

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

www.wparboretum.org then select ABGC

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

Minutes – March 8, 2006

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- None

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation Property Mgmt & Acquisitions Manager

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington, Associate Vice-president of Business Services
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

Washington State

- None

Others:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Facilities & Grounds Manager
- Michael Shiosaki, Pro Parks Levy Manager

Voting members

Absent/Excused:

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President
- David Maberley, University of Washington Botanic Gardens Director
- Dave Towne, Washington State Representative

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

ABGC Chair Donald Harris called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Several additions/changes were made to the agenda. As a quorum was not present, the February 1 minutes will be approved at the April 12 meeting.

Update Report: MPIG

Michael Shiosaki and others gave updates on several projects:

Japanese Garden Entry: This project is moving ahead smoothly. MPIG recently made several suggestions and staff members are now reviewing. David Goldberg is on leave and Seattle Parks' project manager Cathy Tuttle is the temporary lead on this project. Donald stated there is ongoing discussion on gift shop concerning the volume of business and how the shop will be run. This is an exciting project and several donors have come forward. Once the project is completed, it is property of Seattle Parks and the future maintenance and operations for it are being strategized. The schematic will be brought to the April 12 ABGC meeting.

Irrigation Mainline: A public meeting/open house is planned for April 5 to inform the public about this project. The irrigation mainline project will have a short-term impact on the Arboretum and staff members want to ensure that the public is aware of this impact.

Holly Relocation: The Pacific Connections/South Entry Project necessitates the relocation of the holly species collection. This is the largest collection of holly species in the world. Details on this relocation project will also be presented at the April 5 open house. Following a question on hollies as potential invasive plants, Fred agreed to prepare talking points on this topic and distribute to ABGC members prior to the open house. After more discussion, it was agreed that the holly relocation plan would be reviewed by MPIG prior to the open house; will be a part of the April 5 open house, and be presented to the ABGC at its April 12 meeting. Comments from the open house will be directed to the ABGC and a summary will be brought to the ABGC.

Operations Report

Fred and Donald attend the joint operations staff meetings. These meetings include staff representatives from both the City and UW crews. The Operations staff will be invited to the ABGC's May meeting.

Recent discussions included:

Uniforms: Discussions are being held on whether staff will wear uniforms to identify them as Parks/UW employees when they are working in the Arboretum. UW staff members favor the uniforms; City staff members belong to unions, and have additional aspects to discuss.

Inappropriate sexual behavior in Arboretum: Staff members have been working with Seattle Police Department on the recent increase of inappropriate sexual behavior in the Arboretum. When this inappropriate behavior is detected, staff should call 911 and give the exact location. Because the Arboretum is a large area, SPD needs detailed location information. Parking lots are being closed periodically to deter the behavior and pathway design and signage should be considered as a way to deter the behavior.

Volunteer program: Jack asked to attend an Operations meeting to discuss the efforts of the enhanced volunteer program committee, which he chairs. Jack will be invited to the annual review meeting.

Signs installed on Arboretum property: Recently the Montlake Community Club (MCC) worked directly with Seattle Department of Transportation to install two signs on Arboretum property reading "Welcome to Montlake". Several other community members voiced concerns to Arboretum staff about these signs being posted on Arboretum property. Arboretum staff asked SDOT to move the signs and there is now a backlash from the Montlake Community Club. Fred asked if an ABGC representative attends/should regularly attend the MCC meetings. Sandra Lier will ask Teresa Doherty, UW Vice-president of Regional Affairs, to send a representative to the meetings. It was noted that the Arboretum has a master plan that includes its own signage and wayfinding plan.

Update: SR520 and Park Board's Public Hearing

The following was reported:

- There is lots of activity surrounding this project and a number of new groups are being formed by WSDOT to work on the various issues.
- Fred and David Maberley met with representatives from The Better Bridge Organization. Fred and David will also meet with the group that supports a tube alternative.
- Jack referred to an article in this weeks' New York Times regarding the SR520 project and The Better Bridge Organization. The article was forwarded to all ABGC members.
- Public vote: A brief discussion was held on the State legislature's proposal to have the public vote on this project and the viaduct project.
- Mitigation: A brief discussion was also held on the importance of holding firm on the ABGC's strong support of protecting the Arboretum from this project, while also determining mitigation measures for any negative impacts from the project. Sandra will begin preparing a press release from the ABGC listing its concerns with the project. The press release will be distributed when the EIS is released.

Update: Goals and Objectives

This agenda item was postponed until the April 2006 meeting.

Old/New Business

New State Representative to the ABGC: Dave Towne, former Seattle Parks Superintendent and former Woodland Park Zoo Director, has been appointed by Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire as the new State representative to the ABGC. Dave is currently out of the country and will first attend the ABGC at its May meeting.

UW Regents/City Council Briefing: A written briefing on the ABGC and Arboretum will be prepared for the City Council’s Parks, Neighborhoods, Labor, and Libraries Committee, as well as the University of Washington Regents. Both groups will also be invited to tour the Arboretum.

Budget Requests - City: Donald stated that the City submitted a budget request to Congressman McDermott and Senator Cantwell for \$24 million, which included \$1 million for the Arboretum.

Budget Request – UW: Sandra met with Bruce Bare, David Maberley, and Fred Hoyt on the UW’s budget process and how the ABGC can strategize more effectively in the next budget round for the Arboretum.

April 12 meeting: Donald stated that the agenda packet will be sent early, as well as a calendar of 2006 meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
David Maberley, ABGC Secretary