

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes

Web site: <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/abgc/>

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.

The ABGC is closely monitoring the WSDOT SR520 project for impacts to the Washington Park Arboretum. Please see <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/520.htm>

Meeting Location: Graham Visitors Center, March 13, 2013

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director

Washington State

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Asst. Vice President for Regional Affairs

Excused: David Towne, Lynn C. Manzo, Michael Shiosaki

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Hillary Burgess, UW
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks, Project Planner
- Lisa Chen, Seattle Parks, Horticulturist
- Michele Daly, Seattle Parks, Acting ABGC Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

AE: Paige Miller; City: TBD; UW: TBD

Partners Committee:

AE: Paige Miller & Craig Trueblood

City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams

Michael Shiosaki & Leah Tivoli

UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AE: Paige Miller & Roger Williams

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

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

The meeting was held at Graham Visitors Center at the Arboretum and called to order at 8:30 am. Chair Jack Collins noted additions to the March 13 agenda: Testimony of Paige Miller and Jack Collins at UW Regents meeting on March 14, Item F-8, #8, regarding sale of old Canal Reserve and Settlement Agreement and feedback from Cross-county letters. **Kenan Block moved, and Sarah Reichard seconded, approval of the revised March 13 meeting agenda and the February 13 meeting minutes.**

Budget & Other Updates

UW

Sarah Reichard noted the UW and WSDOT have agreed on the value of the Canal Reserve land but the proposed sale does not include the value of the living collection on the property. Discussion of this issue under Old/New Business.

Arboretum Foundation

Northwest Flower & Garden Show: Paige reported the Arboretum Foundation Patron and Benefactor (\$250-\$500) level attendance at the Opening Night Party on February 19 peaked substantially more than a year ago but the member/non-member level (\$75-\$100) was behind, perhaps larger in part to the winter break of schools. Overall the Foundation made more money than last year. The Arboretum's display, "A Hobbit's New Zealand Garden" was a big hit and won 6 top awards.

This year for the first time electronic bidding was introduced for the auction. Instead of using paper bidding sheets at each auction item, party goers were to place bids at electronic bidding stations manned by trained volunteers adjacent to auction tables. Guests could also use their cell phones to bid on items. The experiment with the electronic bidding process was complicated which resulted in lower auction yield. The Foundation paid extra for Wi-Fi; 30% of the Wi-Fi did not work. So far in receipt of \$16,000 out of possible \$40,000 worth of items; items that did not sell are available for purchase. Teresa noted one of the things she enjoyed in the past was talking to people in the auction area as they wrote down their information on the auction bidding sheets.

City: Jack inquired if budget guidelines have been issued by the Budget Office. Lisa Chen noted Horticulture had budget cuts of 3-1/2 positions but none from the Arboretum. Capital Improvement Program funding secure.

Thank you note from Sandy Brooks: "I am grateful for the recognition and gifts you gave me as I retired from the City of Seattle. In December you gave me fragrant potted rosemary plant, bouquet of flowers, a beautiful card, provided coffee and donuts, and made me blush with your kind words. In January, Jack prepared and read a proclamation - I especially enjoyed having the day at the Arboretum named in my honor! And, the Arboretum Foundation stepped in to fund ¼ of my salary during my last 2 years with the City - I will always be grateful for that. You have been a wonderful group to staff and I feel honored to have worked with you. Thank you all for the great send-off to retirement."

Master Plan Implementation: Kenan, as a relatively new ABGC member, asked for clarification of the Master Plan projects – are these the projects that are being funded by the 520 mitigation or other sources? Jack said it is important to know if these projects are funded and from what sources. Paige related source of the projects is from the Arboretum Master Plan, adopted in May 2001, which set out a list of projects to be completed in 20 years with a budget then estimated at \$60 million, which is grossly too low. The priority of the projects moves up and down depending on where they think the money might come from or what project is most important to do. MPIG was created by ABGC to oversee the implementation process. The group is responsible for planning and recommending to ABGC for approval, the sequencing, timing, scope, schedule and budget for each Implementation project. They work with people responsible for fundraising and capital budgeting in making their recommendations. When funding for a particular project is close to being fully realized, MPIG assesses the project scope and its potential impacts and recommends a project-specific structure and process for its implementation. This includes recommendations regarding project oversight and review, project management, environmental review, public involvement, communications and future maintenance and operations. The list currently being reviewed by ABGC is the current reiteration of MPIG's priorities. It does not include all the projects listed in the Master Plan.

Master Plan Future Project Priorities: Andy Sheffer reviewed the Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan projects list dated February 2013. Projects underway include the Overlook Shelter Renovation, Wayfinding and Interpretation and Trail Loops (UWBG).

The Overlook Shelter Renovation: The plan is to renovate the shelter and dedicate it with the grand opening of the New Zealand Garden on September 13-14. Obtaining DPD change order structural permit today. Waiting to hear if a grant is approved. Besides the city funding, the Seattle Garden Club has been asked to donate \$25,000. There may be funds (\$35,000) from Section 106 associated with SR 520 Cultural and Heritage Project. Paige will be requesting funds from the Committee of 33 in the amount of \$10,000. Donors would pay for construction; many things need replacement including the roof, posts and stairs. The UW crew has opened up the rockery area; shelter now focal point from Azalea Way. As project gets near completion, Kenan thinks it would be a great news story. September 14 is Yom Kippur so date will be re-evaluated, perhaps combining all the activities on September 13. Sarah stated Christchurch representatives will need to be notified of any date change as they are planning to attend the New Zealand Garden opening ceremony.

Wayfinding and Interpretation Signs: Maps being prepared. Signs are ready to go. It was noted the wayfinding signage will be completed by Mother's Day, May 12th.

Trail Loops & Signage: UW staff are working on the loops and signage project by project. The Pinetum trail is close to being done. Sarah will walk the History loop with Wendy Gible, Manager of Conservation & Education – CUH, and Patrick Mulligan, Education Supervisor, Arboretum, before the end of the month. Staff will work with Ray Lopez, co-owner of the Aqua Verde Paddle Club regarding the Kayak Loop.

New Projects:

Foster/Arboretum Drive Intersection – Design for the 3 way stop and crosswalk project is a high priority. Andy given instructions to start design; will be incorporated into the Multi-Use Trail design. The Army Corps of Engineers slowed down because of the Seattle seawall/waterfront projects. Ideally the project would begin August/September 2014. Will work with Broadmoor residents when design in place.

Ridge Top Trail is high priority – schematic design will begin to develop a preferred alternative. Fred suggested arranging a meeting with students as good conservation project. Have capital for materials. When there is seed money available can use as leverage for obtaining grants for ADA, State IAC and federal money.

Trail connection between Duck Bay/Foster Island and Graham Visitors Center, plus lighting is high priority.

Outdoor classroom south of Graham Visitors Center is high priority.

Future priorities include: repaving Duck Bay parking, storm water improvement, renovate parking lot by Graham Visitors Center, Education Building/Greenhouse Renovation and consider added parking.

The Pacific Connections Gardens – Australia Garden – Entry completed. Not ready to move on this project. Determine if Opportunity Fund levy seed money available to do fund raising.

ABGC suggested some fine tuning be made to the Master Plan Projects priority list, including source of funds column, eliminating the narrow column between Total Project and Cost, include low and medium priorities along with the high priorities and include proposed dates of when projects may be done. ABGC will review the "polished" priority list at the April 10 meeting. Paige stated in making a recommendation for high priority versus future, high priorities would have funds identified. The funds may not be in-hand but can see how

they may happen soon. Projects identified as future have significant amount of work to be done on the planning and/or they do not have money. Jack stated priority of projects change based on funding opportunities. Someone may donate funds to a project that has a medium priority because it has interest to them. Fred related that the implementation plan project priorities were revamped and it would be good to bring them all to the table. Jack thinks the list should be reviewed once a year and be available for public distribution. Paige noted the WPA Master Plan Implementation Plan Project Priorities were updated in 2010. Potential mitigation projects were submitted to WSDOT with many of the high priorities getting funded.

Jack has contacted Councilmember Bagshaw's office regarding serving on a parks future funding committee but has not heard any news. The Future Funding Steering Committee will be comprised of 14 citizens; five appointed by the Mayor, five appointed by Council, one member each from ARC, Park Foundation, Park Board plus a Chair. It is anticipated the committee will begin meeting in June and present a recommendation by early next year.

Jack stated he realizes developing priorities is a difficult task as people feel all the projects are important. It is timely to update the project list while future sources of park funding are being evaluated.

MPIG update:

- Multi-use Trail – RFP for design being advertised today. Construction expected to begin in 2014.
- Foster Island Undercrossing – Parks/UW Staff working with WSDOT on the design and plantings/rocky areas of the site to keep maintenance costs as low as possible and funding of the lighting relative to safety issues and for the ability of growing plants.
- Japanese Garden Pond – study completed.
- New Zealand Garden – project on schedule; planting scheduled for the spring. The UW and Parks will be overseeing the plantings. Andy and/or Fred will set up garden tour for Jack and Kenan.
- Parking Lot Study - The number of parking stalls in the Arboretum have been tallied to be compared to parking statistics in the masterplan. This provides base information for better informed decisions regarding future parking lots and capacity.
- Extension of the Azalea Way Trail - Parks maintenance project; will allow year round access. Lisa said project needs funding; Paige will take funding request to Arboretum Foundation Board next week.
- Pacific Connection Shelter Globe inlay – We are examining replacement of the terrazzo globe inlay with a more durable material like cast iron.

Old/New Business

Dave Towne's Appointment: Dave has kindly agreed to remain in the position until a new person is appointed by the Governor. Jack requested Hillary check on the status of the appointment.

Michael Shiosaki's appointment: The Mayor appoints three of the ABGC committee members. Two of those are members of the public and the third is the Parks Superintendent or his representative. Michael Shiosaki

has been named by the Superintendent and is awaiting Mayoral appointment processing. The ordinance language that formed ABGC does not call for City Council confirmation. Michele was instructed to contact the Mayor's Office to check on the status of Michael's appointment.

Cross Country Runners in Arboretum: Letters were sent to cross-country coaches at UW, Garfield, Seattle U, Northwest School, Roosevelt High School, Bush School, and Seattle Prep on February 25, 2013. Jack heard from the Bush School Athletic Director and from Seattle University, both track and cross-country but not from any of the other schools. They also wanted to know if other schools had received the same letter and felt better when they learned they did. They want their athletes to behave and not cause problems; they do want to hear if there are concerns. Sarah will be teaching a class soon and will be watchful of the athletes' behavior. Jack noted the key will be to figure out what school team is causing problems to other park users they encounter. The track team noted they are grateful for the new track development in the south end.

Canal Reserve:

Jack noted Teresa has a serious conflict of interest as she works for the body that is proposing something that may be of variance with something that ABGC wants to do; she also is a voting member of the ABGC. ABGC appreciates her position and thanked her for keeping ABGC informed. It is ABGC's understanding that the UW will be selling Canal Reserve property and the trees on it to the State in connection with the SR 520 project. The March 14 Regent's Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee agenda, Action Item F-8, includes Teresa, UW Vice President for Regional Affairs, along with the Director of the UW Real Estate Office and UW Vice Provost, Office of Planning & Budget, when this item will be discussed. Teresa does not attend the regular meeting of the Regents. The item is also listed on the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents agenda as a consent item entitled *WSDOT 520/Bryant Building – Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with WSDOT and City of Seattle and Settlement Agreement*. Teresa noted the decision on how the money gets divided is up to other people.

It is understood that the Canal Reserve was deeded to the UW by the City of Seattle designating the property to be used for arboretum and botanical garden purposes. Trees were planted and it was managed by the University as part of the Arboretum collection and it has been stewarded for nearly 80 years with financial support from the Arboretum Foundation. The collection of the trees and shrubs in the Canal Reserve is now valued at \$600,000 and ABGC believes the Arboretum should be receiving compensation for the sale of the living collection just as you would for the sale of any other important asset. An example of an art museum building would not be sold without valuing the art inside was given.

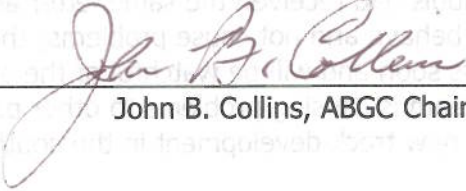
Paige/Craig and Jack prepared letters to UW Regents that when WSDOT pays for the transfer of the Canal Reserve property, estimated to be \$3.3 Million, the value of the living collections estimated at \$600,000, be added and all those funds be placed in a dedicated fund to benefit the Arboretum. A briefing paper to the Regents requests funds from the sale of the Bryant Building be designated for a new police facility but is silent on the use of the Canal Reserve proceeds. Paige and Jack have been given two minutes at the afternoon Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents during the Public Comment Period agenda at the UW Bothell campus. Copies of the letters will be emailed to the UW for inclusion in the Regents notebooks. Paige and Jack will each read their letters to the Regents at their meeting.

Public Testimony – Rainer Metzger, Montlake community, is interested in preserving a portion of the "Ramps to No Where" and doing a project with a small piece of the ramps, perhaps something at the North Entry such as a monument, to honor the citizens movement that stopped construction of the R. H. Thomsen Expressway. The community also desires to do a temporary art project on the ramps before they come down. Paige noted she has information for Rainer about the history of the citizens movement. The Arboretum Foundation will be inviting Dr. West to give a presentation in the spring or summer about what they did and how they did it; he was one of the citizens that stopped the R. H. Thomson Expressway and spoke a little bit about the movement in January. Paige will make sure Rainer is invited to the presentation as well as Montlake Community Club members. ABGC suggested Rainer put together a proposal, asked to be on the ABGC

agenda, and present it to the Board at a future meeting. The ramps are not planned to be removed until late 2014.

The next regular ABGC meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at the Graham Visitors Center.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

APPROVED 
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair

DATE 4/10/13