

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – June 11, 2014

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.

Voting Members

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- Excused, Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

University of Washington

- *Excused*, Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Asst. Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- *Excused*, Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- *Excused*, David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Projects & Planning Division Construction/Major Maintenance Manager

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

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

Partners Committee:

AF: Paige Miller & Craig Trueblood
City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams
Michael Shiosaki & Leah Tivoli
UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG): AF: Paige Miller & John Wott

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Theresa Doherty & Fred Hoyt

Opening Items

The June meeting of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is called to order at 8:37am. Jack adds an agenda item under old/new business relating to his recent trip to Minnesota. The

Agenda is approved with Jack's addition. Craig moves to approve April 9 and May 14 meeting minutes and Sarah seconds; the minutes are approved.

Parks, Arboretum Foundation and University of Washington updates will be postponed for after the presentation on SR520.

Presentation: SR520

- West Approach Bridge North Project Update
- Update on the unfunded elements of the SR 520 corridor

The construction is starting this summer on the West Approach Bridge North (WABN).

What is funded? Pontoons are being constructed in Aberdeen and linked up on the water. The eastside lids and transit center are taking form. The portion connecting Montlake to the floating bridge.

The SR520 Team introductions:

- Brian Dobbins – Construction and Engineering Manager; he worked on the East side of the will be working with highly interested communities, received his Masters in engineering at UW.
- James Vanstenberg is the Deputy Construction Manager and comes from Florida. He worked on large governmental experience and was hand selected to help with the team.
- Kristin Sandstrom has a long history with this community and brings that with her to help WSDOT with the process and will be the WABN communications lead.

West Approach Bridge North will connect 6000ft long bridge to the main line SR520 as one approaches the Montlake interchange. Included in this work will be a 14-foot wide multi-use path; a place for a storm water retention pond, and the removal of the large RH Thomson westbound ramps. The 24th street will be lengthened. Improvements to Montlake Boulevard will include ADA accessibility curb cuts and widening sidewalks to 10feet. To create the least amount of issues, most of the work on Montlake will be done at night because of the amount of traffic; residents will get plenty of notice.

Timeline

The tentative deadline for the opening for WABN will be June 2017.

First 4-6 months – install mile long temporary work bridge. The workers will cut brush by hand and the logs that are cut will be left down so that they will become habitat. They will fence trees. Fred and Sarah offered to put price tags on trees to prohibit damage. Brian states that he offers incentives to his contractors for being good neighbors. He acknowledges that no heavy equipment is allowed on Foster Island and he understands what a sensitive area in which they will be working while constructing over the wetlands.

For the ARCH memorial the contractors will cut the date stamp and put it at Magnuson to store them for use in the North Entry.

Stage 2: Contractors will create a mile-long temporary bridge to build the permanent bridge; they will have to drill in 30inch wide pilons. Brian assures the ABGC that construction won't be started until after 7am and will stop before 5pm. Path under 520 will be closed for a max 180 days over 3 years.

WSDOT will provide informational kiosks in various locations that will address construction issues and trail closures.

Stage 3: finish bridge and make the connections; September 2017 take out the work bridge. Staging area will be fenced off.

Contractor access to Foster Island: There are limitations on how the crews are able to get to work; they cannot use boats with propellers or heavy equipment – they get 3 weekends to build an elevated platform and put their cranes on them. Discussion about where construction crews will park their cars ensues. It is still in discussion but will probably be in the parking lot off Lake Washington Boulevard and the workers will walk to and from the construction site.

Sarah asks about impacts to kayak and canoe; the kayak landing will stay open. There will be information for boaters at the kiosks.

Department of Ecology will have requirements for the contractors to wrap the work bridge to prevent debris and materials from landing in the water and keep it contained.

Communication and Outreach

Their goal will be to keep people informed; the contractor will put together their work plan and will have an open house to communicate and manage expectations. There will be monthly public meetings at which to have dialogues with the community. Fred will be the ABGC delegate to the monthly meetings for updates.

Other ideas for communications from WSDOT: Arboretum Foundation and Arboretum website; kiosk at waterfront activity center too?

Theresa clarifies seeing them out there in September; wrapping the trees in orange fencing will be the first step.

Rest of the West

Seattle community design process; took baseline design and met with the community at which time they heard feedback on the baseline design and are working to change and refine it to fit better in the community. WSDOT included feedback and report to legislation and worked with Seattle Design Commission (SDC) and City Council. City Council endorsed the majority of design preferences, except they felt the Montlake lid needed work to make it smarter and ensure it connects all communities and took into consideration non- motorized connectivities. Also, further study Portage Bay bridge designs.

WSDOT received money to work with the city and SDC to use feedback from 2011-2012 and give options to the public. Presenting work plan to transportation committee on June 24; September 9 will meet with transportation committee; city staff recommending their choice as WSDOT updates cost estimates; as design is refined the budget will need to be updated.

There is no consensus regarding the Portage Bay bridge design. The 520 corridor – how nature meets city? VIA Architectures will be working with SVR architects and the Berger partnership on the Montlake lid which is great and exciting.

2nd bascule bridge – This has been a controversial issue; city staff have been collaborating with King County Metro and WSDOT to ascertain whether that will be necessary and will be presenting to council for a recommendation.

WSDOT would like to come back to update the ABGC in August or September.

Funding

WSDOT says they are expecting to receive a portion of the additional \$1.4 billion for the project from I-90 tolling and they are working with legislature to pass funding for a transportation package. Next session is critical for 520; the city is sending a signal to the state that they are ready for this to happen.

The ABGC thanks the WSDOT presenters for coming out and giving the ABGC a great update.

Update: RH Thomson – Andy has coordinated closely with ARCH group to come to consensus about what everyone wants to save. He will draft an informal agreement with WSDOT to memorialize an understanding about what needs to be saved from demolition.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Arboretum Foundation

Personnel: Paige hired a new Finance Manager; he is a CPA. His most recent position was controller of EMP and he used to work as an auditor for Clark Nuber. He is really bringing a skilled background. He wants to work 60%. He seems very excited about the job.

Long-time office manager gave notice because she lives in Tacoma and it's 4 hours round-trip for her; she got a job at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. Her last day will be on the 26th. Paige posted the job yesterday.

University of Washington

Education staff person new hire – parent of a kid in the fiddlehead program and she'll help with the camps. The UW has found a way to put SR520 mitigation money into an endowment; looking at how to do the transfer. Sarah may keep some of it in the pocket for project money.

Budget: No Changes; possible raise for faculty.

Ethics and Elections: Taking a position on the Parks ballot measure

The ABGC cannot take a position on the Seattle Parks and Recreation funding ballot measure since there are city employees on the board. Furthermore, the UWBG would have to speak with the state's ethics and elections if they wanted to take a position since they get public funding also. The Arboretum Foundation has already stated their support for the ballot measure.

Discussion: Broadmoor

Michael, Paige and Sarah had a productive meeting on May 27 with Ian Taylor and Theresa Doyle – from the Homeowners Association and the Director of Security. They were well aware of the issue. Golf club and homeowners are separate entities. They acknowledged that they are a part of the problem. There are 2 issues – blocking the road and parking in our lot.

Solutions:

Signage – Broadmoor uses a ticketing system so they will add information on the back stating that the contractors cannot park in the Foster Island parking lot. Apparently, Broadmoor has very strict policies on how many contractors can be parked in front of their houses. They had a good attitude; a lot of the construction is due to one house and the project is almost done. UWBG staff will keep an eye on this and see if it improves.

During the meeting with the Broadmoor folks, Michael brought up the 3-way stop and the Broadmoor people thought it was a great idea!

The ABGC will continue to brainstorm solutions for the contractor problems; perhaps the big trucks could wait on Madison until it was time to enter.

MPIG:

Arboretum Loop Trail (ALT) - 65% construction documents; working on SDOT review of street improvement project; obtaining Army Corps permit for wetland mitigation. Design commission will get involved. Construction to start in April 2015; South half first, then north half.

Plant replacements in New Zealand forest – about 10% mortality rate – 950 plants. Ray Larson and UWBG staff are working on dealing with the nursery to receive replacement plants.

Waterfront trail – Parks is applying for a Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant to match shoreline mitigation money. The RCO grant requires data so Parks is installing infrared people counters.

North side of overlook – there are a series of old stone that form a stairway; will eliminate access point and establish a trail between Rhododendron Glen and the overlook.

Sign Policy: MPIG reviewed the temporary Fiddlehead sign. There are also signs going in the Japanese Garden parking lot suggesting people take their valuables with them. Prior to a new sign policy being formed and implemented, Jack inquires if MPIG will be the group approving signs? Michael feels that this would not be a suitable task for MPIG since they primarily deal with capital projects. A sign committee is formed with Fred, Sarah, Doug and Paige to form a reasonable sign policy.

Old/New Business

Jack went to Swarthmore reunion; the Scott Arboretum was beautiful. Scott paper company is a huge donor to the Arboretum. They do a lot of research and I'll be getting more information.

Longwood Gardens - \$30 for 2 to go into the Longwood Gardens, formerly a Dupont estate. The grounds are very formal and there are arboreta collections. They have an orchid collection that is astonishing and the grounds are vast. They have 750 volunteers!

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum – 30 miles from campus. In 1908 they started a botany research on this site with 250 people doing research; northernmost arboretum in the country. Research centered on things that are hearty enough to grow in their climate. The Arboretum is 1200 acres. Jack spent a great amount of time with the Directors and they praised Sarah and sent John Wott their regards. They use infrared people counters to collect data. Michael says they are buying two to use on the waterfront trail but Paige agrees with Jack that having the counters around the Arboretum would give us a better idea of a headcount.

American Public Garden Association (APGA) Conference report from Sarah in July.

There being no other new business the meeting adjourns at 10:04am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair