

*Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)*

[www.wparboretum.org](http://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 – May 5, 2004*

Members:

**Arboretum Foundation**

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

**City of Seattle**

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Department Manager
- Sarah Neilson, Board of Park Commissioner

**University of Washington**

- Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- John Wott, Arboretum Director

**State of Washington**

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative

Guests:

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Cara Mathison, Assistant Development Director, UW College of Forest Resources
- Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager
- Neal Lessenger, Retired UW Administration
- Anita Madtes, Japanese Garden Advisory Council
- Larry Sinnott, Ravenna Bryant Community Association

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. She read a letter from Ken Bounds, Superintendent of the Department of Parks and Recreation, thanking the ABGC members for their support and kindnesses after the recent death of Fritz Hedges. The letter also stated that Donald Harris is the Parks Department's new representative to both the ABGC and the Master Plan Implementation Group. Project Development Director Erin Devoto will represent the Department on the Arboretum Foundation Board.

The ABGC did not meet in March or April of 2004. **John W moved approval of the May 5 agenda and the February 11 minutes. Tom H seconded. The vote was taken and the motion passed, with one abstention.**

The speaker for the first agenda item, "Arboretum Trail update briefing" did not attend the meeting. Parks staff will contact the speaker to re-schedule this item to the June agenda.

### **Japanese Garden Advisory Council**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Levy Manager, and Anita Madtes, Japanese Garden Advisory Council, came before the ABGC to discuss Pro Parks funds for the Garden. Anita read a letter listing possible projects to use these funds. Michael stated that the exact amount of available funding is not yet known. This effort is in the early discussion stage and no decisions have been made.

Anita stated that the Garden's primary need is restrooms; they are not requesting those on this list because the funding would not come close to building the facilities. The two other large ticket items are the gatehouse and pavilion. Their aim with the Pro Parks funds is to complete several smaller projects.

The list of possible projects includes:

- Drinking fountain for the garden in keeping with garden style
- Planting the hillside, view corridor of the garden
- Cover for pipe at stream: plantings, stone outcropping
- Repair bamboo gates at Tea House (note: this work has already been funded from another source)
- Repair bench in waiting area of Tea House
- Southwest fence, earthen wall as sound deterrent

Tom H suggested that the outcome of using the Pro Parks funds for these projects could be completion of the design work, and then use the design to solicit donations to complete the projects. He also suggested that the Advisory Council work closely with the Arboretum in designing the hillside planting. Sandra requested that Anita and the Advisory Council work closely with the Master Plan Implementation Group to leverage the funds in the most effective manner. Michael and Anita had two meetings, and then brought forth the ideas to the ABGC.

### **Master Plan Implementation (MPI) Group Update**

Tom H gave an update report on the MPI Group's progress. There are many ongoing projects and, with Donald added as the newest member, the group is re-invigorated and back on track.

- 1) Wayfinding and Interpretation Plan: interviewing three potential consultants on Thursday, 5/6.
- 2) South End Project: narrowed list of consultants, with David Goldberg's assistance, to three or less. There are good candidates for both these projects and a final decision will be made by 5/17 or 5/18. These projects must be completed concurrently and the consultants will need to keep the timeline of both almost in parallel.
- 3) New Center for Urban Horticulture Director: should be hired soon. The search committee must write a formal letter of recommendation. Fred Isaac is chair of this committee and will write the letter very soon.
- 4) New director for Elizabeth Miller Library: this search is also ongoing.
- 5) New building for Center for Urban Horticulture: is moving along well, with occupancy scheduled for mid October. A grand opening ceremony is being planned, with a re-dedication ceremony scheduled for 10/29.
- 6) Website: the MPI Group will keep the ABGC website updated with information on all these happenings.

Sandra requested that the next public yearly information meeting be scheduled for July-Aug-September. Add this to the June agenda as a discussion item.

### **520 Arterial/Street Improvement Study Proposal to City Council re: 520 Lake Washington Boulevard connections**

Larry Sinnott of the Ravenna Bryant Park Community Association came before the ABGC to request its support of his and the community's traffic-calming efforts with WSDOT on this project. He displayed a large drawing of the project and showed various drawings of traffic flow of vehicles headed to and from 520 via the Arboretum and other neighborhoods. It is evident that many vehicles that aren't from the areas around the Arboretum are using the Arboretum as a cut-through. He described his, and his community groups, efforts to monitor and influence the SR520 project and distributed a two-page handout describing their concerns and actions.

Larry asked how informed the ABGC is about this project. Members stated that WSDOT staff came before the ABGC at its February meeting to give an update. ABGC members are very interested in this project, as it could impact the Master Plan, and are keeping very well informed.

Larry has met with several City Council members to voice concerns and ask for support. He asked if the ABGC would write a letter to the City Council requesting that it leverage alternatives during the State's Environmental Impact Study. The ABGC had a brief discussion on whether it is appropriate for it to take a stand in this. It is clear that Arboretum Foundation members of the ABGC have a narrow focus of the Arboretum. City and University representatives have a broader range of issues to consider which may conflict with the traffic-calming proposals. After a bit more discussion, ABGC members agreed that their individual roles, as a member of the ABGC, is to recommend what is best for the Arboretum.

**Tom moved, and Donald seconded, that the ABGC will send a letter to City Council's Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee in support of traffic-calming efforts for the Arboretum. Tom H agreed to draft the letter and will send to Sandy to finalize and mail. The vote was taken and was unanimous. The Mayor will be cc:ed on the letter.**

At Margaret's suggestion, Tom agreed to also write an op-ed letter to the Seattle Times and Seattle P-I newspapers stating the ABGC's position. The ABGC should take an informed, leading role in this effort. It was also agreed that community groups must be in consensus on their efforts with WSDOT and this project. Fred stated that the SR520 project has the potential to impact the Arboretum's Master Plan and suggested that once the community groups reach consensus, that a new goal and objective be added for the ABGC to work with the community on these traffic-calming measures.

**Old Business/New Business**

Operating Procedures: Donald Harris will be the new lead on this. Neal requested that he review the changes the City's Law Department made.

Vice Chair: Sandra appointed Donald as the new Vice-chair, to replace the vacant position left by Fritz. Donald stated he is happy to be back with the ABGC, after a several year absence, and has been busy re-acquainting himself with the issues.

Goals & Objectives: These were reviewed and updated. A new version will be sent to members with the June 2 agenda packet.

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

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary