

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – July 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

- Paige Miller, 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
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Eve Rickenbaker, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG)
- Wendy Gibble, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Assistant Director

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Paige Miller & Jason Morse

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Andy Sheffer

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 July 12 Agenda and June 14 minutes; Kenan moves approval and Fred seconds; meeting minutes and agenda are approved unanimously.

Update: SR520 Project

Presented by David Goldberg, Ombudsman for WSDOT; David Graves, SPR; John Arnison, SDOT; Gwyn Howard and Dawn Yankauskas, WSDOT

West Approach Bridge North (WABN)

The West Approach Bridge and the regional shared use trail will open this summer. WSDOT staff are doing outreach this summer to inform residents of the changes. Monthly community WABN meeting tonight to provide updates.

July 17, 2017 – WABN westbound SR 520 off-ramp lanes open to traffic

- The exit lanes for the newly-aligned westbound SR 520 off-ramps will begin just west of the floating bridge and extend to Montlake Boulevard and Lake Washington Boulevard East

Summer 2017 – WABN structure opens to traffic

- Westbound transit/HOV and general-purpose lanes open to traffic

Fall 2017 – SR 520 bicycle and pedestrian path opens along WABN

The regional path along SR 520 will cross Lake Washington connecting Montlake and Bellevue

Rest of the West

2018 start construction on the lid and land bridge. Lid will contain multi-modal transportation hub, open spaces; construction to last until 2020-22.

2020 WSDOT will start construction on the Portage Bay Bridge in 2020-22; 2nd bascule bridge construction will start in approximately 2020 and last about 3 years with good funding.

WSDOT hopes to have a Design/Build contractor selected by early 2018. They are working on a maintenance agreement with the City for the lid.

Performing outreach in anticipation of the Montlake phase of construction. WSDOT is collaborating with the City for a Traffic Management Plan for the Montlake phase of construction.

The Eastbound ramps will be coming out during the Montlake phase of the project.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan – Many of the public comments received during the public comment period in March and April were in regards to traffic conditions. WSDOT enacted mitigation measures to improve traffic during construction.

- Top three traffic-related priorities during Montlake Phase construction:
 1. Minimize construction impacts
 2. Reducing cut-through traffic
 3. Improving pedestrian safety
- Strong support for crossing enhancement measures to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety
- General support for traffic circles and speed humps to slow vehicle speed an cut-through traffic
- Negative feedback for adding parking on local streets

Wetland mitigation

There have not been as many impacts to the wetlands as anticipated. WSDOT staff are working with SPR and regulatory agencies to make changes to site mitigation plans. There are problems with hydrology at Magnuson – in lieu of Magnuson work, WSDOT is working with King County and Cedar River Watershed to mitigate for impacts.

Arboretum North Entry – WSDOT needs to enter an agreement with SPR regarding a timeline and what the structure of the agreement would look like for the North Entry work.

The Roundabout at the intersection of Foster Island Road and Lake Washington Boulevard is considered part of the North Entry Project. Paige says that it is a dangerous intersection. She suggests they find a way to do this sooner instead of as part of the North Entry Project. The North Entry Project is 10 years

out and that area is a crucial construction staging area. David says it's worth considering doing the traffic circle when they take the ramps out.

WSDOT is working with the State Legislature regarding the proposed RH Thomson Arch memorial.

Next steps:

The intersection at Montlake and Lake Washington Boulevard is not flowing; signaling at Montlake is causing backups. There are many geographic challenges in Montlake; WSDOT is thinking of increasing cycle length for light at Montlake. SDOT mentions they are hoping to find grant funding for adaptive signal management, similar to the system used on Mercer. Coordinating with King County Metro to ascertain best locations and flow for bus stops during construction.

Paige mentions the 2nd bascule bridge which would be adjacent to the Montlake Bridge, has been coming up in conversations. Councilmember Johnson has started talking about it; there are differing viewpoints about the 2nd bascule bridge. In the past, the City has said it would rather focus on pedestrian/bike connections.

SPR and WSDOT are working on a Maintenance Agreement with Foster Island landscaping – there will be a task force meeting with the Design/Builders and Dawn will include the UWBG in those meetings.

Update on Proposed RH Thomson Arch Memorial– WSDOT is working with the State Legislature to figure out how this would fit into upcoming work. Engineering study has been done; Speaker Chopp is organizing a tour to see it since it is in the middle of a WSDOT staging area. There are some permitting issues; will update the ABGC when more information is available.

David Graves states the roundabout should not take 10 years. Dawn suggests a Letter of Understanding on how to proceed with roundabout.

Dawn and the ABGC feel it is about time to start having conversations about the design of the undercrossing and waterfront trail.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

UWBG is working with King County to find garden loosestrife by educating homeowners who live along the lake. It is incredibly invasive and it is an edge plant. They are coordinating their efforts with the City and County.

Fred spoke at the Arboretum Foundation annual meeting and provided the ABGC with a list of facts about the UWBG.

- UWBG arborists have removed 32 hazard trees, 30 others for collection development and pruned 60.
- Education: 12,000 people participating in education programs. There is no place to accommodate the teachers. MPIG is working on pre-design of the education center; a little more

money to raise. UWBG is working with partners to finalize Memoranda of Agreement for the project. There will be the potential for rental income.

- Herbarium: 24,000 collections; the State Noxious Weed collection is in the Herbarium; the UWBG does exchanges with other herbariums.
- Plant collections: There are over 13,000 collection plants at the Arboretum and another 500 more with the Arboretum Loop Trail, and 20,000 added native plants.
- Miller library has 16,000 volumes which support the collections.

UWBG director search has not moved. The Committee did not feel that any of the 3 candidates met all the criteria for the position.

SEFS director search – 3 candidates came in June; selection committee wrote up an overview; faculty vote will happen today; the Dean will make the final decision.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Doug Critchfield has left as SPR's Natural Resources Unit Manager. Jon Jainga, the Urban Forestry manager, has stepped in to fill the role while a replacement search goes underway.

Arboretum Foundation

Access For All ballot measure – the Arboretum Foundation Board will endorse it. This ballot measure will provide cultural access for underserved communities through grant funding. It will be managed by King County

The Summer Party is Thursday, July 20 and it has a Midsummer Night's Dream theme.

Volunteer appreciation event is July 25

July 31 is a party for going away party for Paige from 5-8pm. Everyone will receive an invitation.

Replacing Paige – The Board will be hiring an interim Executive Director for 6-9months. Paige's last day is August 4.

The Foundation is still searching for a Development Director.

MPIG

Arboretum Loop Trail – The trail will be completed by the end of August; MPIG is working on signage, trail maps and incorporating the changes into the brochure.

ABGC will meet with Broadmoor next Thursday; Andy wrote and sent a letter to Broadmoor to let them know the changes in the hours need to be permanent.

3-way stop will be going in soon at the Foster Island Road and Lake Washington Boulevard intersection.

Foster island planting – SPR staff are making sure irrigation is working.

Fiber optics – fiber is in! The final connection at Madison is not done and the agreements between partners needs to be done.

Waterfront Trail – 2 grant applications pending; 1 ranked first and the other ranked 6th. Parts of the trail are under water.

Education center – MPIG finished the term sheet on the June 26th. UW received a grant, working with SPR to transfer the funds. Paige continues to meet with donors.

Centennial Garden – The large stone bench is being constructed. The pathway is roughed out and the gravel is in. The garden will be done by the end of August. September 14 is the date of the garden celebration.

MPIG is working on the parking issues.

The City will give the Arboretum a trail budget.

Old/New Business

Communications

Fred to talk with Diana about press opportunities for the Seattle Garden Club 100-year.

Fred to contact Linda Mapes on the WSDOT mitigation projects.

Goodbye to Paige

Sally presents Paige with a plaque as a small token of appreciation the ABGC has for the years of work she has dedicated to support and enhance the Arboretum. Paige’s presence in the partnership provided strong governmental knowledge and charted the future of the Arboretum. She has given the City a wonderful gift. Fred adds that her relationship building and development skills has played a huge part in allowing the Arboretum to complete Master Plan items. Paige has played an instrumental role in this position.

Kenan says he has learned so much from Paige; she drives the ABGC to make a difference in smart ways.

Paige will miss the Arboretum. She tasks the ABGC with ensuring the Master Plan moves forward. Everyone must take ownership of this and it means the ABGC will need to assist the Foundation Board with keeping the Foundation moves forward.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair