

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC)

www.wparboretum.org then select ABGC

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

Minutes – September 7, 2005

Voting

Members:

Arboretum Foundation

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

City of Seattle

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

University of Washington

- Sandra Lier, University of Washington Administrator

Others:

- Ashley Clark, Arboretum Foundation
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture
- Tom Mentele, Director of Development, UW College of Forest Resources

Voting members

Absent/Excused:

- John Behnke, Washington State Representative
- Jack Collins, Board of Park Commissioner
- David Maberley, Washington Park Arboretum & Center for Urban Horticulture Director
- John Wott, University of Washington Professor of Urban Horticulture

Staff:

- Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

Chair Sandra Lier called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. **The July 14 minutes and September 7 agenda were approved as presented.**

Update: MPIG Report

Donald Harris reported that MPIG has met three times since the July 14 ABGC meeting and has been addressing the following:

- (1) **Irrigation Mainline Project**: Consultants presented the schematic to MPIG and it includes 3 new major lines for the Arboretum at an estimated cost of \$800,000. Fred Hoyt stated that the consultants and Parks are meeting later this same day to determine whether or not to complete the loop to keep costs down. Information from the meeting will be taken back to MPIG for a decision.
- (2) **Japanese Garden Entry Project**: The design program has been approved and next steps are being determined. Fundraising discussions are ongoing.
- (3) **Madrona Terrace Project**: This is the major issue MPIG has been working on since July. Cost estimates are being reviewed and plans are to move ahead with the design and make adjustments as needed during the project. The first step is the relocation of the holly collection to a new 3-acre location. Members spent some time discussing the relocation of the hollies and the lilacs. MPIG will help strategize how to fund the holly move and ways to draw visitors to the new holly area. The Wayfinding & Signage Plan could help direct

visitors to the site. MPIG is very pleased that Iain Robertson has volunteered as the lead in this relocation, pro bono. MPIG has thoroughly discussed the ongoing role of Portico Consultants in this project.

- (4) Historic Resources: David Goldberg, Seattle Parks' project manager, is moving ahead with this study and will give an update at the October 5 meeting. Sandra asked if a public meeting should be held to present the information. Donald answered not at this time.
- (5) Next MPIG Meeting Focus: Discussion focused on undesirable behavior that is currently going on in the Arboretum — vandalism, car prowls, drinking, drug usage and other illicit behavior. Donald stated that Superintendent Bounds can take this issue to the Mayor's cabinet meeting, which the Seattle Police Chief also attends. Surveillance cameras were suggested as a way to deter some of the activity.

Action: Allow time on October 5 agenda for Historic Resources update report.

Update: 520 Project

Sandra reported on the following:

- There is a September 8 meeting scheduled between the City, University, and Washington State Department of Transportation staff.
- She mailed the ABGC letter to WSDOT and provided a hard copy for the files.
- The EIS may not be released before the end of 2005.
- Value of the serenity of the Arboretum land has not yet been discussed with WSDOT.
- UW real estate office has been researching who owns what and what provision statements might be attached to the various parcels of land around the Arboretum impacted by SR520.
- Aaron Hoard of the UW staff will be asked to attend the October 5 meeting to give an update report.

Action: Aaron Hoard of the UW staff will be asked to attend the October 5 meeting to give an update report.

New Business

- ABGC website update: The new version has been circulated and Sandra has received several helpful suggestions. The minutes and agenda are to be updated by Parks' staff. Links are included to other websites.
- New projects communication plan (press releases): A report will be given at the October 5 ABGC meeting.
- Written report from Dr. Mabberley: Fred Hoyt gave an update from Dr. Mabberley, including Dr. Mabberley, Jack Collins, and Deb Andrews met to discuss expanding volunteer involvement at the Arboretum; he has met with George Schwarz, Seattle Symphony conductor, to discuss a joint sculpture show/symphony performance at the Arboretum; the pylon is up and City staff did a great job; crews are continuing to remove 4-5 big leaf maples; a gravel path was installed in Azalea Way with a pro and con reaction from the public; hired new education coordinator and an assistant; four Park Board members attended a successful Arboretum tour with him; and the Chilean Garden has received a \$500,000 donation. (There was a brief discussion that the sculpture/symphony event would be reviewed and coordinated through the City as a special event.)
- Goals and Objectives Chart update: The chart was reviewed and a number of updates made.

The next meeting of the ABGC is scheduled for October 5. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. Fred Hoyt then led all present on a 20-30 minute tour of the Pinetum exhibit and pointed out different aspects of the Arboretum and several recent improvement projects. The weather cooperated and it was a sunny day for this interesting tour.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Deborah Andrews, ABGC Secretary