

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center – May 10, 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

- Paige Miller, 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

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

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Jesús Aguirre, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Elizabeth Van Volkenburgh, University of Washington, Interim Director School of Environment Forest Sciences
- 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

Due to Sally and Michael's absence, Paige will be chairing the meeting. Agenda is adopted as written.

2017 Seattle Parks and Recreation Priorities

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation is happy to be at the ABGC meeting. He took a wonderful tour of the Japanese Garden with Gene Peterson, Doug Critchfield and Skip Vonckx.

Announcement by the Mayor that he will not run for reelection means there will be a shift in the work Seattle Parks and Recreation does, although he is unsure of what the changes will be.

Continuing realignment implementation of the department. The Parks Division split into 2 divisions – Parks and the Environment, and Facilities.

Enterprise, Partnerships in Community (EPIC) – This is the new Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) division that will work to improve how the department leverages outside resources – doing a better job with volunteers and partners with a continued focus on programs and outcomes. Currently, SPR is evaluating programming with the Associated Recreation Council.

SPR is three years into the first cycle of the Park District. SPR is launching a robust planning process, building on the Legacy Plan and looking toward recreation, with a goal to create a recreation master plan. This should take about 18-months.

Green Lake Community Center – There have been many discussions about partnerships in regards to Green Lake. There are many successful partnerships, like this one, and it is important to highlight those for the public.

Homelessness in Parks – The Mayor activated the Emergency Activation Center; SPR staff and others have met on a daily basis to problem solve. The homeless have started taking the services; Jesús thinks this is because the service providers are building relationships with the homeless folks.

MDAR – The encampment removal procedure has been systematized so it is becoming more efficient.

Paige mentions the Arboretum Foundation would like SPR assistance to figure out ways to count people in the Arboretum; it is difficult to assess with no real entrance or exit. They would like to embed something in the new loop trail to count how many people use the trail. Paige states grant funding requires metrics, such as, who and how many people the organization serves. The Arboretum has little information to provide. Jesús says SPR staff are working with the Downtown Services Association on this, but there is controversy around privacy.

SPR is looking to find creative ways to work toward equity through innovative partnerships and new programs.

Last year, SPR hired a consultant to do a survey of residents – they received good data and, generally, the public likes what SPR is doing. Most comments were regarding safety and the homeless.

The plan will use the survey results to create a Recreation Master Plan to better respond to residents now and the future – focusing on the people.

SPR is trying to focus on what they should and should not be doing as an organization.

Healthy Environment Action Agenda – pushing our agency forward in terms of sustainable operations and education.

The planning process will focus on programs – where are gaps in Healthy People, Healthy Environment, and Strong Communities throughout Seattle?

SPR staff is holding focus groups on the specialty gardens to conduct a demand study. The purpose of the meeting with constituents is to ascertain what their experience has been, what works and what doesn't, and to ask communities how SPR facilities could be better utilized. The focus group for specialty gardens is next Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:30pm, by invitation.

SPR is working on the 2017 Parks and Open Space plan – targets/strategy for acquiring open space – right now, they are thinking 3 acres per 1000 people as a minimum.

The ABGC wonder if they should focus on providing access instead of acquiring new parks. Jesus responds that walkability to a park or open space is a new goal.

The ABGC wants improved access to the Arboretum from the new Sound Transit Station.

SPR staff is working with Speaker Chopp's office and WSDOT to preserve a remnant of the Ramps to Nowhere. Safety and maintenance are the main concerns.

SPR lets the ABGC know he may need their help around the partnership conversation.

2017 University of Washington Priorities

Elizabeth Van Volkenburgh is in attendance as the Interim Director for the School of Environmental Forest Sciences (SEFS). She and Fred provide updates on the search for new directors to fill both the UW Botanic Gardens (UWBG) and School of Environmental Forest Sciences positions and other updates.

UW Foundation toured the Arboretum and Center for Urban Horticulture with a select group of fundraisers; Fred received feedback from them and the Dean that the potential donors were impressed! Eve presented on the herbarium and Wendy gave a presentation on rare plants.

Personnel: UWBG now has 2 arborists on staff; this will result in a big change on how plants are managed.

Wendy will provide student the UWBG currently does and Fred will send the list out.

Liz – The search committee for a new UWBG Director has met and they have 3 people coming in for interviews. The committee includes SEFS staff, graduate students, and UWBG staff.

1st interviewee is a botanist and administrator and seems competent at running anything.

Fundraising and outreach is important in this leadership position. Many people involved in the hiring have specific criteria in mind for this position and are still grieving Sarah.

Stakeholders had an opportunity to weigh in on the candidate.

Liz was faculty in Biology, working on plant physiology. Her feet are on the ground with CUH and the Arboretum.

CUH used to be under the Provost for a while, the faculty took on the mantle of teaching plants; student credit hours grew because of a small number of faculty. This is when they decided to move it to the School of Environmental Forest Sciences. The UW has discussed moving the UWBG out of SEFS, but she feels the UWBG is better served in SEFS because their research and academics are supported. The UW recognizes the investment made in teaching and the research mission in the UWBG.

UWBG Director wears many hats, including research, administrative and outreach. The new SEFS Director needs to value UWBG for their research and outreach; is this part of the search criteria for the new SEFS director? Liz says whoever the new UWBG director will need to provide strong outreach.

Liz to send list of search committee for SEFS director. ABGC could attend SEFS candidate interviews when the time comes.

Dean will follow faculty choice and not impose a candidate on them. Liz is pushing visibility of CUH faculty with SEFS faculty. Faculties from former departments are starting to cohere as one college.

The criteria for a SEFS Director varies between candidate skills envisioned by UWBG and SEFS staff; faculty at SEFS use metric of research and publications. Restoration ecology could give bigger project ideas.

Paige mentions this partnership is integral in the director for UWBG; so is managing people and budgets. Most people driving this process want research and publications heavy experience from the position.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Earth Day activity at the Arboretum had over 300 participants.

Mother's Day is this weekend! The Arboretum anticipates a large crowd. SPR survey gave high marks and interest in trails and natural areas.

Arboretum Foundation

Staff are developing programming for the Japanese Garden – 1st Saturday has a children's program.

1st Thursday program – art/music program – free for the public and it is a very popular event over 400 people came.

They are creating a new category of volunteer for high use days that would serve as a combination security/docent.

Give Big – As of last night, 52 people had signed up to give – roughly \$10,000. Seattle Foundation is not matching. Goal is to get people who don't normally give. Interesting to see how many new users gave this year.

Jim states they are incentivizing the Give Big Campaign with a competition between the staff and Board, whoever has 100% participation wins a prize!

ArbFest – Last year was a French theme with great food and drinks. This year on July 20 the Arboretum Foundation will hold the second ArbFest. This year's theme is Midsummer Night. There will be different art/drama events throughout the evening.

People come here to check in and get a wrist band; alcohol served with a wrist band in enclosed areas. Save the date is coming soon.

Staff – Jessa stepped up to lead support for Japanese Garden and they hired someone to assist her.

The new development associate is a Japanese woman who went to Western Washington University for college and has a graphic design degree and a horticulture degree. She has spent a year interning here with Roy at the Arboretum with a strong interest in arts and culture. She is terrific!

Chris Stollery left; the job description is being reviewed by the Board tonight.

Nat will be leaving mid-June; he's at the Evans School and getting an internship.

Capital campaign ongoing; need to schedule more meetings with donors.

Paige needs to follow up with Michael and Andy soon to spend some dollars on the preliminary project items.

MPIG

MPIG canceled yesterday; need update on the Arboretum Loop Trail (ALT), Centennial Garden and the education building.

ALT – The stretch between Arboretum Drive to reconfigured parking lot is having many issues with slopes sloughing off. There's a plan with some large rocks and plants but it's a big change to the design.

They are postponing work to the north end until mid-summer; there will be road closure as they pull back the slopes.

Paige, Fred, and Andy met with Broadmoor. They have decided to meet on a regular basis. They discussed the contractor queues in the morning. Apparently, homeowners are also complaining. They will try segmenting contractors to queue some through the front gate. The Broadmoor group was amenable and thought this solution was reasonable.

They also discussed runoff issues into the Arboretum.

Club and homeowners will need to agree on the issues. They appreciated the updates on the projects. The regular meetings will help build relationships with the Broadmoor community.

Broadmoor would like to see the road repaved. The road is in the shoreline zone. Hugely expensive to bring the road up to code.

RH Thompson, Ramps to Nowhere memorial, is a reminder of a civic act of resistance that was incredibly impactful.

Old/New Business

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair