

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

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

Minutes – October 6, 2004

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

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

University of Washington

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

Excused Members:

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- John Behnke, Washington State Representative
- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator

Guests:

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Bill Talley, Seattle Department of Transportation — for Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- Tom Mentele, Director of Development, UW College of Forest Resources
- Iain Robertson, Japanese Garden Society
- Michael Shiosaki, Parks Department Pro Parks Manager

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Vice-chair Donald Harris called the meeting to order at 8:40 am, with a quorum present. The newest ABGC member, Jack Collins, was introduced. Jack is a Board of Park Commissioner and comes to the ABGC as a representative from the City of Seattle, replacing Sarah Neilson who has re-located to Chicago.

Margaret moved approval of the minutes and agenda as presented. Tom H seconded. The vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Master Plan Implementation (MPI) Group Update

Tom H gave an overview of the Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage, South Entry, and Duck Bay projects. The South Entry project is the largest and most visible currently underway. A public meeting was held the previous week, with only four members of the public in attendance. MPI Group will discuss what constitutes “adequate public input process.” Donald commented that the ABGC doesn’t want to repeat the opposition that arose to the original Arboretum Master Plan and he believes an adequate public input process will help with this goal. Neal stated that he thinks the public has trust in the three entities (Arboretum Foundation, City of Seattle, and University and Washington) and there shouldn’t be such controversy this time.

Iain stated that the Japanese Garden Society met and is concerned about the number of trails. The Society will send a letter to the ABGC. Tom H commented that MPI Group, too, has concerns with the number of bike and other trails converging at the South Entry and is still working on this.

Signage & Wayfinding Project

A short discussion was held on the public outreach process for last week's public meeting and its effectiveness. Michael S stated that Parks mailed 1,200 pieces of direct mail and 2,400 pieces of general carrier mail. Neal commented that Seattle Department of Transportation held a meeting on the 520 Widening Project at Lake City Mennonite Church. Other than project staff, he was the only one to show up. It was agreed that David Goldberg and project managers will invite themselves to constituent's groups and their meetings.

Bill T said Jerry Ernst has been meeting with the consultant team on the Signage & Wayfinding Project and is holding a workshop on October 13 to solidify goals and objectives before going forward. The consultant team is now working on themes for the signage and will bring a recommendation to the workshop. Donald commented that one issue is how to do the signage without overdoing it. A public review of the consultant's recommendations will be held on October 21. Bill T suggested calling key stakeholders to invite them to the public meeting and Ashley commented that she has already been doing this. Jack suggested that progress reports of the various projects be posted to the website.

Discussion returned to the public involvement policy, specifically the policy used by the Parks Department. Donald discussed the policy and stated that it is more project-specific than what would be needed for the Master Plan Implementation. Several suggestions were made to "get the word out":

- Present a briefing before the Parks Board
- Utilize the City's cable channel
- Prepare and distribute DVD's containing project history, photos, etc.

Margaret commented that too much focus has been placed on citizens/groups near the Arboretum. This is a regional issue. Use the City's cable channel and other means to tell the story.

South Entry Project

Michael S gave an update report from David Goldberg. A pressing issue is interest in expanding the project scope to a bit east of the New Zealand Garden area of Arboretum Drive. Michael asked for feedback from the ABGC on this proposal. Donald asked why this recommendation is being made. John W stated that the planning group thinks this change in the scope will work better and presented the proposal to Portico (consultants) to assess. More discussion followed on the scope of the proposed expansion. There were questions on the amount of acreage involved and whether there are adequate funds in the budget to cover the expansion.

Tom H moved that the MPI Group and project team consider adding this at the same levels of other eco-gardens. Neal seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor, motion passed.

The next public meeting on this project will be held in November.

Implementation Fundraising Plan and Strategy

Ashley stated that the task force, chaired by Neal, will meet later this week. The task force is working with Collins Group. Ashley listed a number of accomplishments the task force and Collins have already accomplished.

Donald asked at what point detailed info will be shared with the ABGC. Ashley stated that progress slowed in the summer; however, the plan will be coming to the ABGC in the near future. Donald believes the plan will need buy-in from Ken Bounds (Superintendent of Parks and Recreation), Neal Lessenger (Arboretum Foundation President), and Bruce Bare (UW Dean of College Resources). Ashley and Neal commented that the "leg work" must be completed before the plan goes to the three. Margaret agreed that this is a legitimate point — have the ABGC first review the plan and give input.

Tom M commented that the UW is hiring another development staff person. Please let him know of any likely candidates. It was suggested that political campaign fundraisers will soon be out of jobs and are likely candidates.

Master Plan Implementation Communications Strategy

Deferred until November 3 meeting.

**Arboretum Governance Statement Draft
Amend Original Working Together Agreement**

Deferred until November 3 meeting.

Conduct second phase of Historic Resources Assessment

Michael S gave a report, as David Goldberg had a conflict and could not attend today’s meeting. Due to staffing in Parks, this project will be sent out to consultants. The first three projects are Southeast Entry, Wayfinding and Interpretive Plan, and Duck Bay.

Old business/new business

- Determine Yearly ABGC retreat date & location: It was agreed that the retreat would be scheduled for January 2005. Jack recommended that a date be selected sooner, rather than later. Donald will begin circulating calendar options. Avoid January 28 as a retreat date, as the UW is planning a major event on that date.
- Review Goals & Objectives: Deferred until November meeting.
- John W continues to meet with the Washington State Attorney General’s office for the SR 520 Widening project. WSDOT is working to release the Environmental Impact Statement in early winter. John W will request a schematic of how the proposed bridge will actually look. Pete Marshall is now the Parks Department project manager assigned to the 520 Project.
- Jamboree October 22 & 23: David Takami of Parks and Recreation is working on a press release of the street closure. He will include a story on the three entrances and Master Plan projects. John W commented that the Jamboree plans are going well.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary