

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – December 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
- Jim Reid, Arboretum Foundation Board Vice President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- 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

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. She asks for approval of the November minutes. Jim notices he was marked excused in the November minutes; Kenan moves, Fred seconds and the minutes are approved as amended. Jim adds draft agenda for the retreat in Partner Updates.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

UWBG tightening finances due to some budgetary constraints. Legislature mandated raises for faculty and staff without providing funding.

UWBG Director search is recommencing. First meeting is next Monday to review the job announcement. They are having a discussion to decide whether to expand criteria to Assistant Professor or Professor in Practice. Professor in Practice is a peer in faculty without having the research credentials or Ph.D.

The composition of the committee will determine the type of candidate that will be hired.

The new UWBG Director will impact the priorities of the Arboretum.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Jesús is leaving, there will be a new SPR Superintendent. Christopher will be Interim Superintendent. It will probably take a year to find a new Superintendent. There are a lot of changes happening in the City and within the department.

There will be a going away party for Jesús. Details to come.

NRU Manager position is frozen for now due to changes in the budget from the City Council. SPR restructured the Parks maintenance districts to align with City Council Districts.

Budget: Increase in maintenance dollars for the Arboretum Loop Trail.

What should the Arboretum Foundation do to get in line for other maintenance dollars, an example would be funding for the pond in the Japanese Garden.

UW meeting with WSDOT regarding Foster Island landscaping – WSDOT is set to begin the Montlake phase. UWBG will be having a series of meetings with WSDOT soon. Michael to check to see if David is attending these meetings, Fred will make sure to let him know about the meetings if he isn't.

5-year monetary maintenance contract for plantings on the west side of the undercrossing.

Kenan asks about the Waterfront Trail. There is Recreation Conservation Office grant funding and WSDOT mitigation money. SPR has received 2/3 of the funding necessary to fix part of the trail, but the Washington State capital budget has not been finalized yet. The project will need to be toned down.

Foster Island – WSDOT was planning to use eastbound lanes to use as work bridge. Fred suggests negotiating with WSDOT if the contractor continues to use UW and city land.

Arboretum Foundation

Lee Benner started as the Development Director last week. Focusing on the opening night party. Several members of the group are being honored – looking back to look forward. Iain

Robertson will be recognized for his renovation of the Witt Winter Garden. They will use that to talk about the investment in place. She'll introduce Cait McHugh who will talk about taking her first steps in the Arboretum and creating the love of place.

Great Gifts and Greens sale – This was a wonderful volunteer and community engagement event. A homeschool group came and made decorations to sell at the event.

2nd season of new Operating Agreement with Japanese Garden. One change made was to spread the programming out over more days, which seems to help. In full-swing planning for next year.

The Arboretum Foundation is working on an internal organizational assessment for long-term Director search for the Foundation.

Discussion: Retreat Agenda

Sally Clark and Jim met and discussed the agenda.

Kenan likes the idea of having a guest panel of nonprofit executive directors.

The Commissioners would like to narrow down the priorities for the next few years. Jane mentions giving the donors the opportunity to choose which projects they would like to fund.

Kenan suggests reversing the order to have panel and then discuss the future projects.

Michael likes the idea asking the ED of the Portland Japanese Garden because of the large capital projects experience they have.

Seattle Art Museum - Thinking about their organization moving forward and growing and responding to a changing city.

Fred asks if any of the organizations have Master Plans. Creating a master plan is a big undertaking. The ABGC could update the Master Plan without completely redoing it. The Master Plan is still relevant. It is a secure feeling having a guiding document.

Review of master plan add to agenda? Status report to master plan implementation?

Retreat master plan conversation after panel Q & A.

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG) Report

Map is a priority because the current map does not show the Arboretum Loop Trail.

Major maintenance issues at the Graham Visitors Center; the work orders have been turned in. Someone needs to address cleanliness problems in the restrooms. Kim is looking into it.

Looking at some of the priorities the ABGC will be discussing at the retreat.

Identify areas that need more love now that the Arboretum Loop Trail has opened up new parts of the Arboretum.

Japanese Garden list and MPIG list need to be combined. Steering committee for the Japanese Garden. Kenan requests a presentation about Japanese Garden priorities.

Arboretum Loop Trail celebration – Jane has identified a resource for engineering the Grand Opening event – Jim Bennett; he’s going to join us on the tour. Jane is starting to compile sponsor materials and think about budget. The planning committee will be formed in early January.

Old/New Business

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair