

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – October 12, 2017

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee is a Joint effort of the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 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

- Jane Stonecipher, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Jim Reid, Arboretum Foundation Board Vice President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- *Excused*, Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director
- James Fearn, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

- Sally Clark, University of Washington, Director of Regional and Community Relations
- Fred Hoyt, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Acting Director
- *Excused*, Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Wendy Gibble, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Assistant Director
- David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Strategic Advisor
- Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Interim Natural Resources Unit Manager

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Jane Stonecipher & Jason Morse

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Kim Baldwin

UW: Fred Hoyt/Wendy Gibble

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Sally calls the meeting to order at 8:35am. Sally calls for approval of the September 13 meeting minutes and the Agenda; Kenan moves and James seconds; and the consent items are approved.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

UWBG Director Search:

Ned Friedman visited from the Arnold Arboretum. He was invited by the UWBG Director search committee to consult on the director role. He emphasized the importance of the new director's

interaction with faculty and highlighting the importance of the UWBG to the UW community. He shared an inspirational look at what could happen over the century and what the next generation should look like. At the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, he restructured staff and created a curation group. He brought in additional faculty to do research related to the collections which brought relevance.

He talked about how public gardens focus is different than a scholars garden.

It was great that Liz could hear a different perspective in terms of how the organizations are different, including the financial structure. How Liz uses the information to inform her process moving forward is to be determined.

The Arnold Arboretum does have a large endowment that allows Mr. Friedman to pay some of the faculty through the Arboretum endowment. It is difficult to compare his financial situation to the University of Washington.

School of Environmental Forest Sciences Director search:

The UW has made an offer and they are hoping to get an answer by 18 October.

Vandalism in Arboretum: There was much vandalism in the Arboretum last weekend. Signs in the Pacific Connections garden were ripped off their mounting, including donor plaques, and interpretive signs. The vandals came with crowbars and it seemed very intentional. They were strewn all over. Some were too damaged, but others will be put back on. The UWBG is working on getting estimates for replacing and reinstalling signs.

SEFS professor David Butman brought his undergraduate class to tour the Arboretum. Wendy took them to different collections and many of the students had never been here.

Lyme's disease – There have been 2 cases of Lyme's Disease at the Arboretum from kids enrolled in their Fiddleheads Preschool. They are telling parents to scan their children when they return home from preschool. The UW informed King County Public Health.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

The Arboretum Loop Trail is close to being open to the public.

520 update: David Graves mentions WSDOT has not yet put out their Request for Proposals and it will be another month or so, which means they are 6 months off their previous schedule.

ARCH proposal – SPR met with WSDOT and Speaker Chopp's Office and determined there is a different bent that would be easier to save because it is not in the middle of the SR520 staging area.

Arboretum Foundation

The Foundation is wrapping up pre-design fundraising for the education building. The UW and Foundation both put money in for it. The City will put together a Request for Proposal for this work.

Dedication of Centennial Garden – The Seattle Garden Club celebrated their 100th Anniversary at the new Centennial Summer Garden. There were 90 women here strolling down Azalea Way with parasols. It was a feel-good event showing how partnership can have a beautiful result.

Day of Caring – 170 participants from 7 companies volunteered here and did a lot of great work.

Development Director search has been reopened.

Opening night party – Save the date for February 6 – Winter Garden Carnival is the theme.

Applying for a grant from University Rotary Club to fund teens for work at the Arboretum. The program compensates 15-19 year olds from South Seattle high schools to work in different places; exposing them to different programs through city and includes a future leadership program.

John Wott, co-chair of fundraising committee mentioned he felt the fundraising campaign was stalling and people are feeling the effects of fundraising fatigue. Jane came up with the idea to find the money in the Foundation budget and Fred did the same at the UW. The Board is thrilled with Jane's creativity and the partnership is working well. Jim thanks the Dean for her willingness to assist with funding.

MPIG

Fiber optics – UWBG and the Foundation are waiting for the final connection. The stall seems to pertain to the real estate agreement.

Jon thinks City IT security is holding it up because they are not sure how to allow partners access. Sally will check in with Stephanie Harrington to find out the deal and follow up with Holly Miller to move things forward. Wendy says her understanding is this may not be the issue; but that the Lease Agreement is stalled. The costs associated with the high-speed fiber is still being negotiated.

Japanese Garden projects –

Pond - The pond will turn into a larger project. Jon will set a meeting in the next couple of weeks to move the project forward. David adds that a project manager will need to be assigned.

Roof project – Colleen Brown will be the project manager. The contract is being circulated for signature and the contractor will start ordering materials so they can work through the winter.

SPR anticipates the work will start within the next couple of weeks. It will be done by the time the garden reopens in spring.

Jane mentions the need to revisit the priority list for the Arboretum and Japanese Garden. She requests the ABGC also do this. The Loop Trail opens previously unseen portions of the Arboretum and they could use sprucing up. Group walk the trail together to see the area and figure out what improvements are needed.

David Zuckerman and Michael would be important to this discussion.

Possible retreat topic? Approach priorities in a more creative way.

Communication Strategy for the Loop Trail

Communications Strategy for the Loop Trail - Jane mentions she plans to reach out to those who covered the trail before. Kenan asks the Board to consider interesting hooks to get people excited about the trail being open.

The trail may open soon but there are still missing plantings, interpretive signage and punch list items, which may result in intermittent closures while the last of the trail work is being done.

Soft opening – The Board considers if there is a benefit to create a different phase to the project -- limited access phase, which will keep expectations in line that things are not going to be “perfect” and holds excitement for the grand opening. Kenan thinks a press release to discuss this new phase would be great especially for the neighborhood. SPR posts on the website and social media get a lot of attention. If there is an event who is it a party for? How can UW help to show this important achievement? The Board will need to agree with overall message of the event and ascertain if there are certain audiences to reach and what do we want from those people after?

David mentions the SR520 regional shared-use path through Montlake will be done and there will be a soft opening in November with a larger grand opening in the spring.

This is a way of showing our tax dollars at work and free marketing to get to different audiences. It's a positive story for the Arboretum.

David mentions it might be nice to provide people with a map as a takeaway at the grand opening. He and Karen made one for the Cheshiahud Trail opening and it is a big hit. It folds up to a small cardboard encased pocket map.

Next step: Meeting with Meg, Karen, Sally and Kenan to discuss communication and event planning for the new trail. Kenan feels a little signage would be useful for the local community. Communicate with those who covered the project in the past. Send a letter with an FAQ.

Target date for celebration – a Sunday afternoon in April.

The Arboretum is confusing to many visitors and the loop makes it more accessible. It's opening the Arboretum in a profound way.

Reschedule meeting with tribes to discuss and coordinate the opening and their potential participation.

The Board discuss meeting on the 5th Tuesday this month and it's Halloween, 2pm at the GVC? They will book a task force meeting to discuss this in more detail. Invite Michael and Karen? Planning session for opening loop trail.

Jane will follow up with Meg and Karen about meeting date and limited access.

Old/New Business

WSDOT Montlake multi-use trail is opening soon – David will find out contact information for their media person.

Retreat date: Sally asks if there is any objection to moving the retreat to January? The Board feel it would be nice to not have the retreat the day after elections. They shift the retreat date to January.

Retreat Agenda: Priority of MPIG projects; inviting in panel of nonprofits – expand audiences, donors; build community of collective efforts.

Gets people in the room who don't see people more than once a year; the Board discusses how to foster collaboration and community with people who don't have relationships with others in the room. Do they see how they fit into the larger picture?

Jim and Sally will chat about this.

Branding for Arboretum – Jane asks if the Board would be amenable to the Arboretum Foundation creating products if they are within the parameters laid out in the style guide. The Board thinks it's a great idea and are supportive.

Rachel will cancel the retreat and schedule the retreat in January.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair