

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 – October 5, 2005

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President

City of Seattle

- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- Donald Harris, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department Manager

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

Washington State

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative

Others:

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation
- David Graves, Seattle Parks Project Planner
- 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:

- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee
- David Mabberley, Director, University of Washington Botanic Garden

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. **The September 7 minutes were approved as presented. The agenda was changed to reflect the Communication Plan (Item # IV) to be postponed until the November 2 meeting.**

Update: MPIG Report

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

- (1) Irrigation Mainline Project: The design is nearing completion. The design originally included three new major lines and now reflects new lines on the east and west sides. The existing central line may not be replaced, resulting in a considerable budget savings.

- (2) Japanese Garden Entry Project: An anonymous donor has offered to fund the entire 1,700 square foot structure and has suggested a particular consultant to design the structure. MPIG will have additional discussion on the funding, planning, and design.
- (3) Madrona Terrace Project: This is the major issue MPIG has been working on since July, in collaboration with Portico. The design is moving forward.
 - a. A potential anonymous donor has offered to fund the shelter house and also has a particular architect in mind for the project. Initial discussions of this offer are that the architect would be considered a sub-contractor of Portico.
 - b. Relocation of the holly collection is progressing. Discussions are being held with Iain Robertson on the design and to determine the scope.
- (4) Historic Resources: David Goldberg, Seattle Parks' project manager, met with the City's Landmark Preservation Board, which has raised concerns over the study. Staff will move forward with nominating areas, project by project. David will meet with the Preservation Board the third week of October and report back at the November ABGC meeting.
- (5) Wayfinding Project: The first implementation of the Wayfinding study is being looked at and the Pinetum area is a good possibility. The UW paid for the original study; Sandra will ask it to pay for the consultants to return for one session to assist in this initial application. After the first site is selected and the new Wayfinding tools and signs are implemented, a public review will be held to solicit input and comments. Fred commented that it is very important to get this right and suggested that staff meet on this, discuss it with MPIG, and then talk with the consultants.

Action item:

Allow time on November agenda for update on Historic Resources and results of meeting with Landmark Preservation Board.

Volunteer Coordination

At the March 2005 ABGC retreat, David Mabberley spoke on the need to expand volunteer efforts at the Arboretum for the new exhibits. How can donors be assured that the new collections and exhibits will be well maintained and the entire Arboretum will look great when maintenance requirements will greatly increase? Jack Collins volunteered to work with David on this effort and reported on progress made. The ABGC spent some time discussing how best to solicit more volunteer hours, while respecting the responsibilities of gardeners and other staff who maintain the Arboretum.

The discussion centered on two distinct topics: (1) enhancing and equalizing classification and compensation of City & UW staff who maintain the Arboretum; and (2) increasing volunteer opportunities. It was emphasized that all three entities — Arboretum Foundation, City of Seattle, and UW — work closely together to coordinate this effort. Sandra stressed that it is important to get the talking points down; Donald, Jack, and David Mabberley will do so.

Action items:

- *Jack to testify and write City Council re: Arboretum staff needs*
- *ABGC to draft letter to City Council re: Arboretum staff needs*
- *Sandra, Donald, and David to focus on classification and pay scale*
- *Donald, Jack, and David to prepare talking points*
- *Jack to send Aquarium volunteer coordinator information to Fred; Fred to share progress on this new position with Sandra*

Update: 520 Project

David Graves reported:

- The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was scheduled for release by WSDOT at the end of 2005; that has now been delayed to May 2006;

- WSDOT's preferred alternative is scheduled to be released in January 2005;
- WSDOT is scheduling several public open houses in late 2005 and early 2006; and
- Madison Park Advisory group is looking at bike connections and has recommended that the City encourage WSDOT to study these further

Larry Sinnott, Board member of Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, displayed a large WSDOT map showing proposed interchanges. The Friends will request that the Board of Park Commissioners hold a public hearing to discuss the traffic impacts from this project on the Arboretum.

The ABGC next discussed strategies for a multi-pronged approach by the UW, City, and Arboretum staff to these impacts. Donald commented that the Fish and Wildlife Agency also has concerns, which haven't yet been addressed by WSDOT. Sandra has received a response from City Council to the ABGC's recent letter regarding this project and its impacts to the Arboretum; copies will be distributed to ABGC members. She will ask Aaron Hoard or Theresa Doherty of the UW staff to attend the November 2 meeting to give an update report on the UW's research into SR520 project impacts on property near the Arboretum.

Action: Include 30 minutes on the December 7 retreat agenda for David Graves to brief attendees on this project.

New Business

- ABGC website update: Sandra has been working with UW staff to revise the site. Responsibility for maintaining the site will soon be transferred to Parks' web designer, Beth Somerfield. Once the website is up and running, minutes and agendas will be added, as far back as November 2002. Sandra will ask for a counter to record the number of visits to the site.
- Goals and Objectives Chart update: The chart was reviewed and a number of updates made.

The next meeting of the ABGC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2. Members were reminded of the ½ day annual retreat on Wednesday, December 7; location to be determined. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary