

## Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – May 11, 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
- Jack Collins, Mayoral Appointee
- *Excused*, 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
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Daniel Sorensen, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG)

### 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 calls the meeting to order at 8:32am. She asks for approval of the May 11 Agenda, Dave moves and Jack seconds. The Agenda is approved after removing the short video "Above the Line". Sarah asks for approval of the April 13 minutes, Kenan moves and Dave seconds, and the minutes are approved.

## Update: SR520 "Rest of the West"

Presented by: Kerry Pihlstrom, Gwyn Howard, Brianna Coleman, Osama Quotah, Brian Dobbins – WSDOT, Lyle Bicknell, Seattle Department of Planning and Community Development, David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation

WSDOT will hold a public meeting on June 28; this will be an open house for the public to view the final draft designs for the Montlake Lid design.

WSDOT currently working to write a contract for design build, so this is the last touch point on the design of the Montlake lid with WSDOT. The Contractor will then communicate design adjustments in the future.

## **Update on Construction of West Approach Bridge North (WABN) –**

A temporary exit ramp was constructed on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, creating difficulty for construction vehicles and traffic to navigate one another. Lyle says stop signs and signals send cues to drivers that they are in an urban environment and stop signs are safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The ABGC express concerns because traffic backs up to Miller on Lake Washington Boulevard.

Start construction of the West Approach Bridge South (WABS) in 2018. It could take 3-5 years to build it.

Update on WABN: Installed the columns for the new bridge with seismic isolation caps. From Foster Island to Lake Washington, all girders are set now. Starting to work on bridge deck with WABN opening summer of 2017.

## **Rest of the West – Montlake Lid Design**

Received legislative funding but the money will come out annually for a 10-year span. There will be guidelines for the contractor. WSDOT will pursue design-build going forward as an expectation from the legislature.

Contract for Montlake Lid - WSDOT will review experience during the prequalification process. Contract procurement requirements will be based on best apparent value comprised of – technical scores and dollar bid. There will be a landscape architect on the team.

For design consideration, WSDOT is asking: How will the lid be used?

Working with the design community and city staff to look at elements of continuity (ie. lighting and wall treatments, land bridge and Montlake lid).

WSDOT committed to work with stakeholders to fulfill the vision – the design will be cost effective and practical.

Lyle has been directed to create non-motorized connections by City Council Resolution.

WSDOT has regular meetings to discuss and integrate Section 106 into their plans. Section 106 calls for the historic preservation of certain sites. The Lake Washington Boulevard design will be consistent with the Olmsted vision. They have already briefed the Friends of Olmsted.

Brianna provides a brief history of the area – the design stresses bring green in and highlight the boulevards to connect neighborhoods. There are many vehicles in this corridor and much traffic.

They review the Olmsted principles and discuss how they will implement them through:

- Comprehensive approach – connect multiple smaller spaces to form larger network; create a unified composition
- Elements of distinction and continuity – throughout the lid design and continued through the neighborhood.
  - Neighborhood open space
  - Urban trailhead – bikes/bus and pedestrians
  - Landbridge
  - Interfaces and transitions
  - Wayfinding and interpretive signage reflect the history. ABGC wants to make sure the Arboretum is included into the wayfinding and storytelling
  - Outlooks

Streets and transitions – Buffering the neighborhoods and creating seamless transitions between spaces through plantings.

WSDOT will be using the Olmsted planting palette along Lake Washington Boulevard, pulling in native plant material into existing riparian zone; similar spaces as North Entry. Along Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake trees will be consistent with the Olmsted vision. City streets and portage passage will contain smaller trees. Along Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake there will be lower vegetation and some flowers; working with SPR and SDOT regarding maintenance efforts for plants.

WSDOT is happy to meet with UW to make sure landscape ties in to the UW aesthetic. Fred will call Christine and Sally to set up a meeting with Kerry to discuss plantings. Ray would like to be more involved in the plant palette; tweak the plan to modify plant approach to be more low maintenance and consistent with Arboretum aesthetic.

Pathways – lighting, planting will be consistent in design depending on their uses and location.

- Regional pathway from SR520 Floating Bridge to Portage Bay Bridge – asphalt, lighting incorporated in hand rails.
- City pathways – trees, seating walls along the edge, trees for framing sidewalk. 2x2 squaring pattern consistent with city sidewalks.
- Park paths and land bridge – brutal environment for plants, the design will be consistent with aesthetic but not ugly.

These consistencies in design will provide visual cues for people to walk/bike to and from the Arboretum. The ABGC feel it is very important that the paths to and from the Arboretum read the same as the Loop Trail.

WSDOT is collaborating with the City regarding their approach to wayfinding so the standard is the same. ABGC requests WSDOT help strengthen the line between the Arboretum and Sound Transit.

WSDOT requests a stone marker on the corner of Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake for the Arboretum. It is an important boulevard and they would like to treat the edges of that street with importance. WSDOT is providing a number of cues and a number of ways to get to the Arboretum.

The lid will have the following elements included in design and provide opportunities for activation. WSDOT looked at user groups to make sure their needs will be met through the Lid Design.

- Pavilion and transit shelters
- Lid bike storage
- Vendors, signage, benches and drinking fountains
- Opportunities for outlooks and creating view spaces
- Cyclists - consider the design to ensure the commuters don't take over the bike path.
- Flexible uses of "park space". Plaza space between Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake

WSDOT asks if the Arboretum could provide trees/specimens to put at Lake Washington Boulevard and Montlake. Sarah feels they could.

Upcoming meetings:

June 28, 5-7pm WSDOT will provide an updated version. They will return to ABGC at the June meeting.

June 20 - concurring party meeting for Section 106. WSDOT will send Rachel the information for the ABGC to attend.

Foster Island landscaping will be done and WSDOT is working closely with tribes.

Public interpretation on Foster Island with ABGC and tribes – WSDOT will convene a meeting with tribes and ABGC regarding interpretive signage.

Update: Equity Committee

The Equity Committee had a meeting with Leadership Tomorrow last week. Leadership Tomorrow has 2 teams working on outreach work for the Arboretum. The research group are talking with other Botanic Gardens to find out what they are doing to attract more diversity and best practices. The Action Group will be going out into the Central District and asking people open-ended questions about their use of open space, how and why they go to Parks, and drilling down to questions specifically about the Arboretum. They did not bring the questions to the meeting which was disappointing because the Committee wanted the chance to review them. They also contacted First African Methodist Episcopal Church, a historically black church in the Central District, to arrange to send out a survey regarding the Arboretum.

## Budget, Personnel and Other Items

### **Parks**

SPR staff are working with UW on several maintenance issues. There has been a 25% increase of visitorship at the Japanese Garden and Arboretum. Student Conservation Corps and Earthcorps came and volunteered at the Arboretum.

SPR is working with the construction company to open up Arboretum Drive for the parties in July.

The ABGC wonders if the Arboretum will see any maintenance done through the Park District Funding.

### **Arboretum Foundation**

The Seattle Garden Club has awarded their Centennial Grant to the Arboretum for \$100,000. This money will go toward the Azalea Way Summer Garden. Phase 1 summer flowering plant garden and seating area adjacent to the pond. Jason and Iain are doing the design. Paige is talking to the Garden Club about how to message this – communications plan. For a name, they have come up with The Azalea Way Centennial Garden. Paige will work on writing a tightly worded change order for Ohno construction to do some of the work on the summer garden. Phase II will be the pond renovation.

The Arboretum Foundation was only awarded \$10,000 from the Miller Foundation for the Stewards program. This means the Foundation will have to let go of their volunteer manager and the volunteers will perform more leadership roles.

Give Big raised \$30,000 and more donors than ever, although the amount was less than last year.

Arbor Circle Party at the Japanese Garden was a magical evening.

ArbFest party happening July 14. They will have activities like bocce and geocaching; stroll along Azalea Way with booths and bites of food to eat and cordoned off areas for alcohol. Uber codes will be available.

Meeting at lunch to discuss next year's Garden show, the theme is celebrating food. Paige is thinking of perhaps a foraging garden?

### **University of Washington –**

Tom DeLuca is taking a position in Montana. He will stay through December 2016 to allow for transition. Sarah hopes they get someone who is supportive like Tom.

Education shelter to be built in June.

Education building – working on it

Due to budget issues, the Arboretum Foundation will not be able to contribute to the arborist budget. UWBG will cover it for a year.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail is on course – The Stranger is going to do a story on it.

Parking is a problem, MPIG is working on solutions.

Old/New Business

There being no new business, the meeting adjourns at 10:30am.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair