

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
June 10, 2009**

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- 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
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

Excused:

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Director
- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee
- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Others Present:

- Lisa Chen, Seattle Parks Horticulturist
- Tim Gallagher, Seattle Parks, Superintendent
- Fred Hoyt, UWBG, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Elizabeth Loudon, former UWBG Education & Outreach Manager

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, 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 Vice-Chair Paige Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and the agenda was approved. Donald introduced Lisa Chen, Seattle Parks Horticulturist. Ms. Chen oversees the work of Parks' gardeners assigned to the Arboretum and will periodically attend ABGC meetings. Paige thanked Lisa for working closely with the Arboretum Foundation.

Attendance at Upcoming Meetings:

- Barbara will be absent from the July meeting; Skip Vonckx will attend as her representative
- Sandra will be absent from the August 5 meeting and Paige may be absent
- Tim will be absent from the October 14 meeting

Proclamation

Due to budget cuts, the position of Education and Outreach Manager for the University of Washington's Botanic Garden was recently eliminated. Elizabeth Loudon has held this position for several years. ABGC members asked Ms. Loudon to attend this meeting to thank her for all her accomplishments and hard work on behalf of the Botanic Gardens. Jack Collins read a proclamation that read, in part:

*" **Whereas**, Elizabeth Jane Loudon, has achieved greatness in her many roles as Manager of Public Education and Outreach at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens; and*

***Whereas**, Elizabeth initiated, designed, and produced a wonderful, full-color trail map of the Washington Park Arboretum in English, Spanish, and Japanese; and*

***Whereas**, Elizabeth initiated and oversaw the design and production of a full-color brochure and interpretive signage for the Pacific Connections Gardens; and*

***Whereas**, Elizabeth was the University of Washington Botanic Gardens lead for the massive, carefully organized, and hugely successful multi-cultural celebration for the grand opening of the Pacific Connections Garden; and*

***Whereas**, Elizabeth led the effort to produce a series of audio tours of the Center for Urban Horticulture and the Pacific Connections Garden, and these tours have permitted people around the world to listen to the garden designers and experts tell interesting, amusing, and historically accurate stories about these facilities;*

***Whereas**, Elizabeth's accomplishments, personal style, and strategic thinking have left an indelible mark on the University of Washington Botanic Gardens;*

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Dave Towne and Sandra Lier hereby dedicate and proclaim

June 10, 2009, as: Elizabeth J. Loudon Day in all of the pieces and parts of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and invite everyone who sees her to congratulate her and wish her well in her new adventures.

All present at the meeting thanked Ms. Loudon for her excellent work for the Botanic Gardens and wished her future success.

Budget Updates

Arboretum Foundation

Paige reported that the Arboretum Foundation Board recently passed its budget, which included the UW's request to fully fund the arborist and education programs. As reported at last month's meeting, the Board eliminated one staff position — that of Development Director. The Foundation's recently-approved operating budget is \$1 million and its capital budget varies each year from \$.5 million to \$1.5 million. The 2009 capital budget is \$.5 million.

University of Washington

Fred reported no cuts were taken from the UW's Arboretum funds; however, the merger of several of the colleges into the College of the Environment, including the College of Forest Resources, may result in additional budget changes.

City of Seattle

Tim reported that there have been no additional changes to Seattle Parks' budget since he reported at the May 13 meeting; however, the City's budget will undergo additional revisions in August and there may then be additional cuts. The Department has not reduced its funding for the Arboretum.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG)

Phase II Presentation: Michael Shiosaki was scheduled to present information and drawings on Phase II of the Master Plan; however, he could not attend today's meeting and asked to re-schedule the update until the July 8 meeting.

The Arboretum Foundation plans to contract with Cistus Nursery of Sauvie Island, Oregon, <http://www.cistus.com/> to provide plantings for the New Zealand garden and a portion of the plants for the Cascadia garden. Fred, Andy Sheffer, and staff from the Berger Partnership (consultants on Phase II) visited Cistus last week and had a positive meeting. The nursery's owner was the former curator of the University of California at Berkley's botanic garden. The costs for plants for the New Zealand garden are estimated at \$70-100,000.

Parks' project review team (Pro View) is working with Berger to better define the list of needed plants. The review resulted in a helpful three-page critique. ABGC members complimented Andy Sheffer for his excellent project management skills during the Master Plan implementation.

MPIG and ABGC Roles: At the May meeting, Jack asked for a discussion at ABGC to better understand the role of the Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) and how it reports its actions back to the full ABGC. Sandra suggested that this is an excellent retreat item. The next retreat is scheduled on November 4, 8:00 am-1:00 pm.

City Councilmember Rasmussen to Attend August 5 ABGC Meeting: Councilmember Rasmussen has been invited to attend the full meeting of the ABGC on August 5. The agenda will include 20 minutes or so for him to address the ABGC. Information will then be presented to him on the major components of the Pacific Connections gardens, and include some info on the plant lists for the new gardens. Paige suggested that the Lake Washington Boulevard traffic issues that negatively impact the Arboretum be a topic of discussion, including the intersection at Boyer. In addition, this is a good opportunity to discuss the negative impacts of the SR520 project to the Arboretum, as well as creek/stormwater damage.

The July 8 agenda will include time to refine the August 5 presentations and discussion.

Update: SR 520 Project

Theresa reported that Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) invited members of the "consulting parties" to a June 24 meeting to develop an outline and timeline, as well as determine impacts to various stakeholders' property and buildings from the SR520 project. WSDOT stated that it wants to avoid impacting these property and buildings; however, if it is unavoidable, it will mitigate impacts or pay damages. Paige stated that the ABGC needs to understand what will need mitigation

and determine what it needs to do next. Fred volunteered to attend the meeting with Paige and Theresa.

Paige reported that the State Legislature adjourned this past session with few decisions made on SR520. The decision was made to begin tolling the road in 2010 and move ahead with replacing the floating sections of the bridge. The Legislature did not approve for either the east side or west side of the bridge project to move forward, and it did not select a preferred alternative.

Arboretum Drive

Tim reported that the new signs notifying the public that Arboretum Drive is closed to vehicle traffic have been ordered. Barbara visited the Arboretum this past Sunday and saw very few people using the road and asked if the Department will promote biking. Tim responded that the nearby Lake Washington Boulevard Sunday bicycle program attracts a large attendance and most bicyclists may have been there.

Paige and Barbara have previously reported men in vehicles who continue to drive on the road and into the Arboretum for illicit behavior. Donald encouraged staff at Graham Visitor Center and other Arboretum staff to report the illicit behavior to Seattle Police Department. He will also discuss the problem with SPD.

Joint Fundraising Committee

The Joint Fundraising Committee met on Thursday, June 4. Donald reported that the Development and Advancement Committee - that includes Greg Sheridan and Wendy Kelley of the UW, Julia Maywald from the Arboretum Foundation, and Donald as the City's representative - are working together extremely well on fundraising efforts for the Arboretum and UW Botanic Gardens. Paige and Barbara commented that they have been reporting back to the Arboretum Foundation that this new joint fundraising effort is working well.

The JF Committee reviewed the Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects as put forth by the Capital Project subcommittee. Tier 1 projects are planned for funding within the next three years. The list reflects whether the Arboretum Foundation (AF) or University (UW) will take the lead on the projects. This is the first time the AF and UW have presented a joint list of projects for fundraising!

- UW Children's Gardens
- UW Union Bay Natural Area
- AF Ridgetop Trail
- AF Inter Foster Island and Arboretum Drive
- AF Rhodie Glen
- AF Interpretive Signage

Staff are not actively raising funds for these next two Tier 2 level projects:

- UW Office space
- UW Specialty gardens

New/Old Business

UW Regents Tour: The UW Regents will tour the Arboretum on July 15. The July 8 meeting agenda includes time to fine tune this presentation. Paige suggested that the ABGC discuss the proposal for a 25 cent surcharge as part of the 520 tolling to benefit the Arboretum with Councilmember Rasmussen. This surcharge, which would help mitigate some of the negative impacts of the 520 project on the Arboretum, would amount to approximately \$700,000 annually.

Washington Park Arboretum's 75th Anniversary Celebration/Alaskan-Yukon-Pacific 100 Year Anniversary: Theresa and Paige distributed handouts describing events for both these celebrations. All are encouraged to attend, especially the July 18 old fashioned ice cream social at the Arboretum. For more information on Arboretum anniversary events, see www.uwbotanicgardens.org. For more information on A-Y-P events, see <http://www.washington.edu/visit/aype/>. For more information on the original Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska-Yukon-Pacific_Exposition.

Kayaking: Paige reported that Arboretum staff are working to develop a map of the Arboretums waterways for kayakers.

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

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Theresa Doherty, ABGC Secretary