

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

www.wparboretum.org then select ABGC

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

Minutes – June 1, 2005

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- David Maberley, Washington Park Arboretum & Center for Urban Horticulture Director
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

Excused:

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department Manager

Guests:

- Nancy Davis, UW College of Forest Resources
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation
- Larry Sinnott, Board Member, Friends of Olmsted Park Board

Staff:

- Mariella Cacdac, Acting Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. **Margaret Ceis moved, and Jack Collins seconded, approval of the March 2 retreat minutes, the April 6 minutes, and the June 1 agenda. Motion passed.**

March 2 Annual Retreat

Action: A revised edition of the Goals and Objectives will be distributed prior to the July 6 ABGC meeting.

Update: MPIG Report

Plant Relocation: Michael Shiosaki discussed the relocation plan for the hollies. David Maberley reported that the Curation Committee toured the site and developed a propagation plan for 2006-7. A China expedition will add to the collection specimens.

David Goldberg is the lead for planning a public meeting to present progress on the Madrona entrance project. The meeting will be scheduled for late summer. Michael Shiosaki reported that the costs for the Madrona entrance are considerably higher than was initially thought. MPIG is considering reducing the Asian and New Zealand gardens to a more achievable size. Schematic drawings are the next step and the source of funds has not yet been identified.

The Japanese Garden is researching a donated building. Funds for design of the entry building will be provided by the ProParks Levy.

The May 12 presentation to the Parks Board went very well; unfortunately there were only three Park Board members in attendance.

Jack Collins advised that the ABGC must seek out opportunities to keep the Implementation Plan in the public's eye. Master Plan Implementation needs State support, in addition to local support.

Space and Staff Needs and Implementation

David Maberley reported on his recent trip to the Berlin Botanic Garden. (*His report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*) A conclusion of his report is that the Arboretum is severely understaffed in comparison to the Berlin Botanic Garden, and Seattle has a much longer growing season. The current Arboretum Master Plan estimates of staff needs are considerably under the number that is truly necessary to achieve the aspired world class status. A realistic figure would be 15 full-time staff, along with volunteers. The ultimate solution will be to endow curator and maintenance positions. There are naming opportunities within the Arboretum which might be attractive to prospective donors.

David spoke of the disaster it would be if staff cannot maintain the newly-renovated and planted areas developed under the Master Plan. He also commented that there is a significant pay disparity between the City's and University's grounds crews.

He met with the Museum of History and Industry leadership to determine their plans for relocating and was told that they do not have the funds to relocate and will not do so until absolutely necessary.

He also reported that Christ Church, New Zealand, is pleased to "twin" with Washington Park Arboretum and will provide plants for the New Zealand garden.

Funding Plan

Ashley Clark updated the ABGC on the Arboretum Foundation's fundraising progress to date. The campaign is titled "Pacific Connection Campaign". Allan Ferrin has been named chair, and influential community members are assisting. The campaign's timeline runs through 2007, and is currently in the leadership phase.

Update Report: UW Botanic Gardens Retreat

David Maberley reported on the recently-held Advance for the Arboretum, Center for Urban Horticulture, Miller Library, and Wetlands. (*His report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*)

Update: Press Release on Master Plan Progress

All agreed that more than a press release is needed to keep the public apprised and interested in the progress of the Master Plan Implementation. It requires a more organized and greater effort. Jack Collins suggested getting local newspaper editorial boards interested. City and University communication staff — Dewey Potter (City), Norm Arkans or Bob Roseth (UW), and Sandra Hines — were all mentioned as good contacts. David Maberley agreed to organize this public relations effort in coordination with the Foundation and Superintendent Bounds' office. MPIG will begin developing the next steps.

Action: MPIG begin development of next steps. David Maberley serve as lead.

Update: ABGC Website

Deb Andrews, chair of the communications subgroup, reported that the subgroup looked at the ABGC business components of the website as a separate issue from the ABGC's role in the Master Plan. The subgroup's review of the site concluded that it does not convey the Arboretum theme, overall its presence adds confusion, and the design needs simplification. The website should contain an ABGC Governance statement, a list of activities, the meeting agendas, and minutes. Links to other sites should be operational (currently they aren't). A counter should be added to track the number of visitors to the site. Sandra Lier volunteered to work to get the page updated. Responsibility for ongoing maintenance will need to be decided.

Action: Update website (Sandra Lier as lead). Determine which entity provides ongoing maintenance.

Update: 520 Project

The third meeting with WSDOT is scheduled for 1:00 pm on June 1. This meeting will focus on the Arboretum's Master Plan Implementation as it relates to the project. WSDOT has planned several public meetings in June. WSDOT will be invited to another ABGC meeting in the near future.

Action: Schedule WSDOT staff for update briefing to the ABGC.

New Business

- Fred Hoyt reported that Broadmoor's landscape architect has been in touch with him, which is a positive development.
- Margaret Ceis mentioned the Chinese Society fundraising campaign. David Maberley plans to attend the kick-off event. The Society has now received money from the State, County, and City.
- It was suggested that Dick Thompson be invited to an ABGC meeting to discuss ways the ABGC can be more effective in its relations with Washington State.

The next meeting of the ABGC was re-scheduled from July 6 to July 13. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary