask for any additional names to invite to the December retreat. When this list is completed, she will forward to Sandy, who will send out a "hold the date" e-mail.

Communications Committee will report on the website at the April **April or May** meeting.

A series of implementation briefings will be prepared and scheduled for City Council, UW Regents, and the Washington State Governor.

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### **MPIG Report**

The Master Plan Implementation Group met the previous Monday and Michael Shiosaki was selected as the new chair. He reported on various projects:

*Pinetum Trail*: Parks is spending \$85,000 for trail and drainage at this site, with the work scheduled for June and July.

*Japanese Garden*: The Japanese Garden Society [has](#)

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[NO?advisory council. The society has disbanded](#) has submitted proposals to MPIG on ways to spend some of the Pro Parks dollars allocated to the Arboretum

*Space Needs*: David Maberley and Fred Hoyt prepared a three-year space needs paper. Fred is currently doing more analysis and then the report will be brought to the ABGC.

*Strategy*: There was a brief discussion on strategy — address space needs, then staff needs, then implementation

### **SR520 Report**

The first it [was David's first meeting by not arboretum people as a whole.](#)

[This might be misleading. How about a recent meeting....](#)formal meeting with WSDOT was considered useful and productive. David Maberley stated that Deb gave a good presentation on the [I think he said on the arboretum including the](#) Museum of History and Industry and the loss of this building

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. The second meeting is scheduled for April 19. David Maberley, Deb Andrews, and Ken Bounds will attend. **Sorry, I don't mean to be picky, but Don Harris, Neal**

**Lessenger are also on the list of people. Are these the only names that were**

**listed? SANDRA LIER attended as well** The discussion then turned to light rail and its possible impacts on the SR520 project and, in turn, the Arboretum. WSDOT staff will be invited back to the ABGC in the near future.

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### **Old business/new business**

None

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Fred Isaac, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Chair Sandra Lier, Sarah Neilson and Margaret Ceis were excused from the meeting.

Approval of agenda and minutes

The minutes of the January 14, 2004 meeting were approved as presented. The February 11th agenda was amended to include a "Review and Approval of Scopes of Work for Irrigation Mainlines and South Entry/Madrona Terrace projects" by David Goldberg, Project Planner.

### **Washington Park Arboretum South Entry – Madrona Terrace Project Draft Design Program and Washington Park Arboretum Irrigation Mainlines Project Draft Design Programs**



**David Goldberg distributed copies and led a review of the Draft Design Programs for the South Entry – Madrona Terrace Project and the Irrigation Mainlines Project. The design programs will be used basically as cookbooks by a designer, project manager, reviewer or anybody that needs to understand the Design Intents (project elements, design considerations, scope and design services), Public Involvement Process (schematic design phase, design development, construction documents, bidding, construction, department and city reviews, permitting and environmental review, technical qualifications), Schedule, Design Fees and Construction Budgets, Review Process (ongoing notification, public meetings and notification, design input group, decision making), Technical Project Reviews (reviews and approvals, environmental review, permits, coordination and compliance and standards).**

### Irrigation Mainlines

The Irrigation Mainlines Project Design Program expresses the project objectives for establishing a new irrigation mainline system. The master plan proposes that three, north/south 8” diameter mainlines along the east, west and hilltops paths and associated valves, serve individual gardens and landscaped areas. The existing irrigation is based on a system that dates back to the 1930s. It can no longer be repaired or augmented to serve the future needs of the Arboretum. The intent of the design program is to establish project direction for completing the necessary analysis and design to create irrigation mainlines that will serve as the backbone for all future irrigation in the Arboretum. The irrigation system improvements must be completed prior to the completion of additions to the plant collections.

Fred Isaac noted the public is concerned where the lines are going. The consultant will complete the necessary research and analysis to develop recommendations for a new irrigation mainline which will identify possible system configurations and pros and cons for the options.

### South Entry/Madrona Terrace

Renovating existing features and developing new elements that are recommended by the Master Plan will improve the southern entry area of the Arboretum. The South Entry/Madrona Terrace project will be the first major step to implement the Master Plan and will create strong visual and functional improvements that re-establish this key entry to the central portion of the Arboretum. Once the ABGC approves the Design Program, any changes must be approved in writing by ABGC.

The consultant will be conducting two or more Design Input Group charrettes during schematic design. Two public workshops will be held during the design phase and an additional meeting will be required during design development. The Parks Public Involvement Policy establishes procedures for soliciting and considering public input in the review of proposals.

Tom Hinckley asked about having someone on the team to address the sustainable components of the project. David Goldberg stated the sustainability language is still being developed and will be taken into account as the team is assembled.

**David summarized comments received to date. John Wott had concerns about the roles and a separate list has been prepared which re-enforces the roles and responsibilities for the project. There were some questions regarding qualifications, which have been addressed, e.g. adding architectural expertise for shelter design and signage. The consultant will be required to complete a detailed cost estimate. David clarified the roles of the various groups. Design Input Group (DIG) will provide design input and review. Additionally the staff Project Team role will be to will assist with defining project objectives and will provide**

**technical input, reviews and approvals to the ABGC, e.g. making sure irrigation valve proper for specific plants and soil. Fred Isaac suggested the Arboretum Foundation should have the option to include a representative on the project team. The Project Team membership will be revised to reflect that. Fritz Hedges noted that the budget included is a starting point and the design team of consultants will be asked to do schematics for the entire scope and after that process is completed we will see how much money is left to do the design development and preparation of construction documents and construction.**

Tom Hinckley moved to accept the two documents with the editorial comment that these documents are a work in process and are the foundation to initiate the process but the final may be reworded. Fritz Hedges seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The next step is to advertise and hire a consultant. Fritz Hedges noted the MPI group would be involved in the consultant selection process. John Wott asked about the survey status and David Goldberg will ask if the Department's surveyors have the capability or if a private firm should be selected. Tom Hinckley noted that the consultant will need to coordinate with UW who is leading the wayfinding and signage plan. An electronic version of the documents will be sent to the UW for use as template. The protocol will be written out and reviewed at the next ABGC.

**Japanese Garden Forest Exterior Management Plan**The respective selection committees interviewed three firms and made a recommendation to the preferred consultant for The MPI Group concurred with the selection committee recommendations.

Fritz Hedges introduced Mark Mead, Parks Senior Urban Forester. Mark informed the Committee that Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs) are written to guide the growth, development and maintenance of parks and open spaces. Each VMP is designed to bring together the diverse interests at work and at play in a park or open space, and inform and direct the actions of the organizations and individuals that manage it. The VMP is approximately 40 pages long and will be posted on the web when finalized. Mark explained due to a limited budget, copies were not made and distributed to the Committee. Mark outlined the plan using a power point presentation. The VMP includes a site plan (introduction, description, history, goals, public process and management area recommendations). The goals and objectives include overall park goals and Urban Forestry Program Objectives. The context of the plan includes history, previous plans and policies, summary of citizen concerns, vegetation-related uses. An assessment of the existing resource, findings and recommendations are presented. Best Management and Maintenance Practices are used. Implementation includes the overall approach, priorities, costs, strategies and funding sources. The cedars in the Japanese Garden backdrop are dying off. Adjacent property owners have expressed concerns and the trail system is a significant issue. There are impacts of urbanization including disturbance and compaction. There are invasives including English ivy and blackberry bushes. There is decay in the aging tree population and there are approximately three or four trees in between the garden and the surrounding neighborhood. There is approximately \$20,000 budgeted for the plan. The next step includes trail improvements (if the trails program will work in the long term goals), blackberry removal and a reforestation program to fill in the canopy gaps. It is suggested to use Red Alder in Zone 1. The zones are prioritized by issues. If the canopy gaps are not filled in more invasives will grow and be the backdrop to the Garden. Parks has reviewed the plan with Japanese Garden Advisory Committee. A great public benefit would be provided for a minimal investment in crushed rock and one or two culverts/raised boardwalk in the wet area on the limited trail area. The MPIG will be asked to review the trail improvement and come back to ABGC with a recommendation.

**WSDOT – 520 Bridge Status**

Julie Meredith Engineering Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation and Laurie Parker of CH2M Hill briefed the ABGC on the SR 520 Bridge replacement and HOV project status. The purpose is to improve mobility for people and goods on 520 while minimizing negative impacts on neighborhoods and the environment. Increasing mobility means getting people to where they want to be as quickly as possible by using multiple modes of transportation including cars, buses, bicycles, pedestrians, trucks and trains. Aging portions of the corridor are nearing the end of their design life and need replacement. A 46-member Study Committee to a comprehensive look at improving the way people move across and around the lake and made several recommendations. Committees, supported by a technical team, are carrying the recommendations forward into further design and evaluation. An environmental impact statement will help the project's lead agencies and committees select a final preferred alternative for implementation. Both WSDOT and Sound Transit are committed to environmental stewardship. There will be opportunities on 520 to better manage stormwater runoff for the benefit of salmon and other aquatic species. Another environmental improvement being planned includes reducing the amount of noise pollution from 520 in surrounding neighborhoods. A SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV project EIS Alternatives Summary and a Figure 6-1 SR 520 Recommended Bridge Profile, Stormwater Treatment and Discharge Locations were distributed to the Committee. The Alternatives include 4-lane (\$1.5 - 1.9 billion), 6-Lane (\$2.1 - 2.5 billion) and 8-Lane \$2.9 -3.4 billion). The 6-lane roadway has been selected as the preliminary preferred alternative.

Public workshops have been held with people of various interests. The Stormwater Treatment Wetland at the MOHAI site will be further investigated as the Arboretum Master Plan identifies administration office space at MOHAI. Jerry Ernst noted the bridge and associated ramps will be quite a bit higher and there will be visual impacts. The whole project will be like a spider over the Arboretum area and it will have a different relationship to the landscape. There are noise concerns. An article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer February 10 concerning the Seattle Public Library and Museum of History and Industry was mentioned. MOHAI plans to relocate from Montlake to the convention center possibly as late as 2017. There is a lid proposed over 520 before Montlake for a passive, open space area. John Wott would like the Arboretum involved in planting and landscape discussions. Tom Hinckley wondered if a structure could be included for office space on the lid. Tom also mentioned bike lane links to the Arboretum need to be considered. The Arboretum Foundation has gone on record to watch this project carefully and is reserving comment. Each entity has its own interests as individual and group. Laurie Parker stated the next six months are critical for discussions and schedule. First drafts of the DEIS are being completed this summer. A draft EIS is planned for the spring of 2005 with early construction to begin in 2008 if construction funding is identified. The ABGC will be kept apprised of the proposed project by WSDOT staff briefings.

**Old Business/New Business**

Agenda items "Update on Operating Procedures" and "Review Goals and Objectives" were deferred to the next meeting.

**John Wott and Margaret Ceis formed an ad hoc nominating committee and forwarded their recommendations of Chair Sandra Lier, Vice Chair Fritz Hedges and Secretary Deb Andrews to the ABGC. The slate of officers was approved unanimously.**

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There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m

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