

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, May 11, 2011

Voting Members

Present:

Arboretum Foundation

- Della Balick, Arboretum Foundation Board President
- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks Property Manager

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) Associate Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- Dave Towne, Washington State Governor's Appointee

Absent:

- Kjris Lund, Mayoral Appointee

Other Staff Present:

- Cheryl Fraser, Seattle Parks, Natural Resources Manager
- Sandra Lier, past UWBG Director
- Sarah Reichard, UWBG Director
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Planning & Development Deputy Director

Members of the Public:

- Jorgen Bader, interested in SR 520 project
- Ed Wilson, presented proposal for "Ramps to Nowhere"

ABGC Staff: Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

Paige Miller (AF); Donald Harris (City); TBD (UW)

Partners Committee:

AF: Paige Miller & Della Balick

City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams

UW: Tom Hinckley & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Paige Miller & Roger Williams

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Rick Nishi

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

David Graves (City); Theresa Doherty & Fred Hoyt (UW)

This meeting was held at the Graham Visitors Center. Theresa Doherty, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. **Dave Towne moved approval of the May 11 agenda, and minutes from the August 18, October 13, November 10, and December 10, 2010 meetings, and the April 13, 2011, meeting. Donald Harris seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Recognition of Sandra Lier's Service to the ABGC

Sandra Lier will soon complete her contract as Acting UWBG Director and will also complete her ABGC membership at the same time. Jack prepared, and Theresa read, a proclamation, included below, recognizing Sandra's many years of hard work, dedication, and extensive contributions to the ABGC, the Washington Park Arboretum, UW Botanic Garden (UWBG), and University of Washington.

Private citizen Paul Gibson attended the meeting especially to thank Sandra for her many years of service. Sandra was presented with a plant, card, and bouquet of flowers. Refreshments were served and ABGC members expressed heartfelt thanks.

Official Proclamation - Washington Park Arboretum Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee

Whereas, *Sandra Hogan Lier has achieved greatness in many roles at the University of Washington, where she started her service in June 2000, and served as its representative on the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, which service began in October 2002; and*

Whereas, *Sandra served with distinction since March 2008 as the Interim-Temporary-Transient-Fleeting-Impermanent Director of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and subsequently achieved the title of Executive Director; and*

Whereas, *Sandra brought her extraordinary personnel, financial, and administrative skills to all of her work. Although she gave the UWBG job her usual 110% effort, Sandra was paid on a 40% basis. By rough calculation, the University still owes her something north of \$7,000,000; and*

Whereas, *Sandra was the most-often Chaired member in the history of the ABGC, having been elected to that role in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005; and*

Whereas, *one of her most important achievements was to facilitate creation of the first set of Goals and Objectives for the ABGC. She also played a major role preparing a set of Operating Procedures and developing the Master Plan Implementation Plan. Recently, her generally-acknowledged spirit of collaboration led to establishment of the Joint Fundraising Committee (now Partners Committee); and*

Whereas, *although accomplished in many areas, Sandra will be best remembered for her leadership, professionalism, enthusiasm, kindness, courtesy, and collaboration; and*

Whereas, *Sandra's accomplishments, personal style, and strategic thinking have left an indelible mark on the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee;*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Theresa Doherty, on behalf of all of the ABGC members who have worked with her, including those present, hereby dedicate and proclaim **May 11, 2011**, as **Sandra H. Lier Day** and invite everyone who sees her to congratulate her and wish her well in her new adventures.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of May 2011.

Theresa Doherty, Chair
Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee

“Ramps to Nowhere” Proposal

Ed Wilson, private citizen, requested to be on the agenda to present a proposal on the SR 520 “ramps to nowhere.” He noted that several at this meeting have previously heard his presentation. Mr. Wilson moved here from New York City. His background is in architecture, real estate, and property management. Currently he is focused on sustainable and unique developments.

An area of 230,000 sq. ft. of concrete and ramps are to be eliminated during the SR 520 project and he believes this is a unique opportunity to keep some portion as a viewing area into the Arboretum. He referred to The Highline in New York City and believes the SR 520 ramps could be a similar project. The SR 520 floating bridge is unique to Seattle and the viewing ramp would add a different element to draw new visitors to the Arboretum. This is a one-time opportunity.

Prior to this meeting, Mr. Wilson sent a Powerpoint presentation to Theresa and it was distributed to ABGC members. Michael will invite him to talk with Seattle Parks’ Planning and Development staff and will add his name to the SR 520 mailing list. Sarah informed him of a meeting tonight at Center for Urban Horticulture on The Highline. Della thanked him for his ideas; it is refreshing to see a young person working on this.

Budget Updates

Arboretum Foundation: Paige reported the first draft of the Foundation’s budget has been sent to the Finance Committee, and anticipates additional cuts at the UW. The Foundation Board plans to adopt the budget at its June meeting.

UW: Sarah stated the University’s tuition increase should keep the budget cuts to the UW Botanical Gardens at a lower level. The Arboretum line item is still in the State’s budget. If the budget is adopted with the line item intact, that will also help the UW’s budget.

City: Donald reported the Mayor has asked Departments to plan for 4-8% cuts in the 2012 budget. Cheryl added that her division (which provides Arboretum maintenance funding) submitted a budget showing an 8% cut. The Mayor will submit his proposed 2012 budget in late September and the City Council will deliberate and approve the budget in mid-to-late November.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Update

Michael reported that MPIG met on Monday, May 9, and discussed the following:

North Entry/Multi-Use Trail/SR 520: Berger has completed the site analysis to scope the north entry and multi-use trail. Fred, Andy, Berger staff, and others completed a site walk-through for the multi-use trail. They found some existing roads beds, determined that the work will stay mostly on the east side of the Arboretum, and are now looking at how best to dovetail the trail with the wetland and creek areas.

Michael displayed a large map and pointed out the early findings. Fill material may be used to provide views into the wetlands; Berger suggested a viewing tower. Old, historic photos are being referenced to guide the restoration. Berger will present information at MPIG’s June 6 meeting, ABGC’s June 8 meeting, and at the June 8 public meeting. Only the planning for the north entry and multi-use trail is funded. The schematic plan is being designed to fit with the mitigation; design will not be funded until the west side SR 520 project receives funding. The issue of the ramps will most likely be raised at the June 8 public meeting.

Donald: response to these changes to the Arboretum is calmer than 10 years ago when the Arboretum’s Master Plan was developed. The public meetings have had sparse attendance and Parks is working to encourage more to attend.

Paige: there is a public meeting tonight on SR 520 in Broadmoor and she will send an E-blast notification to all Arboretum Foundation members.

Jack: these changes will have a big impact on the public and requires extra effort to get people involved.

Iain: asked if the Arboretum footprint will change with the addition of the 26-acre peninsula property. He suggested that staff determine what percentage of the Arboretum the addition would be. He also suggested the grading be planned to get multiple benefits, such as view areas into the wetlands.

Theresa: this is a good suggestion. Acquiring this new land for the Arboretum is a huge opportunity and will pique public interest.

Paige: she understands from community members that the Broadmoor community thinks the ABGC has ignored it during the SR 520 process.

Jack: he talked with Fran Conley recently on her reported opposition to the Draft Mitigation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU.) She told him she was not opposed and had asked Mayor McGinn to sign off on it.

Pacific Connections: Andy Sheffer is working to develop a donor recognition for the Gateway to Chile. Fred recently received and is reviewing information from Cistus on the plant propagation. Paige is interviewing to fill the half-time volunteer coordinator position for Pacific Connections, following the resignation of the former coordinator.

Earth Day: Employees of Qwest worked at the Arboretum on April 23 and accomplished a great deal. Qwest will soon change its name to Century Link and is committed to continue its monthly volunteer efforts at the Arboretum.

Arboretum Creek: Andy is working with Seattle Public Utilities on the feasibility of drilling a well to supplement the creek flow.

Board of Park Commissioners: Michael will brief the Board of Park Commissioners at its May 26 meeting on the Arboretum Master Plan, SR 520 project, and project implementation.

Parking: MPIG members are studying the possibility of adding temporary parking south of the greenhouses and will keep ABGC updated. Jack asked that any new parking surfaces be permeable.

WSDOT/SR 520

Katie DeLeuw, WSDOT Communications Manager, SR 520 Project, distributed signed original copies of the Draft Mitigation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) originals. Work on the Memorandum of Agreement will begin with the ABGC in the near future. WSDOT staff will attend the June 8 ABGC meeting and Shane Cherry, WSDOT's SR 520 Environmental Mitigation Technical Lead will present an update on the north entry and multi-use trails. Michael added the City is working to legislate reimbursement from WSDOT for City staff time and scoping costs for the SR 520 project.

The previous ABGC negotiating committee was Paige, Barbara Wright, Michael and Fred. For the next phase, Theresa has replaced Barbara. This team will meet before the June ABGC meeting and report on their scope of work.

Arboretum Drive

MPIG will continue working to resolve the issues with the Arboretum Drive road closure, which include loss of 79 parking spaces which are sorely needed during major events, and confusion by park users at the north entry. Parks' communication staff will help revise wording on the signs to ensure they are clear to the public. MPIG will work to determine an effective solution and bring a report to the July 13 ABGC meeting.

Old/New Business

Master Plan: A June 8 public meeting is scheduled to share information with the public on the implementation of Master Plan projects. Staff will spend some time reviewing upcoming tree removals that are part of Master Plan projects.

Legislative Op/Ed: This was suggested several months ago and Jack and Kjrj volunteered to write the op/ed in support of State funding for the Arboretum. However, after further discussion it was agreed to hold off on this suggestion. The Arboretum Foundation will, instead, continue its quiet lobbying and the UW has lobbyists to focus on the UWBG.

City Council Annual Briefing: The ABGC is required to present an annual briefing to City Council as part of the Master Plan implementation. Donald will discuss the logistics/timing with Acting Superintendent Williams.

Lake Washington Boulevard Traffic Calming: Luke Korpi of Seattle Department of Transportation presented the proposed traffic-calming plan at the Friends of Olmsted's most recent meeting. The plan was not well received. Michael will meet with FSOP members Brook Kolb, Douglas Jackson, and Eliza Davidson to discuss FSOP's role in the traffic-calming plan.

Lake Washington Boulevard Light Fixture Installation: Michael has contacted Seattle City Light for an update on this project, which is a couple months behind schedule. He will report findings to the ABGC.

Parks Staff Update: Cheryl announced that Seattle Parks head gardener at the Arboretum, Paul Smith, has resigned and his last day is Wednesday, May 18. This is a real loss to the Department. Sarah asked that Fred or David Zuckerman from the UW be part of the process to fill the position and Cheryl agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Theresa Doherty, ABGC Chair