

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – September 13, 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
- *Excused*, 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 Gible, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Assistant Director
- 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 Gible

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Sally calls the meeting to order at 8:45am. Sally calls for approval of the July 12 meeting minutes; Kenan moves and James seconds; Fred makes a correction and the minutes are approved, as amended. Sally calls for approval of the August minutes; Jane corrects her title in the minutes and the minutes are approved, as amended.

SR520 Follow-up

Fred followed up with David Graves about the 520 undercrossing and the waterfront trail. David will let Fred know when this is teed up.

Fred will follow up with David about the roundabout at Foster Island Road and Lake Washington Boulevard.

Signaling on Montlake – SDOT was monitoring it, but there has been no report back on that. Ask Michael to contact SDOT to find out if this is happening and status.

Rachel will ask WSDOT to return in January.

Discussion: Arboretum Loop Trail

The trail will be ready for the soft opening next month, there are punch list items being finished. All the asphalt is installed.

Short term and long term communication strategy for the Arboretum Loop Trail

The Board discuss developing talking points for the soft opening now and debate whether they should send out a press release for the soft opening. Kenan mention the new trail will take bicycle traffic off Lake Washington Boulevard. The Arboretum can be confusing to people and this will make people more comfortable to come to the Arboretum. The official opening of the ALT will occur in the spring.

Jon asks if there are any drawbacks to opening the trail now. Are there areas still under construction? Fred responds the contractor is still performing trigger moves for safety. The partners want to ensure regulatory signs are up. Jon feels it is a good time to get the good news out; the loop trail is a great amenity to the city and highlights the partnership with the State!

Centennial Garden – The soft opening is tomorrow. The Seattle Garden Club is having an event for their centennial celebration.

Jane says the ABGC could suggest strategic talking points to maximize the impact of the grand opening to springboard the next fundraising project.

Fred says the communication was great at the beginning of the project- the communication team could return to discuss the talking points for the opening.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

School of Environmental Forest Sciences Director search – the UW has made an offer and are in negotiations with the candidate and they are waiting to hear.

UWBG search – Inviting Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University to come out October 9 and 10. He'll provide us with advice about how to move forward with this search. He's talking about a sister-organization relationship with the UWBG.

Budget – Over the course of the last year the UWBG lost 1 position. The budget is tenuous because they have mandated unfunded raises; they do have 3 staff whose raises are covered; but UWBG has 35 permanent staff. The salary recovery money from Sarah will go away once they hire a director.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

SPR and the Finance Division working on rolling out new budget software.

There is some reorganization occurring in the Parks and the Environment Division.

Citywide Arbor Day is coming up at Sam Smith Park.

Arboretum Foundation

Jane, interim Executive Director at the Arboretum Foundation is gearing up for 5 events in 9 days. The moon viewing at the Japanese Garden sold 400 tickets. Annual Fall Abundance sale is happening this weekend; and close to 150 volunteers at the Arboretum for the Day of Caring.

Next week- Relaunch Development Director search – this is a priority to get that filled.

MPIG

Fiber optics – Physical connections in the park has happened. The status on the agreements for access is still murky. Katy Bang at SPR is stepping in to help facilitate bringing that to a close. The infrastructure needs to be addressed. Max Jacobs, our Real Estate Manager, is working on the agreement. Can the internet be used if agreement is still being flushed out? The ABGC discusses whether the partners will need to amend the Lease Agreement to say that the City provides the utility. The lack of internet connectivity is a source of frustration for staff. The Board will raise the issue with Jesús regarding fiber optics in the Arboretum.

Kim Baldwin has taken over as SPR representative on MPIG in lieu of Andy Sheffer.

Machai roof repair at Japanese Garden – SPR will need to redo the contract with public works because they went through city purchasing. Jon is meeting with Dale on Friday to review final proposal and contract for signatures. Colleen Brown will take over as Project Manager. Dale will have 10 weeks to order supplies; he'll work while the garden is closed for the winter. He wants to start erecting scaffolding by October/November.

Jane will send the donor an update. CIP money from Japanese garden will be used to get it done.

Jane asks for an update on the pond in the Japanese Garden. Jon feels there needs to be a comprehensive repair instead of temporary fixes.

The partners discuss bring this up with Jesús during the retreat.

Broadmoor – no changes have been made and the safety issues are still there.

>>>There will need to be a SPR representative on the Broadmoor group now that Andy has stepped down.

Old/New Business

Retreat Planning Committee: Jim, Sally and (city representative)

>>>Rachel to send out the invite list from last year so the partners can edit and Rachel can send out a save-the-date. She will also send out the agenda from last year. Kenan thought having an outside person at the retreat was great.

Jane mentions talking about the grand opening celebration.

Sally feels it should be a mix of strategic planning and how to recognize and appeal to younger generations.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair