

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – January 13, 2016

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
- *Excused*, Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director

University of Washington

- 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

- *Excused*, David Towne

Other Staff Present:

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

Standing Committees

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: Fred Hoyt

Opening Items

Sarah asks for a Motion to approve the December minutes as revised, Kenan moves and Michael seconds. The December 9, 2015 minutes are approved.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Parks

Seattle Park District funding is flowing and SPR staff has started implementing major maintenance projects and have added more community center hours. Donald Harris is retiring in March sometime.

Arboretum Foundation

Jesus asked the Arboretum Foundation to step into a support role for the Japanese Garden. The Ordinance was approved by City Council on Monday. The Arboretum Foundation was the organization that originally pushed to have a Japanese Garden in the Arboretum. The Japanese Garden has two staff members transferring to the Arboretum Foundation from the Associated Recreation Council.

Opening Night Party for the NW Flower and Garden Show – The Arboretum Foundation has sold about 200 tickets, which is way ahead of last year. The party format has changed, this year there will be a proper program, auction, and fund-a-need.

Half of the Arboretum Foundation's staff has turned over in the last year. They have a new volunteer manager who worked for Earthcorps for 3 years and an events coordinator for both the Japanese Garden and the Arboretum Foundation.

University of Washington –

Neil Bonham left after 20 years, which is a huge loss because he has the irrigation system in his brain. UWBG will be hiring another arborist soon. They will have 2 arborists, which is exciting. A new chipper has been on our wish list for a long time so the UWBG is getting a new one. At this point, using the old one is a safety issue.

The UWBG is taking out several cypress trees by the greenhouses because one fell down and the others are unstable.

Interactive map- Sarah passes out cards with a QR code that will take you to the map. If GPS is on, it will tell you where you are. The benches are on the interactive map; the memorial information will be on the next iteration. Please let Sarah know as you use it, if you find any glitches.

Bench Policy

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Bench Policy
Washington Park Arboretum
Seattle Parks Department/UW Botanic Gardens
July 1, 2015

This policy is to set forth the responsibilities of the managing partners, City of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and the University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), for the benches installed and to be installed at the Washington Park Arboretum (WPA). This policy is intended to guide the management, placement, and maintenance of the bench program at the Washington Park Arboretum. The benches are described by various terms in the document. "Old" and/or "historic" describes the benches and styles used up until the mid-1990s, and "World's Fair" refers to the style that has been used since then. There is a desire by the Arboretum Foundation (AF), a support organization, to raise dollars through the sale of benches.

This policy supersedes any and all previous documents relating to the benches at the WPA.

History

The acceptance of benches and other memorial donations noted in policy statements seems to be "rooted" in a policy written by Director Brian Mulligan in 1963 and appears to follow accepted policies already in existence and carried forward. All the funds (usually memorials) were given and the resulting benches managed by the University of Washington (UW). During the 1980's and early 1990's, new benches were merely replacing old ones, often by the family. An inventory begun in the mid-1990's indicated that five different styles were in existence.

In the mid-1990's it was decided by an Arboretum Committee, including the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP), to use the style of the New York Central Park Bench (World's Fair). As part of the Committee's work it was suggested that the following options were available.

Money may be donated to either The Arboretum Foundation or the UW.

Moneys to the AF go into their Memorials Fund. These funds may be dispersed, for designated projects, as agreed upon through the Director of the Arboreta's office.

Moneys to the UW will be accepted and acknowledged through the UW Development (now UW Advancement) Office.

These moneys will be placed into: Arboretum Gift and Advancement Account Tree Maintenance and Management Fund.

Moneys may be accepted and designated for use in specific areas, such as; the purchase of plant material, big tree care and maintenance, educational opportunities, and physical entities such as benches and signs. It should be noted that opportunities are currently limited for plants, benches, and signs.

Current Policy

Ownership

The UWBG has ownership of the old historic benches corroborated through records dating back to the 1940's. These benches are largely described as the stone or concrete benches of pre-"World's Fair" styles and include the memorials that have benches. None of these are to be sold or given away; they are part of the history of the Arboretum.

SPR has ownership of the World's Fair style of benches that are now being installed. The UWBG had this responsibility, but by agreement with SPR around 2010, this program was transferred. This in part was due to understanding that benches are considered infrastructure.

Placement

SPR and the UWBG will inventory the benches installed in the Arboretum and have a map developed. This map and inventory will be part of the Geographic Information System that will show plants and infrastructure within the Park.

There are limited bench locations in the Arboretum, therefore SPR and UWBG staff will develop bench locations determined by appropriateness of the site. These locations will be reviewed annually by SPR and the UWBG. A number of locations will be established with consideration for maintenance issues, location value, hazard potential, and proximity to existing trails. Visitor use, access, safety and aesthetic impact will be considered, both of the bench itself and the surrounding area. Environmental impact, particularly in sensitive nesting areas and near the shoreline is also a factor. Bench selection and placement must comply with goals of the Arboretum Master Plan. These locations to be reviewed annually by the two organizations.

The available locations will be placed on a map for the AF to work from. The site should be requested but is not to be sold, only the benches themselves are available for sale. Future garden and plant collections design development may also necessitate moving a bench within the new garden design based on path alignments and wayfinding, or at times necessitate the temporary removal of a bench to be put back in place after construction has been completed. The Foundation should double check with the SPR and UWBG staff before a final request is made from a donor. Only the potential bench locations designated by the staff and are on the map are to be considered. Ad-hoc requests will not be accepted.

Maintenance

The AF raises and secures the money for the World's Fair benches, including maintenance. The UWBG will be responsible for the maintenance of any of the old style historic benches. SPR will be responsible for the maintenance of all the World's Fair style benches. Maintenance will include the removing of tagging and the replacement of the bench parts and the benches themselves.

Plaques

Text must not include any language that is lewd, discriminatory, or otherwise not consistent with SPR and UW communications and conduct policies. Memorial text should be celebratory and inspirational in tone, and not include birth or death dates. Text must fit and be easily read in a 3" x 5" area.

Discussion

Questions surrounding the Bench Policy came about because of questions from staff. UWBG is trying to figure out who handles what benches. Paige thanks UWBG for their work. She has 2 comments regarding to the policy: 1. Best way to choose sites is to have a development eye be part of the team to look at potential locations – want to make sure they are marketable. 2. She thinks the blanket policy that says no bench locations except those on the list – should be reconsidered. This is not donor-centric. Michael says SPR will need to review this policy because they are reviewing their bench policy with Seattle Park Foundation city-wide due to Race and Social Justice Issues. There are

no benches in many areas of South Seattle. Memorial benches are big business. There will also be potential sites on the road and the Arboretum Loop Trail. Iain suggests multiple tiered benches – to have architectural benches. Right now, SPR isn't selling benches, the ABGC agrees to make this an interim policy.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail – SPR has not awarded the contract but it should be signed later this week. They received good bids this time. They plan to start construction in March or April.

Foster Island Undercrossing – pathway restoration and irrigation line were installed.

Azalea way pond restoration and planting – The Seattle Garden Club is turning 100 and want to do a Centennial Project as part of their anniversary. They have \$100,000 to put into a project. Paige has \$145,000 for a project on Azalea Way. It would involve daylighting the creek and some pond renovation. Paige will propose this to the garden club. They will still have to choose this project. Jason Morse says there are funds from King County Conservation District for some stream renovation work which may be another source of money for the project. Sarah would like to put in a trail from the Overlook to Azalea Way.

Camellia Collection – The Camellia Collection needs to be pruned and lightened up.

Waterfront Trail – SPR is working on an application for a grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office for the Waterfront Trail, which is due in May.

Education shelter – Waiting on an estimate for SPR shop to build the education shelter.

Drinking fountains – There's a cedar tree that is creating a problem with the Arboretum Drive drinking fountain, it may need to come down to make the water fountain work properly.

Compost toilet - Student funded project at the UWBG farm to bring in a compost toilet. The toilet only needs to have a level spot and one could contract out the maintenance. It will be interesting to see how this works for potential use at the Arboretum.

Follow-up to retreat – Pamela suggested putting in a project with Leadership Tomorrow, and the Arboretum Foundation will be working on that.

Old/New Business

Communications:

- The New York Times did an article about outdoor preschools and Fiddleheads was featured in words and photos.
- Winter garden is featured in Seattle Magazine as a thing to go and see.
- Interactive map will be going out in a press release.

- Messaging about the Arboretum Loop Trail is being coordinated between the 3 agencies to assuage people's concerns regarding the tree removal. It's better for the Arboretum to control the message. They discuss using a people counter to help with data from before and after the Arboretum Loop Trail. There needs to be a place people can go to find out more information when the construction starts. Karen, Niall and Meg are meeting to discuss strategies.
- If we secure funding for the waterfront trail, that would be a good story.

Legislature – Brady Walkinshaw will sponsor the specialty license plate bill this year.

NAIOP – UWBG submitted a bid for the National Association of Industrial and Office Professionals (NAIOP) to complete a project in the Arboretum.

Sally Bagshaw was at the Arboretum with Bob Edmiston – putting forward a project for a waterfront trail behind Broadmoor. There are environmental issues that close to the shoreline.

Koichi Kobayashi will be doing a lecture at 3pm on Wednesday, regarding the Edmonton garden and a remembrance garden in the Miyagi Prefecture.

The UWBG have zeroed out their balance with Cistus Nursery, this experience has taught them lessons about how to contract in the future

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourns at 9:56am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sarah Reichard, ABGC Vice Chair