

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

- *Excused*, Paige Miller, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- Jim Reid, Arboretum Foundation Board Vice President

City of Seattle

- Excused, 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

Washington State

- David Towne

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- *Excused*, Eve Rickenbaker, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG)

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Paige Miller & Jason Morse

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

UW: Fred Hoyt/Wendy Gible

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Sally calls the meeting to order at 8:35am.

James Fearn is the newest ABGC member. The ABGC introduce themselves to Mr. Fearn. He is a member of the Japanese Garden. He served two terms on the Board of Park Commissioners. He was the Chair of the Acquisition and Openspace Committee. He works as general counsel for Seattle Housing Authority. He started his career at the NW Justice Project before working for the city. The ABGC is thrilled with their new member.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Construction Manager Position has been filled by Chris Mueller, formerly a project manager for SPR.

Arboretum Foundation

Northwest Flower and Garden Show Opening Night Party - 60 fewer people; raised less, but sponsorships were up. The party was great!

The Board will be focusing on fundraising this year.

At the Board retreat last November the Board made diversity a priority. They will work to align their work goals with those of the ABGC.

The Foundation will be collaborating with the UW for a coordinated fundraising plan to raise money for capital, operations and maintenance.

Japanese Garden - First viewing celebration on Sunday. Shinto Priest performed a blessing and there was good attendance.

The Foundation Board is concerned about managing growth and increased visitors, especially as both the ABGC and the Board work to include more communities.

University of Washington

UWBG has begun conducting interviews for the education person.

They are working to reorganize UWBG and event rentals to increase efficiency.

Searches underway for School of Environmental Forest Sciences Director and UWBG Director. March 1 was the cutoff date for the UWBG position. The salary is not commensurate with the level of the position. It's a big job. It is both a director and faculty position which makes it more difficult to fill.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail (ALT) – The cold, wet winter has slowed progress. SPR hoping to open first segment of trail by the end of the month, but more work needs to get done. Sloughing and sliding has occurred on some of the slopes. Working on interpretation and signage for the trail.

Fiber optics has been installed all the way to the Japanese Garden but it will eventually continue to the Graham Visitors Center – reliable, high speed internet will be great for those that work in the Arboretum.

Centennial Garden – The Seattle Garden Club approved the design. The project will be completed by September. This work is a result of a change order to the current construction contract for the ALT.

Foster Island planting – This work is being done by the Conservation Corps and it is almost complete. This is an American Indian ceremonial site and important to the local tribes. The ABGC discuss a possible field trip to check out the Foster Island plantings in April or May.

Fundraising efforts for education building – The Foundation has raised \$260,000 of \$350,000. They are doing a fantastic job!

The ARCH group is still actively trying to preserve a couple of the arches from the Ramps to Nowhere.

Work Plan

The ABGC review the work plans; for details look [here](#).

Accessibility is still an issue to the Arboretum.

Youth Green Corps will be doing some work in the Arboretum and that is largely composed of communities of color. This summer some youth from Cleveland High School are partnering with staff to work in the Arboretum.

Old/New Business

This is Dave Towne’s last meeting. Although he requested no hullabaloo, Paige wrote him a lovely letter and the ABGC bestow upon him a plaque to thank him for his 11 years on the ABGC. Dave’s advice and institutional memory has been invaluable. Dave says it’s been a pleasure to serve on the board with everyone.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair