

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

Minutes – November 2, 2005

Voting

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
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department Manager

University of Washington

- David Mabberley, Director, University of Washington Botanic Garden
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

Others:

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation
- Nancy Davis, University of Washington College of Forest Resources
- David Goldberg, Seattle Parks Project Planner
- David Graves, Seattle Parks Project Planner
- Aaron Hoard, University of Washington property management staff
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks Pro Parks Levy Manager
- Larry Sinnott, Board Member, Friends of Olmsted Park Board

Voting members

Absent/Excused:

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

ABGC Chair Sandra Lier was out of town on business. Vice-chair Donald Harris called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. John Wott moved the **September 7 minutes be approved as corrected. Deb Andrews seconded, the vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.** The agenda was adjusted to delete one item and add several others.

Jack Collins noted a new book on trees with a foreword written by David Mabberley. It is for sale in the Arboretum's Visitor Center gift shop.

Update: MPIG Report

Michael Shiosaki reported on the Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG)'s progress:

- (1) Irrigation Mainline Project: The central irrigation line was recently tested; however, the results are not yet known. The project consultant, Herrera, is moving ahead with the design work and may be finished with this phase by the end of the year.
- (2) Japanese Garden Entry Project: An anonymous donor has offered to raise a substantial portion of the budget needed to fund the entire 1,700 square foot structure and would like to see it completed within two years. Staff are moving ahead quickly, as this project is on an aggressive timeframe. The donor has dropped his request for a particular architect to be selected; staff have now identified a list of potential consultants for this project.
- (3) Madrone Terrace Project: This is the major issue MPIG has been working on since July. Portico is proceeding with design development.
 - a. A potential anonymous donor has offered to fund the shelter house and also has a particular architect in mind for the project. This architect will be a sub-contractor to Portico. Deb Andrews met with Pomegranate on November 1, resulting in a good discussion of ideas. A meeting will be scheduled with David Goldberg as quickly as possible
- (4) Historic Resources: David is Seattle Parks' project manager for Historic Resources at the Arboretum.
- (5) Donors: David Maberley recently had lunch with an anonymous donor and learned that the donors' anticipated donation of \$50,000 will instead be \$100,000. This was good news! Deb Andrews commented that there are currently three anonymous donors who have pledged funds to the Arboretum's Master Plan Implementation.
- (6) Wayfinding Project: Fred Hoyt reported that he attended the first meeting on implementation of the Wayfinding and Signage project.

Historic Resources Update

David Goldberg, Seattle Park' project manager, gave an update on the Arboretum's Historic Resources project. A full draft report was completed on September 19, 2005. The three components of the project are: (1) historic review; (2) strategy; and (3) implementation of the strategy as the Master Plan moves forward. The portions of the Arboretum that could be most likely be nominated, as a result of Master Plan projects, for historic designation are the Japanese Garden, Lake Washington Boulevard, Azalea Way, Stone Gate House/Cottage and other WPA era elements, and Arboretum Drive.

The University will review project impacts to its landscape collections through its own policies that address historic resources as well as the UW's educational objectives.

The focus of the ABGC's discussion was on the relationship to be established with the Landmark Preservation Board during implementation of the Arboretum's Master Plan. David has been working closely with the City's Historic Preservation staff and has met with the Landmark Preservation Board. Some of the Preservation Board members would like the Arboretum to be land designated as a historic district. However, this could become problematic for implementing the various Master Plan projects due to the complexity of such a nomination, and lack of specificity generally found in district historic preservation guidelines.

Donald Harris also attended the meeting with the Preservation board and stated that David gave an excellent presentation to the Board, followed by a good discussion. He believes the Landmark Board is receptive to the Historic Resources plan.

David stated that in the SEPA permitting process, the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) staff asks about any impacts a Master Plan project might make to elements of the Arboretum that are eligible for designation as a landmark. If there are potential effects to eligible elements, DPD will then refer the project to the Historic Preservation Office in the Department of Neighborhoods. The Landmark Preservation Board could then require a nomination. David stated that it is better to have a strategy to work with the Preservation Board at the

beginning of the implementation, rather than waiting for the Board's reaction to each individual implementation project.

Jack Collins commented that Park Board members recently met with representatives of both the Landmark Preservation Board and the Seattle Design Commission. The Landmark Preservation Board is a powerful agency, with only two ways to appeal its decisions — before the City's independent Hearing Examiner and in court.

A brief discussion was held on legal aspects of historic designations, from a City of Seattle, State of Washington, and federal aspect. It is important to have a clear understanding of each and how the laws of each could affect any historic designation of the Arboretum.

The conclusion is that the Historic Resources aspect of Arboretum Master Plan Implementation will be better served by using a project-by-project approach and not a broad approach (such as designating the Arboretum as a historic district.) David believes that while the Landmark Preservation Board desires a district nomination, they are still receptive to the approach in the Historic Resources Strategy. He will keep the ABGC updated on this.

Update: 520 Project

Aaron Hoard from the University of Washington's property management office brought a very large map of this project which showed three alternatives being considered by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT.) The alternatives include the 4-lane, 6-lane, and Arboretum interchange proposals. WSDOT is also reviewing two other options that were not shown on the map.

The UW's primary concerns with the Pacific Interchange/Union Bay Bridge proposal put forth by the Better Bridge organization is (1) the considerable amount of the UW's property that would be taken; (2) the impacts to the Arboretum plant collections that are owned by the UW; and (3) traffic volumes at the University area could be impacted by as much as 49%. The proposal was presented to the UW Regents. On October 20, 2005, the University issued a press release that the plan was unacceptable and urged WSDOT to find other alternatives.

WSDOT's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled for release in May 2006, with the preferred alternative to be announced in late January or February of 2006.

The Board of Park Commissioners' will schedule a public hearing on this project, and a brief discussion was held on the timing of the hearing. David Graves commented that a public hearing is a great venue to hear public testimony on the impacts of the project and recommended the hearing be held when the comments will be most meaningful to WSDOT. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be issued in May 2006. WSDOT has no duty to respond to comments until the EIS is released. Jack Collins, the Park Board's representative to the ABGC, believes that the hearing should be held as soon as possible, rather than waiting for WSDOT to announce its preferred alternative.

Several members suggested other agencies and organizations which are interested in this project and its impact on the Arboretum, such as Seattle Audubon and other environmental groups.

Action item:

Park Board will schedule public hearing at earliest date possible.

New Business

- **Mayor Nickels' 2-1 Tree Policy:** Fred Hoyt commented that Arboretum staff respect the Mayor's recent decree that two trees be planted for every one tree removed from City property. However, because the Arboretum contains a large tree collection, staff cannot always follow this policy. Fred will prepare a one-page policy paper and send to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. The policy will be voted on at the ABGC retreat in December. Once the policy is approved, it will be posted on the Arboretum website.

- Encroachments on Arboretum Property: Donald Harris showed a large map of the Arboretum and pointed out areas at 26th and Lynn where property owners have encroached on Arboretum property. These encroachments include a garage, wood piles, and fences. He and his staff have been asked to accelerate a resolution of the encroachments. Fred commented that property owners living next to the Arboretum have asked that clear property lines be delineated.
- ABGC Website Update: Richard Burmeister of the UW has now completed the remodel of the ABGC website. The last steps are being taken to turn maintenance and updates over to Beth Somerfield, Seattle Parks' web master.
Comments: David Goldberg had a difficult time finding the Master Plan Implementation link; per Fred Hoyt, staff are cleaning up info on the University of Washington Botanic Garden link; and Donald Harris suggested a meeting be scheduled for all those working on the website.
- Volunteer Program: Jack Collins reported no action has been taken on this since the October ABGC meeting. He, Donald Harris, and David Maberley will prepare a draft two-three page strategy paper and send to ABGC members prior to the retreat. The paper will include (1) how volunteers can help; and (2) how the work of volunteers can be coordinated.
- Wayfinding and Signage Implementation: Fred initiated a brief discussion on the implementation of the first Wayfinding and Signage project. It is unclear who will maintain the signs after they are installed. It is also important to carefully schedule implementation of the signage and wayfinding as projects are completed. The Duck Bay and Pinetum projects are being considered for the first installation. It was determined that David Maberley will write a one-page strategy summary and circulate to the ABGC for a vote of approval. This topic will be discussed further at the retreat.
- Goals and Objectives Chart update: The chart was reviewed and a number of updates made.

The next meeting of the ABGC is the ½ day retreat, scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, at the Graham Visitor Center. Sandra Lier will serve as facilitator. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary