

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – June 8, 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
- 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

- 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
- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Construction Manager
- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- *Excused*, 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

Jim calls the meeting to order at 8:30am. He asks for approval of the June 8 Agenda, Kenan moves and Michael seconds. The Agenda is approved. Jim asks for approval of the May 11 minutes, Jack moves and Kenan seconds, and the minutes are approved.

Update: SR520 "Rest of the West"

Presented by: Kerry Pihlstrom, Gwyn Howard, Dawn Yankauskas

The SR520 Team met with UW and will incorporate their feedback regarding plantings into the design.

The Community Aesthetic Design Consultant and SR520 staff met with Paige, Fred and Sarah. They discussed Arboretum goals for wayfinding and visual cues for the lid to bring people to the Arboretum. They talked about the history of the area and the Olmsted plans. Native history is woven in to how the lid and interpretive signage is designed. Paige says Nori is already on the same page; the meeting was more reinforcing each other's ideas instead of changing direction.

Using paddle shapes as signage as part of history with University of Washington crew and native people. WSDOT was very responsive and the ABGC appreciates how quickly the meeting was set up.

WSDOT has met with many key stakeholders, including the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, Friends of Olmsted, and the Landmarks Board. The Section 106 concurring party meeting is coming up. Details of the design may be up to the design-builder; the ABGC feels nervous about this. Kerry says this may be negotiable.

WSDOT will use city wayfinding standards instead of their own for the lid and Montlake area.

Timeline: Construction of the Lid to start in 2018 and finished by 2021-22.

Lighting treatments: Lake Washington Boulevard light treatments have been supported by the community but the lighting on Montlake is still up for debate.

Outreach: WSDOT staff are preparing for the online open house which will last 2 weeks and starts on June 21. There will be a stakeholders meeting from 4:30 to 7:30 on June 28. The public will have the opportunity to see the design work. WSDOT will be locking in efforts after that and will start drafting a contract.

WSDOT is looking at ways to continue bike/pedestrian connectivity during construction. Paige will attend the Section 106 meeting.

WSDOT is working with city departments to ascertain which department will maintain the lid upon completion.

In terms of changes to the plan since the May 11 meeting, the landscaping has changed a bit. The design of the plaza, covered walkway and the connection with transit is changing also to better reflect community needs and feedback.

NOAA and Bill Dawson Trail: These will be incorporated into the next contract. WSDOT will build a tunnel under Montlake. The connections in this phase of the project are being designed with forward design ideas to be compatible with the next contract. NOAA prefers this design work not be published until land issues are resolved.

Kerry is leaving to become the design manager of the ferry terminals. Dawn is going to take all the work that has been done and write the contract. Dawn has been a key player since Kerry has been on this project and understands the work. Kerry's last day will be on Friday. The ABGC will be sad to see her go. Thank you Kerry, for keeping the ABGC so informed and for being so flexible and understanding.

Brianna was impressive regarding her respect to the Olmsted plans and intent.

Agreement: WSDOT made a commitment to ABGC that within 90 days of receiving funding they would start discussing the Agreement. Kerry emphasizes the funding trickles out until 2029.

WSDOT peninsula will be needed throughout construction. The North Entry project will be need to be phased. Phase 1 - daylighting the creek and eastbound construction completed. 2nd phase – redeveloping the WSDOT peninsula.

Up next: Forward compatible contract that spells out phase 1. Build phase 1 starting in 2021. WSDOT will transfer the peninsula back to Seattle Parks and Recreation after SR520 is done.

In the next year or so, WSDOT and the City will work on an agreement and get appraisals for property values. ABGC and WSDOT will need to collaborate to elucidate WSDOT commitment.

ABGC would like WSDOT to be specific for contract with contractor in design/build. Kerry says staging is spelled out in contract.

The ABGC feel the roundabout at the junction of Foster Island Road and Lake Washington Boulevard (part of phase I) is important and they would like it installed at the earliest point possible. Usage of the Arboretum has increased 25% and there are fewer parking lots.

Kerry says in the interim, the ABGC and SDOT should have a conversation. Michael mentions the Traffic Operations Director will be here at the next ABGC meeting.

Eastbound on ramps closing will change the traffic. West Approach Bridge South (WABS) construction starts in 2018.

Kerry asks the parties to help identify grants to support some of the projects being implemented; major projects challenge fund or RCO? Paige mentions they are applying for a grant through the Department of Ecology for a different project and they just received a \$100,000 grant from Seattle Garden Club.

Certainty for construction timing is important; save money on north entry – apply it to North Entry. The ABGC to form a contract negotiation committee.

Follow-up: Leading with Racial Equity Lens

The ABGC, along with Arboretum Foundation Board members, UWBG and SPR staff attended a training held by the Office of Civil Rights entitled "Leading with a Racial Equity Lens." The purpose of

this training was to become more familiar with the historical and contemporary context of how differences matter in our society, and to learn the history of race and social justice education efforts as strategies to achieve equity and justice.

Some thoughts regarding the training from the ABGC:

Equality v. equity was interesting and the historical approaches to dealing with race. The facilitator was pushing the attendees to see their own bias – not particularly sensitive to issues around gender.

Toolkits training – the Equity Committee will look into scheduling toolkit training. This interests the committee because it is a practical application.

Leadership tomorrow – results from best practices/surveys. They will attend the July meeting. Audubon in Seward Park is doing surveying and learning. The Equity Committee will connect with them and learn about what they have already done.

Professor Holland did a training with the Natural Resources Unit at SPR. Doug thought the training was fantastic and worth the time.

Implicit bias – stereotypes are consistent and associated with different races; based on how we perceive ourselves. People of color are not able to act as individuals and are instead considered representatives of a group.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Planning and Development Division management staff has turned over. SPR hired Max Jacobs to take Donald Harris' position. He comes from Bellevue. Michael says he'll bring Max to a future meeting

Ruth Blau comes from YouthCare where she ran the Orion Center for 11 years. She has experience in human services and will now be managing the Conservation Corps.

Kim Baldwin is the new Parks Development Manager replacing Rick Nishi.

Arboretum Foundation

Personnel – Pamela Givens left, Gillian Weed will start as Stewards Assistant. Previously, she worked for Morton and did ecology restoration. She will walk in and know how to do the job.

Randall is leaving; he's been teaching at South Seattle College and putting together a plant collection. He will still do walks and talks at the Arboretum.

Nat is going to 1/2 time because he is starting at the Evans school in the fall.

ArbFest – July 14. It will be a blast. Food/drink stations along Azalea Way. There will be a geocaching program that will teach people about various places around the Arboretum. Pearl Django will be performing and there will be dancing. This is going to be a fun and interactive party. Creating a new party is a lot of work.

The Opening night at the Northwest Flower and Garden show is on for 2017.
Annual meeting of the Arboretum Foundation Board is scheduled to elect Sherry Luetjen as President. Jim will continue his role on the ABGC until June 2017.

University of Washington

Personnel – Arborist leaving to move back east. Discussion about hiring next arborist. Monday, Chris successfully defended his Master's degree to determine water flow at the Arboretum. His work will foster better water management, he gave some good recommendations. Andy attended and was able to glean a lot of information to help with water issues.

Education Shelter – UW chose a contractor and permitting is done. They hope to have the shelter under construction by the next meeting. Construction will last a month.

Tom DeLuca is going back to Montana. There will be an interim person. The Dean will choose his temporary replacement. Outside search for a Director for the College of Environmental Forest Sciences. Tom will stay through 2016.

Jack says he took the UWBG tram tour last Thursday. There was an emphasis on plants. He thought the tour was very interesting. The host did not know about the ABGC. Katherine does the weekend walks.

MPIG

Centennial Garden – Iain is collaborating on the design. There will be a small change order to add some of the construction work to the Loop Trail Project. The construction project will be managed by the City. The design contract will be managed by the UWBG. MPIG will oversee the project.

Phase 1) summer oriented garden adjacent to Azalea Way Pond; focal point at south end of Azalea Way with a rock wall seating area backed by a shrub oriented garden.

Phase 2) Upgrade to the creek and water gardens to help with siltation.

There may be a possible internal conflict having Jason work on the design and sit on Arboretum Foundation Board. To ensure there is no conflict, Jason will not take part in decision making at Board meetings and will not hold a voting position on MPIG.

Paige is working on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Seattle Garden Club who are giving the Arboretum Foundation a \$100,000 grant for this project. People are very excited about this project. It will have a lot of summer color and will be low maintenance.

Broadmoor runoff issues – Andy is working to address them; they have tight lined the pipe to go from Broadmoor's catch basin to the Arboretum catch basin.

Speaking of Broadmoor, the contractors have been lining up on Foster Island Road again. Staff have been advised to call parking enforcement.

Arboretum Loop Trail – Construction is going well. There has not been too much backlash over the tree removals. UW and City staff have been really well prepared. Every day staff are walking through the trail to see what trees need to be removed. Some tree stumps need to be removed and some ground up depending on the location.

Seattle Public Utilities replaced a waterline that cut through the Arboretum. The rough grading is completed from Madison Avenue to Azalea Way. Significant grading was necessary from Arboretum Drive to Azalea Way. The view shed has not been affected. The weather has cooperated. The project is on schedule.

There are price tags on the trees in the construction area and people are very puzzled by those. The Contractor is thankful for them, provides a good incentive to work carefully.

Construction is not disruptive. As much work as there is, the contractor is handling it well.

Feedback? Multi-use trail is causing concern. People are worried about cyclists. Staff explain to the public the trail is not being designed for commuters. Surface designed to hurt if people are going fast.

Arboretum staff are working hard to put up directional signage for people who get blocked walking to the Japanese garden.

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – Mark Bandy, Director of the Transportation Management Unit will be coming to the July 13 ABGC meeting to discuss the intersection at Madison and explain the standards, and provide a greater understanding of traffic flow. The ABGC would like to discuss the intersection at Foster Island Road and Lake Washington Boulevard.

The ABGC are anxious to speak with SDOT about wayfinding. Michael suggests they put together a proposal and run it through MPIG and he can speak with Aaron Harris about wayfinding. He clarifies the Partners will have to pay for them and create a maintenance program. Andy and Michael to walk from Sound Transit to the Arboretum.

Michael was appointed by the Governor to the Recreation Conservation Office Funding Board. His 1st meeting is in July so he will be missing the July meeting. Congratulations, Michael!

Waterfront trail – SPR staff will present to the Recreation Conservation Office for the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account Grant later this summer.

Metropolitan Park District projects in the Arboretum:

- 1) Repainting of the maintenance barn;
- 2) 2019-2020 replacing the irrigation system in the Japanese Garden

Old/New Business

The ABGC attribute the increased popularity of the Arboretum to the following factors:

- More tourists
- Seattle population increase
- Better tracking

Children's Day was Memorial Day at the Japanese Garden – 2300 visitors attended which is nearly double from last year. Unit 86 sold a lot of gear at the event with permission from Deputy Superintendent Williams to use square tablet readers.

Google trekker – SPR Staff are working their way through many of the parks with the Google Trekker camera. The Arboretum is being trekked today. This will allow people to "walk" through the Arboretum on their computers.

Linda Mapes, from the Seattle Times wrote a great article on the trail.
Columns magazine – had an article about the multi-use trail.
Forterra magazine - Ampersand wrote an article about Sarah.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Jim Reid, ABGC Chair