

Approved

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 – June 4, 2003

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Fred Isaac, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

- Margaret Ceis
- Fritz Hedges, Parks and Recreation Department Policy Director
- Sarah Neilson, Park Board of Commissioners

University of Washington

- Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Associate V-P for Business Services
- John Wott, Arboretum Director

Washington State Representative

- Excused

Excused: John Behnke

Permanent

Guests:

- Neal Lessenger, University of Washington
- Tom Mentele, Director of Development, UW College of Forest Resources

Staff: Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Others:

David Goldberg, Parks Department Project Manager
Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
Paul Gibson
Susan Boyle, Consultant for Historical Project
Karen Kiest, Landscape Architect for Historical Project

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of agenda and minutes

Deb clarified information in the minutes:

- in the future, only the nine voting members will be listed as absent or excused

- all attendees will be listed
- as audience participation increases, a sign-up sheet will be distributed

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 2 and May 7, 2003. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Historic Study Final Draft Update

A second draft of the Historic Study was distributed. The final version is scheduled for completion by July 1.

Susan Boyle, of BOLA Architecture + Planning, and Karen Kiest, of Landscape Architects, gave an overview of this draft. The most requested addition to the first draft by ABGC members was for more details and what has happened through the timeline of the Arboretum. The Visual Assessment begins on page 66. The ABGC was asked to review the Visual Assessment list and let David know if anything else should be included. Each Visual Assessment page will include the name of the key view; original designer; original builder; original construction date; reference plans; history; current conditions; and assessment.

John asked how the consultants are addressing pathway views at sites that have been lost due to vegetation growth. At one time, these were also viewpoints. Karen stated that there is lots of documentation from the 1950's and WPA era which is being reviewed. John stressed that having this information in a way the public can understand it is a critical element in the re-design. He asked Karen and Susan to note this type of information as a reference tool for the re-design planners.

John also suggested that photos boxed up during the Miller Library fire be reviewed. Deb said she looked at pictures located upstairs. There are photos in the basement of the Visitor Center that are historical and care should be taken to preserve them.

Susan described the work done on the project during the last four weeks, which was very helpful to her and Karen: (1) information gathered at the Olmsted Conference; (2) a graduate student's thesis titled "WPA Historic Land Use", which included a good summary of information compiled by Don Sherwood, former City employee; (3) addition of many historic photos; and (4) creation of new maps. Additional maps from 1910-1930 and 1940-present will be added.

Susan said a difficult question is "when does history end and the present begin?" 50 years is the general national cutoff; however, there are some important Landmark Preservation Board decisions that were made in the last 25 years. ABGC members are also part of the current history.

David said the research process for the project has been good and includes a history of the people involved and their decisions and a history of the physical developments at the Arboretum. After the study is finalized, the next step is to look at the Implementation Plan and regulatory hurdles and come up with options to address historical resources as the ABGC moves forward with the Master Plan Implementation. After an approach has been determined, the group must come up with a specific plan to get there.

Action: ABGC members were asked to return final comments to David no later than June 13.

Draft Committee Bylaws – Review and Discussion

Sandra thanked members for their comments on the draft bylaws prepared and presented by Neal at the May 7 meeting. She asked if the duties are specific enough and should the Goals and Objectives review be added? Sarah said she likes the concept, however, it may suggest another layer of bureaucracy. Neal said

this is a good point — members know what the ABGC should do, the bylaws are to help it determine how to get there.

Sandra said the ABGC is an advisory — not an oversight — group of the Arboretum. Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds and University of Washington Dean of College Resources Bruce Bare make any final decisions. Fritz stated that once the bylaws are finalized, both the City and UW have agreed to run them through their legal counsel.

Fritz commented that the purpose and mission was from 1934. Neal said that he would list the responsibilities in more detail.

Action: Neal will remove the paragraph describing the purpose of the ABGC, include other suggested changes, and send a draft to Sandra and Fritz. He will cc: other members.

Implementation Plan Update

Fred and Deb gave an update. Fred said that generally, they are where they expected to be. Deb said the May retreat was well run and participatory, with a diverse group coming together with similar ideas for the Arboretum. Portico is currently working to prioritize the process and will re-convene the group soon. Fritz stressed that Portico lists the plant collection as a high priority. Fred agreed and said that donors' interests are tied to the plants in the Arboretum. Michael said that there will be a mix of "sexy, non-sexy" improvements: basic infrastructure, along with the plant collection enhancements. Deb said the priorities would be (1) plant collection; (2) education; and (3) infrastructure.

Tom H stated that one person at the retreat said the Arboretum "looks tired." John W said 8-9 years ago he heard that from a Director's group. Staff and others who see the Arboretum every day become accustomed to its look and don't see that everything doesn't look that great.

Action: The final Implementation Plan will be brought to the ABGC soon, possibly at the July 9 meeting.

New/Old Business:

- John W gave a brief update on the Duck Bay Project. Project manager Colleen Brown is verifying if the Fish and Wildlife agency has final jurisdiction on how close to the water the proposed pads can be placed. John will report back to the ABGC after Colleen has a decision from the agency.
- The Goals & Objectives were reviewed. Sandra will send an updated version to everyone; please bring to the July 9 meeting for updates and discussion.
- Fritz will report on the Public Involvement Policy at the July 9 meeting.
- Tom H reports that the UW faculty has voted to accept a candidate as Director of the Center for Urban Horticulture. The Dean is traveling to Santa Barbara to negotiate with this candidate and to visit the site the candidate currently manages.
- Tom said there will be a single e-mail address on the web site to contact ABGC members. It must yet be determined who will monitor this site.
- Sandra is working to schedule a strategic planning meeting.
- A brief discussion was held on how the Arboretum facilities are scheduled. The City schedules grounds and the UW schedules UW and Arboretum events. Fritz will take the lead on coordinating scheduling, work with John W, and give an update at the July meeting.

Members were reminded that the next meeting will be on July 9.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary