

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

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 – September 1, 2004**

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

- Deb Andrews, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director

City of Seattle

- Donald Harris, Parks and Recreation Department Manager
- Margaret Ceis, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator
- Tom Hinckley, University of Washington Professor

Washington State

- John Behnke

Absent Members:

- Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President
- John Wott, Arboretum Director

Guests:

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation Director of Development
- Jerry Ernst, Consultant
- David Goldberg, Parks Department Project Manager
- 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

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:30 am, with a quorum present.

Jamboree Update

Rory Denovan, Senior Gardener at Washington Park Arboretum, discussed the Arboretum jamboree that is scheduled for the Arboretum on Friday and Saturday, October 22 and 23. He displayed a large map and pointed out locations where work will be done, including removal of some diseased and/or leaning trees. These trees have been evaluated by the Arboretum and Parks Department arborists. University of Washington crews, City Light, Seattle Transportation, volunteers, and the Parks Department's sewer and carpenter crews will participate in the jamboree. There has been good cooperation and excitement among these groups. Portions of the Arboretum will be closed during the jamboree. Prior to the road closures, signs will be posted noting the dates and times. Staff are working with Dewey Potter, Parks Department's public information manager, to give the public notice of the closures.

Comments/suggestions:

- The jamboree started in the Parks Department years ago and evolved into a large work party that makes a visual and very positive effect in the Arboretum.
- Volunteers are asked to call the Arboretum Foundation (Deb Andrews) to volunteer.
- Hang a large banner over the main entrance to reflect that “the changes you notice are a result of.....”
- Use the press releases to announce other changes that are coming. Donald will follow up with Dewey.
- The University of Washington public information manager, Bob Roseth, and Dewey should work together on the press releases. Donald will follow up with Dewey.
- Jamboree press releases should be posted to the ABGC web site.

The group thanked Rory for the presentation.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the September 1 agenda and August 4 minutes be approved. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPI Group) Update

Tom reported that the group is closely following progress of the South Entry Madrona Terrace and Irrigation Mainline projects, as well as the Signage & Wayfinding project. There is good cooperation between those working on these projects.

Jerry Ernst gave an update on the Signage & Wayfinding project. Much formulative work has been completed and several meetings held. A draft of the stories to be told is being finalized. Contact Jerry for a copy. The next public meeting will be held at the end of October.

David Goldberg gave a detailed update on the Southeast Entry project, which is off to a good start. 25 people attended the first two-day charette (City and UW staff and other interested people.) A public workshop will be held near the end of September. The public information process was discussed and it was agreed that it must be clear what the message to the public is and the public should be kept informed of what point the project is at. Sandra stated that ABGC members must update both the City Council and UW Regents once each year on the Master Plan — make sure that the information is the same to both.

Fundraising Plan

Ashley reported that the draft plan is coming together, with the initial fundraising element completed in June. Consultants have been hired and she is meeting with them weekly to work on both leadership and donor policies. David asked if plans are being made to tie the fundraising to the South Entry Project and Deb answered yes, the policy is currently being drafted. The Arboretum Foundation is doing the background work on the fundraising plan and is incorporating policies of both the City of Seattle and UW, including meshing of the three entities’ naming policies. The final version of the policy will be signed off by Neal Lessenger, Arboretum Foundation President; Bruce Bare, UW Dean of the College of Forest Resources; and Ken Bounds, Parks Department Superintendent.

Communication Strategy

Deb stated that the draft version is almost finished. The websites are one of the most important areas to address. Currently, information about the Arboretum is posted on the Arboretum Foundation, City of Seattle, and UW’s web pages, as well as the ABGC web page. An important goal is to consolidate the pages so that all link to the same information. Sandra reviewed all the websites yesterday and agreed. Each website has different information, causing the sites to be disconnected and disjointed. A lengthy discussion followed on the difficulties of meshing the three entities websites. It was agreed that public information staff from all three entities should be on the communication committee (David Takami from Parks, Sandra Hines from the Arboretum Foundation, and Kimberly Mills from the UW.)

Second Phase of Historic Resources Assessment

David Goldberg reviewed the First Phase, where the history of the Arboretum was collected. The second phase would involve the best ways to integrate this history with future projects. A lengthy discussion followed on whether to nominate the entire Arboretum as an historic resource. If it were so designated, each future project would have to be assessed as to its impact on the historical resources — no matter how small the project might be. The Olmsted supporters would like to nominate the entire Olmsted Park system as historic resources. It has not yet been determined what the full impact of this would be. The Parks Department would like to take a different approach. The designation should not become a roadblock to completing projects. Margaret urged that Parks work with the City’s Law Department to assist with this decision. This is a complex process with serious implications. David is presenting a briefing to the Seattle Design Commission at the end of November.

SR520 Widening Project Update

ABGC members have been following this Washington State Department Transportation (WSDOT) proposal to widen SR 520 and its impacts to the Arboretum.

Tom H reported that he met with University staff and there are two primary issues: impacts to the Arboretum and vehicular traffic. In addition, they discussed Museum of History and Industry mitigation and a triangle of land at the old entrance to the Museum. There is now a question about the deed and UW property staff are researching the issue. Donald stated that the City owns the building; the land currently is in question.

Tom recommended that the ABGC watch this project closely, especially for traffic impacts to the Arboretum. Donald stated that the Parks Department project manager who was following this project recently resigned and a new manager will be hired. Iain stated that Foster Island will be negatively impacted by the project. John W has been invited to all the Washington State Department of Transportation meetings, along with Peter Dewey, Sandra Lier, and the to-be-hired Parks Department project manager. Sandra will invite WSDOT staff to attend another ABGC meeting in the near future. It was suggested that the ABGC sponsor a community meeting on the impacts of this project and work closely with the Montlake community as the project unfolds. Those living on the East Side of Lake Washington along 520 are also impacted and the ABGC should work with them.

Old Business/New Business

- Sandra and her staff will maintain and circulate the ABGC calendar of meeting and events.
- Sandra talked with UW about partnership with Mayor’s office to coordinate efforts of the City and UW.
- She is also working with the UW real estate office on the lands impacted by the SR 520 project.
- Cara Mathison has accepted a new position and will no longer attend ABGC meetings.
- The retreat will be scheduled for a Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday in January.
- The Park Board has three new members and a new representative to the ABGC will be solicited.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary