

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – September 9, 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

- *Excused*, Sally Clark, University of Washington, Director of Regional and Community Relations
- Sarah Reichard, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Director
- *Excused*, 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. Jim asks for approval of the consent items. Dave Towne moves and Jack seconds, the July minutes are approved.

Urban Forestry Commission update added to the agenda. Jack asks for more information regarding the decree between the United States Justice Department and the City of Seattle. Michael says the

ridge above the Woodland Garden needs an ADA accessible trail. Also added to the Agenda is an update regarding Sound Transit/wayfinding signage.

Arboretum Loop Trail Bidding Status

The Arboretum Loop Trail is an important project at the Arboretum. Thus far, the partners have been fortunate that many projects have come in under bid. The design team tried to put together a project that was possible, but it didn't work out. Bids came in \$1million over the engineers estimate. The base contract is \$4.9million and the low bidder was \$5.9million. Andy says they can shave off \$900-1mil; they are looking at the North connection near the Wilcox Bridge or Arboretum Drive to Madison. The main issue are that aggregate and concrete prices increased, construction costs have gone up, and getting concrete to the locations adds a degree of complexity. Demand for aggregate is so high right now in the city. The design team will establish how to trim \$1million and put it out for another bid. There were only 3 bids.

What does this mean for the whole project? May lose some of the aesthetic. The ABGC feel cutting either the North or South connections would be a loss because it would no longer be a loop. They emphasize how important it is the project maintains its integrity. Andy says they are looking at having rock walls in lieu of poured concrete. The problem is rock walls require more room which could impact the collections.

They are hiring a 3rd party to value engineer. It would be more cost effective to shave off the South entry because the Right of Way work is more expensive. There is a safety issue at the south entry from Madison. It is suggested to moving the wall from the stone cottage. The 3-way stop on Lake Washington Boulevard was part of the additive.

Construction will be delayed until 2016 and the project will be rebid in November/December.

Urban Forestry Commission Tour and meeting: The meeting and tour occurred on August 12. Sarah, Fred, and Andy did a great job and were very impressive. They discussed interpretation along the multi-use trail. Sarah and Andy will go to an Urban Forestry Commission meeting.

Seattle Audubon: Jim contacted the Chair of the Board to see if they would like to come for a tour. These are opportunities to educate people about the Arboretum. There are 2 local Audubon groups: Seattle and Washington.

MPIG

Faulstich Totem – The base has been poured. The totem is being refurbished over the next 2-3 weeks. The Artist will bring it in this fall. Paige is working on getting the endowment. A Family ceremony will take place; the location has a nice subtleness.

Education shelter – Tried to work through the University of Washington to build it; bids came back 3x architect estimate. It will be sent out for rebidding. Construction will start in November/December.

Woodland Garden – A bridge across the Woodland Garden has proven not cost effective but the area could be improved with an ADA accessible trail. Seattle Parks and Recreation will build an ADA accessible trail that goes around by Arboretum Drive.

The Department of Justice consent decree involved an audit of a random sampling of our parks and facilities. The DOJ found 2200 citations in 20% of parks facilities. SPR has received additional city funding for dealing with some of those citations. Some of our facilities are really old. When SPR updates a facility, they are obligated to ensure ADA accessibility. Jack urges the ABGC to look at cheap and easy ways to make the park more accessible.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

No updates. Status of the Park District? Seattle Park District Board has started to meet. Oversight Committee met last night.

Arboretum Foundation

Paige was married at the Chinese garden and went to Barbados for her honeymoon.

Volunteer report – 50 UW cross country team members worked at the New Zealand garden. They loved working here. They did a great job. They will be back in the spring with the track team.

Jeff Boyer – Development Associate has taken a job as the Major Gifts Officer at Childhaven. Today is his last day.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show – Opening night party is February 16, 2016. The theme for the display garden is the Hoh Rain Forest.

Florabundance – The Arboretum Foundation has decided to discontinue the Spring plant sale. Instead, the Arboretum Foundation will host a summer party next year.

University of Washington –

Staff are getting 3% pay increase and the money will come down from the Dean. The UWBG doesn't have to fund the raises. The Arboretum had another lightning strike this weekend - a western hemlock.

The Garden Club of America horticultural conference is being held in Seattle on September 22nd and it's a big deal! John Wott will give lecture on the history of the Arboretum.

A visiting alpine ecologist in town from Otago, New Zealand is coming tomorrow and will be getting a tour. Sarah is looking forward to getting her thoughts on the New Zealand Garden.

UW360 did a walk with Sarah through the Arboretum and that will be shown on UW TV.

Sarah is leading another trip to Cuba in February through the UW Botanical Gardens.

Transit Signage – UW landscape architect and marketing are working with Sound Transit regarding signage at the station, there is a process in place. They are working to get images to the Sound Transit station including a large campus map. Fred suggests organizing another meeting with Sound Transit.

Message: Riders who don't know where to go, need to be informed or they won't ride again. Jim to talk with Fred and get speaking points; he'll contact Mike Harbour directly to schedule a meeting. Review draft plan for signage.

Old/New Business

October – Invitation to Jesús for a tour and meeting.

New councilmember briefings? Good idea. The outreach is critical. There will be a Council Candidates Forum on September 29th at Center for Urban Horticulture to talk about urban forest and greenspace issues.

Jack is meeting with Frank Chopp and will discuss the license plates and the Arboretum Loop Trail.

Retreat planning committee – Michael, Fred and Jim. Key issue wanted to take on? Ways to make Parks and the Arboretum more accessible, RSJI outreach initiative. Sarah suggests having Stanley Asah come to talk about how different groups interact with nature. Lynne Manzo could be interested. Possible topics for the retreat are:

- Getting underrepresented communities to the Arboretum.
- Strategic plan and goal development

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:30am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair