

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes
Graham Visitors Center – September 11, 2013

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.

Voting Members

Arboretum Foundation

- Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Craig Trueblood, Arboretum Foundation Board President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

University of Washington

- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington, Asst. Vice President for Regional Affairs
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- *Excused:* David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Doug Critchfield, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Unit Manager
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

AF: Paige Miller; City: TBD; UW: TBD

Partners Committee:

AF: Paige Miller & Craig Trueblood
City: Donald Harris & Christopher Williams
Michael Shiosaki & Leah Tivoli
UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG): AF: Paige Miller & Roger Williams

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Theresa Doherty & Fred Hoyt

Opening Items

The September meeting of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is called to order at 8:39am. Jack asks for approval of the August minutes; Kenan has a small change. Craig moves to approve the August minutes with Kenan's changes and Michael seconds. Minutes approved with suggested changes; Paige abstains from voting. Jack asks for a motion to approve the July minutes.

Kenan moves and Michael seconds. The July minutes are approved. Jack asks for approval of the September agenda; Paige asks if the Committee would like an update on the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai collection and this is added to the agenda under the Arboretum Foundation updates.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

The mayor will announce his budget on Sept 23. Parks will present to council on October 9. The budget process is moving forward. The budget looks good with no major cutbacks.

Parks Legacy Plan: There are 2 meetings a month now. Parks staff presented on 37 investment initiatives; the committee will comment and look at overall suggestions from Parks to help prioritize the initiatives. There are dollar amounts associated with these initiatives and right now these 37 initiatives equal \$60million a year with an emphasis on major maintenance and some new capital projects.

The Washington Park Arboretum is mentioned in a community initiative opportunity fund. This opportunity fund is open to everyone and allows those partners who are ready to spend on a project the ability to do so. The Arboretum Foundation is also listed in the section on partnerships, Paige notes the other partners have dollar amounts listed and the Arboretum Foundation does not. Barbara Wright advised Paige to come to a meeting and get in front of the committee with some plans and dollar numbers. Michael says that no other organizations have a specific dollar amount except the zoo and aquarium because of our major maintenance obligations to them. The ABGC agree they should present at a Parks Legacy Plan committee meeting and will attend the next meeting. These are the main projects for which they would like support from the city's plan:

- o Electricity to the Pacific Connections garden and crabapple meadow
- o Renovation of the waterfront trail
- o Improvements to maintenance building
- o Foster Island Road
- o 2 additional gardeners for the Arboretum (\$160,000/yr)

Arboretum Foundation

Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection– Paige wrote a letter to Weyerhaeuser on behalf of the ABGC; she received a reply from Weyerhaeuser that said they have decided to do an RFP process to all people interested and they would get that to us early this week. At this time, Weyerhaeuser has not sent their criteria for the RFP process. Their other options are: Tacoma Community Foundation will create a non-profit to have the collection in Tacoma or that Weyerhaeuser will create a non-profit to keep the collection where it is.

Kenan says he thought the Arboretum Foundation was to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study. Paige responds that doing a feasibility study when there is no commitment from Weyerhaeuser may be hasty. The Berger Partnership and Bob Hoshide were the ones who designed

the Weyerhaeuser Bonsai Collection. They are going to help the Arboretum Foundation answer the RFP.

University of Washington

The nature based pre-kindergarten started on Monday and it's going very well. The program is fully enrolled and there's a waiting list. There are 2 cohorts each with 25 kids; the Monday, Wednesday and Friday cohort and the Tuesday, Thursday cohort have different personalities. There are now 25-3 and 4 year olds running around, picking up bugs, learning about the environment. The UWBG hired a new teacher and she's great.

Loop trails – the brochures are done and in fabrication. Fred passes around the graphics for the new Pinetum and History loop trails. The ABGC comment they look wonderful.

SR 520- UWBG is getting \$750,000 from WSDOT but it is unclear if there will be additional funds for the undercrossing maintenance and compensation for the Arboretum Canal Reserve property and the removed trees. Sarah mentioned she has met with Dean Lisa Graumlich a couple of times to prepare her and give her documentation but it is unclear if she will be meeting with the Provost and Vice-Provost for Budgets and Planning.

Hillary Burgess has completed her master's thesis; the ABGC feels having a young person was a nice-added perspective to the ABGC. Sarah thinks she may have another graduate student who is interested in coming to the meetings.

Master Plan Implementation Guide

Overlook Shelter – The replacement globe in the Pacific Connections shelter will be going in to the Overlook Shelter today. It's lovely and very durable.

SR520 – Multi-use trail - The Joint Aquatics Resources Permit Application (JARPA) will be submitted in 5-6weeks; it involves wetland, wetland enhancements. The construction on the multi-use trail won't start until 2015 and then 2 years later it will be done. Jack requests seeing drawings of the design of the multi-use trail at the next meeting. Michael will bring multi-use trail technical drawings to the next meeting.

Wayfinding map signs are in! The collection signs and interpretive trail signs are not in.

New Zealand Garden

- There was vandalism in the New Zealand garden; baby *Nothofagus* trees and shrubs were pulled out or broken. These plants are very hard to acquire.
- Port-a-potties are in and hidden behind beautiful screens.
- New Zealand Garden Opening Weekend – New Zealand Extravaganza!
 - Kenan got an exclusive interview with KING TV; shooting it today and airing it over the next couple of days. Caine Tauwhare, the Maori carver will be available for the interviews; Sarah will talk about plants and Andy will talk about the project.
 - Val Easton did a great article in the Sunday magazine.

- o Friday: Donor/VIP event
Lecture with Caine Tauwhare, the Maori carver. Randall Hitchins and Ray Larson will discuss the project. There will be a tour of the garden, speeches and toasts. Warren and Gilbert KingGeorge will do the welcome.
- o Saturday: Broadmoor neighbors, cheese and wine reception and tour of the garden
- o Sunday: John Wott will be the MC; similar but extended version of the presentations given on Friday. There will be a ribbon cutting, events and tours and Haka Dancers. In the end there will be a bench dedication and then everyone will go back to the Graham Visitors Center for beer and meat pies. 150 people have already RSVP'd.

Faulstich Totem Pole

Jim Faulstich would like to donate the totem pole as soon as possible. There will be a signing of documents on Tuesday. There will be a gift agreement from Faulstich to the Arboretum Foundation in which they will agree to pay all costs to move, relocate and set up the totem pole. Andy estimates it will cost up to \$9,000. Also, they will sign a pledge for a \$20,000 endowment; restricted to use and maintenance of the totem pole. This endowment will allow us to insure it and restore it. The city and the Arboretum Foundation will agree that it is the Foundation's responsibility and the city allows it to sit on their land.

Paige asks for a motion in regards to the Faulstich totem pole:

The ABGC thanks Jim and Gretchen Faulstich for their offer to give the Arboretum Foundation the totem pole for display in the Washington Park Arboretum. Further, the ABGC thank them for the endowment of \$20,000 to support the totem pole and to pay for the transfer of the totem to the park. Kenan seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Jim and Gretchen Faulstich also want a bench near the totem pole so one can sit and enjoy it. There will need to be a bench site approved for this location. The ABGC agrees this is a good idea.

Timing of the totem: Tuesday the documents will be signed at the Faulstich residence. Andy has the phone number for the carver who has agreed to help move the pole and they should be talking today. If Gretchen does not have the engineering documents then the Arboretum Foundation will hire an engineer to figure out how to move the totem pole. Andy will get on this right away. There will be an on-site dedication once the totem pole is in its place.

The ABGC feel a story in the Arboretum Foundation bulletin about the totem pole would be perfect.

Communications

Working with Paige and her team for media. Kenan would like to see something in the Seattle Times prior to the New Zealand Garden. General appeal to the Seattle Times – there is more competition for stories since the paper is smaller.

Great feature story for TV and print for the interpretive trails, trail maps and the wayfinding signs in early October in concert with the fall colors. Fred says they are refining the kayak landing signage, which will consist of historical facts about the area and welcome them from the water. There are 15,000 trail maps. There are QR codes up at the New Zealand garden and it is being tested to see how many people are using them. Fred and Kenan will communicate about press for this.

The next regular ABGC meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am, Wednesday, October 9, 2013, at the Graham Visitors Center.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47am.

APPROVED  DATE 10/9/2013
John B. Collins, ABGC Chair

