

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – August 9, 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

- *Excused*, 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
- Eve Rickenbaker, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG)
- Wendy Gible, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Assistant Director
- Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Interim Natural Resources Unit

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Jane Stonecipher & 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. There is not a quorum so the vote on the July minutes will be postponed until the September meeting.

Introduction of new Arboretum Foundation Executive Director Jane Stonecipher

Jane started Monday. Most recently, Jane worked as the Vice President for Finance for the Woodland Park Zoo. She has lived in Seattle since 1994 and worked in nonprofit for the last 10 years. Jane will stay 5-8 months while the Board scopes out what they want in a permanent Executive Director. Jane and the Board are going to perform an organizational assessment to ensure a smooth transition for the new Executive Director over the next 90 days. Welcome to the ABGC, Jane!

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Reconciling biennium budget and projections for this year. Summer camps are in full swing.

The UWBG is hiring new Fiddleheads teachers – 2 new lead teachers and 2 new assistant teachers. They are working to improve valuation metrics.

The Saplings program had 6200 kids and summer camps have 480 kids. There have been approximately 10,000 kids/families come to the UWBG programs.

Scholarships – They received a stipend increase for bus scholarships. They are researching how to appropriately collect demographic data. Between the revenue from registrations and a new endowment the UWBG gave financial support to everyone who has applied so far.

Fred has been meeting with potential donors.

School of Environmental Forest Sciences Director search – The UW has narrowed it down to one candidate and they are in negotiations.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Japanese Garden – Henceforth, there will be 2 staff onsite for closing due to security concerns. The safety office came and did a refresher on personal safety training.

Arboretum Foundation

Arbfest – This was a fabulous fundraiser; the play was fantastic.

Paige's farewell was lovely and Michael and Fred did a great job of honoring her work in the Arboretum.

Paige and Iris – went to lunch and got an anonymous \$50,000 donation to support the arborist fund.

July 1st – 4 new Arboretum Foundation Board members and the Board is strong. The new Board has stronger ties to larger institutions and development.

MPIG

Education Building – The term sheet for the education building is signed and completed. Official document with all signatures are coming out.

Issues – The City does not want to take on capital expenditures for building or maintenance; An endowment needed to provide operations and maintenance would require the partners to raise another \$6million. This increases the budget to \$13million, which changes the feasibility of the project. Fred and Dr. Wott are meeting with donors.

Arboretum Loop Trail – done by end of August. Lake Washington Boulevard may be closed on 8/17 and 8/31.

Broadmoor – ABGC met with Broadmoor to discuss the contractors lining up on Foster Island Road and blocking traffic from entering the Graham Visitors Center in the mornings. The President of the Homeowners Association did not attend. They stated they were not willing to change their operations. This will continue to cause a dangerous situation for the Arboretum. One of the suggestions is to close the entrance to through traffic, Seattle Parks and Recreation own Foster Island Road. The ABGC are uncertain whether the 3-way stop would help or hurt the situation.

Media for Centennial Garden – Fred will contact Linda Mapes regarding the wetland mitigation work done.

Fiber Optics - The City is working to obtain a permit to make the final connection at Madison. The ABGC needs an agreement between partners for the lease. City has 400 agreements to make; the lack of connectivity is causing morale issues with staff. Who in the City needs to create the MOA and the permits? Jon will contact Max, Andy and Michael at SPR to follow-up.

September meeting – Discuss the ALT opening event. The ABGC express interest in having Linda write an article on the new trail.

WSDOT briefing – undercrossing and lid design – Fred to contact David Graves to ensure UWBG input is considered.

Seattle Parks and Recreation applied for two RCO grants to restore portions of the Waterfront Trail but the money has not been released yet.

Old/New Business

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 9:15am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair