

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

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

Minutes – June 2, 2004

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Department Manager

University of Washington

- John Wott, Arboretum Director

Absent:

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Sarah Neilson, Board of Park Commissioner
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor
- John Behnke, Washington State Representative

Guests:

- Susan Black
- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- David Goldberg, Parks Department project manager
- Neal Lessenger, Retired UW Administration
- Cara Mathison, Assistant Development Director, UW College of Forest Resources
- Tim Motzer, Parks Department project manager
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier was out of town; Donald Harris and Deb Andrews co-chaired. The meeting was called to order at 8:36 am. **John Wott moved approval of the May 5 minutes. Fred Isaac seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed.** The agenda was amended.

Arboretum Shoreline and Trail Improvement Project

Tim Motzer, Parks Department project manager, gave a briefing on this project. He displayed a large drawing of the project and its location within the Arboretum. Anchor Environmental was hired as the designer and has completed the 95% construction plans and specifications. The building permit for the bridge has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Development. Bidding will take place in June and July, with work starting on the project the last week in July. All in-water work based upon the permits must be completed by October 30, with the remaining project work being completed by the end of November.

A portion of the Arboretum will be closed during construction. Tim stated that canoeists and kayakers will be especially impacted by the closure. ABGC members stressed the importance of ample closure notice to the public. Tim agreed to do so. ABGC suggested signs be posted at Museum of History and Industry, as well as in the Arboretum; Tim said the signs will go up this month (June.) John W asked if parking will be impacted. Tim answered that the staging area and construction site will require approximately 30 spaces of the parking near Graham Visitor Center. Donald asked if the loss of these parking spaces will affect football parking for the UW. John W stated that parking in the Arboretum to attend the football games is an inappropriate use of the Arboretum's parking stalls.

An additional problem is the morning construction traffic that will need to travel through the Broadmoor area. Tim will work with the contractors and with the Broadmoor security staff to ensure a smooth process.

ABGC asked if any trees will be removed. Tim and John W answered that a few cottonwoods will be removed, and some old and dying trees from the tree collection may be removed.

Susan Black asked about the bridge design and recommended that it include stonework (the current design is a wood bridge on concrete base.) The winning bid amount will determine if there are extra funds to embellish the bridge. ABGC agreed that the stonework would be desirable; however, Michael Shiosaki and John W stated that, if there are leftover project funds, "extras" would need to be discussed and prioritized.

SR520 Arterial/Street Improvement Study Update

John W reported:

- A letter regarding the SR520 Widening project, unanimously approved by the ABGC at its May 2 meeting, was sent to the Seattle City Council.
- Arboretum staff met with two consultants, who gave detailed updates on the project. The 8-lane option has been dropped; the 4- and 6-lane options are still on the table. A high span (maybe 80') is still being envisioned. John W said this would cause the Arboretum both noise and visual impacts. The old ramps will be removed and new ramps installed. It is evident that the consultants are concerned with getting vehicles on and off the SR520 bridge — and not on the impact to the nearby neighborhoods.

Master Plan Implementation Group Update

Jerry Ernst has moved his office and has a new phone number, 206-652-0599, and a new e-mail address, jernst@prrbiz.com

Donald gave an update on the first two Arboretum Master Plan projects, Wayfinding and South Entry/Madrona Terrace projects. The respective selection committees interviewed three firms and made a recommendation to the MPI Group for the preferred consultant for each of the two projects. The MPI Group concurred with the selection committee recommendations. Details of the process and the recommendation were then e-mailed to the ABGC for review and approval.

John W moved and Deb seconded that the e-mail recommendations, as follows, be approved: *"For the Interpretive and Wayfinding project, Lehrman Cameron Studio be hired by the University of Washington's Capital Projects Office as the design consultants on this project. For the South Entry/Madrona Terrace project, the Portico Group be hired by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Seattle as the design consultants on this project."* The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. MPI Group will notify the two consultants and continue its work on these projects.

Deb said that the MPI Group will resume a monthly, regular meeting schedule. She will be the lead in setting up these meetings and communicating with the ABGC. Jerry Ernst suggested the MPI Group meet a week or so before the regular ABGC meeting. He also suggested that MPI Group focus on the Wayfinding and South Entry projects, but keeps up to date on other projects. David Goldberg is scheduling several invitation-only charettes. He suggested that the number of meetings be streamlined, to minimize the time impact. He will come back to the ABGC with a schedule and plan to combine/eliminate some of the meetings.

The yearly public meeting will be discussed at the July ABGC meeting. The last yearly meeting was held in July 2003 and was well attended. Donald recommended that the public be fully informed as to what is happening with the Arboretum Master Plan and to ensure that there is a good turnout of the key people involved. John W suggested that the event be scheduled for September.

Working Together Agreement Update

UW College of Forest Resources has signed the agreement and it will next go to Parks Superintendent for signature. Fred Isaac, Arboretum Foundation President, is the third of the signers and stated that the agreement does not need to come back before the ABGC. This agreement sanctifies what has already been agreed upon — it does not spell out the details of how to implement the Agreement. What must still be determined, in a separate process, is an operating agreement on how information is shared and how fundraising will be coordinated between the UW, Arboretum Foundation, and Parks Department. Some things in the Working Together Agreement (donor recognition policy, fundraising, etc.) must come back before the ABGC to work out the details.

Old Business/New Business

Fred has now completed his term with the ABGC and this was his last meeting. Neal Lessenger will replace Fred as one of the two Arboretum Foundation representatives who are voting members of the ABGC. Members thanked Fred and wished him well.

Operating Procedures: Deferred to the July 7 agenda

Goals & Objectives: Deferred to the July 7 agenda

New Business:

- Deb invited everyone to attend the Arboretum's annual meeting, scheduled for June 16. Please rsvp to her.
- The next ABGC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 8:30 am, in the Graham Visitor Center.
- Susan asked about the status of the review committee for the first two projects, Wayfinding and South Entry. David explained that the positions (community groups, etc.) have been identified; however, the individuals to fill these positions have not yet been selected.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary