

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – July 8, 2015

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
- *Excused*, Jim Reid, 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

- *Excused*, Sally Clark, University of Washington, Director of Regional and Community Relations
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Washington State

- David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Doug Critchfield, Seattle Parks and Recreation, NRU Manager
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- *Excused*, Daniel Sorensen, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG)

Standing Committees

Building Committee:	<u>AF</u> : Paige Miller; <u>City</u> : TBD; <u>UW</u> : TBD
Partners Committee:	<u>AF</u> : Jim Reid & Paige Miller <u>City</u> : Christopher Williams & Michael Shiosaki <u>UW</u> : Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard
Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):	<u>AF</u> : Paige Miller & Jason Morse <u>City</u> : Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer <u>UW</u> : Fred Hoyt & Sarah Reichard
SR520 Technical Committee:	<u>City</u> : David Graves; <u>UW</u> : Fred Hoyt

Opening Items

The meeting is called to order at 8:33am. Sarah asks for approval of the May 13 minutes. Dave moves and Iain seconds, and Jack abstains, the May 13 minutes are approved. Sarah asks for approval of the June 10 meeting minutes. Jack moves, Iain seconds, and Michael abstains, the June 10 minutes are approved.

The ABGC breaks out into two subcommittees.

- Strengthen Volunteer Programs – Paige, Jack, and Megan Meyers
 - Talked about areas of overlap between the partner organizations; strengthening volunteer program in those areas; better marketing of volunteer opportunities to UW students. Will ask Dan to provide insights for promoting opportunities. Carlson Center is a good place to start and Michele Hall of the College of the Environment. Megan meets with the volunteers and provides orientation and introduces them to those who are leading the program.
 - Focus on growing the connections with high schools; bring track team in to do a specific process. Jack to talk with Bush school to engage them in the Arboretum.
 - Expand garden stewards to the Japanese Garden. Garden steward would train the volunteers at Japanese Garden.
 - Jack mentions the other events that the Arboretum Foundation holds throughout the year that require volunteers. The volunteer program has been very successful.
- Public Outreach Committee – Kenan, Sarah, and Michael
 - RSJI – how to better target people from underrepresented communities; bring Charles Ng to the August ABGC meeting for suggestions on outreach.
 - Groundbreaking for ALT – date right after Labor Day; Karen O'Connor suggested something more active and interactive, perhaps a press tour?
 - People mover – arrive later this summer; new way to visit the Arboretum.
 - Application – optimized for a phone

Iain mentions the city is growing and wonders how the Arboretum will stay relevant and effectively communicate with people so they understand the mission and align themselves with the goals of the Arboretum. Sarah says to stress the educational opportunities. Marketing has been identified as a key issue; there are new Arboretum Foundation Board members who will likely be able to help with this.

- Education – Sarah, Michael and Kenan
 - Water Fountain by Fiddleheads preschool - The pipes are okay but the fountain doesn't connect to a sewer which is an issue for having a water fountain.
 - Composting toilets – Dan Johnson says that since there is no sewer line in the Arboretum, they could qualify for composting toilets. Sarah and others to do more research about the latest designs and ease of use.

It is decided the ABGC will break into subcommittees quarterly. The next one will be in October.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail - Army Corps of Engineers permit moved forward for the ALT. Project will go to bid soon. The ABGC will not announce a groundbreaking until they have firmer dates for starting the project. The plan is to get work done before the rainy season.

Kenan feels there should be a press event with an interactive educational walk. He will work with Karen O'Conner on this. Kenan feels someone should write a powerful foundational essay to paint a picture of the Arboretum. Tentative date: press walk September 9.

520 funded for phase 2; state should be coming back to us about phase 2 North Entry.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

The new Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Jesús Aguirre, started officially.

Amanda is doing an excellent job as head gardener; it has been busy with the beautiful weather. The collaboration between Parks and the UW Botanical Gardens is great. She will be with Parks and the Arboretum until September, at least.

Arboretum Foundation

The Arboretum Foundation has 3 new board members who are strong in marketing, financial management, and event planning. Jason Morse is now vice president and serves on the Master Plan Implementation Group.

The Arboretum Foundation is fully staffed. They are working on plans for the party next year. Don Graham came and spoke at the 80th Anniversary party. He was emotional when talking about the history and his parents' involvement with the Arboretum.

The new Superintendent of Parks and Recreation sent a letter to the Foundation asking the Board to consider stepping into the role of ARC at the Japanese Garden. The AF would serve as oversight and 501c3 for the Japanese Garden. Jesús, Doug and Christopher will come to the Executive Committee of the Arboretum Foundation Board tomorrow. Rumi would move from being an Associated Recreation Council employee to an Arboretum Foundation employee. Paige notes that the Foundation was founded in 1935 and they were trying to get a Japanese garden in 1937.

University of Washington –

Created more planting sites in the Mediterranean collection and throughout the Arboretum.

The Washington Park Arboretum was listed as one of the top collegiate arboreta in the country. The ABGC agrees this is wonderful news and well earned.

The letter to the UFC was comprehensive and thorough. It is attached [here](#).

Old/New Business

None.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:58am for a tour of the Woodland Garden.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair