

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes
Graham Visitors Center – April 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
- 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

- 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

- David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Associate Director
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator

Standing Committees

Building Committee:

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

Partners Committee:

AF: Jim Reid & Paige Miller

City: Christopher Williams & Michael Shiosaki

UW: Tom DeLuca & Sarah Reichard

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG): AF: Paige Miller & Jason Morse

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 meeting is called to order 8:37am. Jack requests a conversation about marches in the Arboretum under Miscellaneous Items.

MPIG

Multi-Use Trail: In order to move past the section 106 issues with the Army Corps of Engineers, shovel probing was completed and they found nothing. This information was sent to the tribes and the Army Corps of Engineers. At this point Parks is waiting on the last permit related to section 106. Parks still intends to bid project this year but is not sure when it will break ground.

Fred adds the UWBG is already working with Far Reaches Nursery for propagation. This is for the plants that will be removed and replaced. Parks and UWBG will send out Request for Proposals (RFPs) from other nurseries to do the majority of the project. Far Reaches is a good company to work with.

Foster Island – Parks is working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with local tribes. Planting will be deferred until fall to make sure they have proper agreement from the tribe.

Education shelter – The city is working to figure out whether it will be built internally or sent out to bid.

Water quality testing – The initial work was completed. A lot of turbidity found at site 1, which is the woodland pond. Other two site locations didn't show turbidity. This is a golf course issue not the homeowners and a city representative will talk to Broadmoor after the results of the chemical tests are received.

Summer garden – MPIG may have found a location for the summer garden, south of crabapple meadow. Iain has expressed interest in designing the summer garden. Kenan feels like the summer garden would capture the public's imagination and be a huge public benefit. Michael reminds the group that this needs to go back to MPIG because it wasn't in our 2015 master plan. Paige adds that MPIG works towards identifying priorities for projects on which to work. Iain says he could start the plant list and Fred adds they could start culling the old nursery.

MPIG had their March meeting at Bellevue Botanical Garden. They did the forest canopy walk – looking at their suspension bridge as a way to cross the Arboretum's woodland garden. Bellevue built a suspension bridge over a ravine. Paige adds it has major engineering impacts and very expensive. Paige asks if the ABGC knows about the Madrona connector bridge; certainly less cost and less impact. Michael says the suspension bridge was right amongst the trees. Fred adds the decking was pretty thin and so it had little visual impact.

2015 Work Plan

Goal: Support UWBG in expanding educational opportunities

Sarah and Kenan spoke. Explore building another shelter near a parking lot for parent drop off. Add at least 1 composting toilet. ABGC wonders who would maintain a compost toilet.

UWBG expanding its program to add a 2nd Fiddleheads pre-school. They are hiring 2 more teachers but there is no more office space.

Identify parking expansion.

Explore expansion of potable water – so that the kids have access to drinking water closer to their classroom.

Public Outreach Committee – Michael, Sarah and Kenan: The committee discussed what the big events are in the next 12-18 months that they want to promote. The committee will come up with strategies to do a better job of using public relations resources between the partners. They express the need to collaborate to maximize impact. Parks, Arboretum Foundation and UW staff will work together.

3 events – multi-use trail ribbon cutting, unveiling of the new phone application, and the wayfinding signage from the Sound Transit station. They will work with SDOT to create wayfinding signs to help people find their way to the Arboretum. They will meet quarterly. Paige suggests bringing in Chris Pendel who is on the Arboretum Foundation board and works for Nyhus.

Paige will set up meeting for the Volunteer Committee and Public Affairs Committee (David, Jim, Kenan, and Stephanie). Sarah adds that perhaps David Zuckerman from UW will join with the volunteer group.

Future projects group – MPIG and Iain and Ray Larson will also start their work.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Yesterday, the City Council had the confirmation/public hearing for Jesús, the new Superintendent. It went really well. Next step, it goes to Parks committee Tuesday, May 5 and full council on Monday, May 11. Kenan says he's heard nothing but good things about Jesús.

Arboretum Foundation –

Rhonda Bush, Stewards Coordinator, is leaving. Arboretum Foundation is hiring for a new Stewards Coordinator. So far more than 30 people have applied and there are some unbelievable candidates. Paige wants to make sure that they are willing to stay for 3 years and work part-time.

Kristin, the events manager is leaving. Pacific Northwest Ballet hired her to be their events manager. She'll be working at the Arboretum Foundation through Florabundance and then she will be gone. Paige posted the job yesterday. There will not be overlap in that position.

Public Affairs/lobbying – worked hard on specialty license bill; sailed through senate but it died in the house. Paige says they can try again next year.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant – city applied for \$475,000 for waterfront trail and did not make the cut; the house passed the grant for the full \$9.2million. Paige and Jack will lobby legislators to keep the full grant in the budget.

University of Washington –

UWBG is hiring a new Facilities Manager – job is open now and they are putting together a committee for hiring. The UWBG makes a lot of money from facilities rentals.

The greenhouse has mold in it so they have not been able to use it, which makes building a real education building that much more of a priority. Summer camps are coming up.

There are 80 students in Sarah's plant identification class; they will be meeting in the Arboretum. The Arboretum is being used for teaching all ages.

Fiddleheads will be adding a new preschool. They will be participating in a research project where the kids wear pedometers and compare those results to regular preschools.

Val Easton spent time with the kids and there will be an article about the fiddleheads program in the Seattle Times.

The Arboretum has Wifi for the UWBG staff, not for public use. This is great because bringing in high speed internet is really expensive.

Union Bay Natural Area mitigation – The UWBG has completed up to permits right now. They have made many compromises with WSDOT but have added 25 acres of buffer and wetlands which will provide much more student and public opportunity. There is a loss of shore birds, in part, due to the 520 construction.

Yesler Swamp Trail is coming along; the overwater trail needs to be completed by April 15. The Department of Natural Resources part requires grading not decking. The trail is still blocked off. Jack thinks it provides wonderful access to Lake Washington.

Theresa says Sally Clark is coming on board May 18; everyone is very excited that she'll be at the University of Washington.

Miscellaneous Business

Marches in the Arboretum – Jack says the ABGC received a request from a non-profit to host a march at the Arboretum and he feels the ABGC ought to have a discussion about policy on this. The Arboretum is a place people come to for peace and quiet and running into a fundraising march doesn't fit in the mission. The non-profit is not connected to the Arboretum and there are outside vendors associated with the marches. The permit would come from the parks superintendent. Paige questions whether this is in the ABGC purview. ABGC could make a recommendation to Parks that they build a policy that says there are no marches. Michael says there is a permit policy for parks but so far this has not been an issue for the Arboretum. Jack fears that the city would allow marches in the Arboretum. The ABGC agree that the Arboretum is not the correct venue for marches and that if it becomes a larger issue, they will deal with it.

Old/New Business

New Senior Gardener at Arboretum: Amanda Hannah starts today and she will be in this position for 8 months.

Communications

Groundbreaking: Kenan asks when would be the soonest to do a trail groundbreaking? Michael says July...?

There is a discussion about putting on an annual event – State of the Arboretum which would give the partners the opportunity to discuss all of the great things happening. Some ideas passed around were to have a press conference, annual luncheon. Paige says they are supposed to do a report to the City Council Parks Committee and University Board of Regents every year. Jim says this should be part of the Public Outreach Committee. Paige adds that this should happen during a heavy use period during fall colors or around Mother’s Day.

Upcoming dates

Florabundance plant sale is April 24-26 at Magnuson Park Building 30

May 10 – Mother’s Day

May 5 is Give Big

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:45am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Jim Reid, ABGC Chair