

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – December 12, 2018

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
- Jason Morse, Arboretum Foundation Board 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
- Iain Robertson, University of Washington, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Wendy Gible, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Assistant Director
- Robert Stowers, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Parks and Environment Division Director
- *Excused*, Charles Ng, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Strategic Advisor
- Jon Jainga, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Unit Manager
- *Excused*, Michael Bradshaw, University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Jane Stonecipher & Jason Morse

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Kim Baldwin

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. She asks for approval of the December 12 agenda and November 14 minutes, Kenan moves and Michael seconds; the consent items are approved.

Update: Environmental Education Center Follow-up

Jane, Michael and Fred feel the public meeting on the Environmental Education Center (EEC) was very successful. It was well-attended and managed by Susanne Rockwell. MPIG met yesterday to discuss which design would move on in the process. The Meadow and Duck Bay options received the most fanfare at the meeting. The overall feeling at the meeting was very positive. The architects did a great

job of providing appealing design alternatives. There were some concerns about tree removal and people wanted more details. Parking was mentioned as both a positive and a negative. The Linear option could have conflicts with the Graham Visitors Center if they were both having events at the same time, but this can be resolved during further design refinement. The Meadow design would impact the collections a little bit.

Madison Park Times published a balanced article about the project. The ABGC is moving forward with the Linear option. Mithun will be challenged to design the EEC in a way that there won't be conflict if both buildings are being used. EEC staff favored the Meadow site because it put them in the Arboretum and closer to their education areas.

Conditional yes for the Linear option based on whether they can address the concerns about event conflict. Next steps: meeting with Mithun in January to discuss the changes they make to the design, create marketing materials, and get detailed numbers for maintenance. At that point, Mithun will have completed their contract. Once the information has been collected, the partners will need to make the decision about whether to move forward with fundraising and assess timing for the project.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

David Zuckerman – Horticulture Supervisor had heart surgery last week and he is recovering well. He'll be out for a couple of months.

UW Outside Grounds Supervisor proposed an equipment and arborist personnel share with the UWBG. Fred is negotiating with them on the terms. The arborist personnel are funded through the Arboretum Foundation, but it would provide double crew for one week a month and access to the UW heavy equipment.

The UWBG is completing a medicinal plant brochure. The donor will receive the brochure by the end of the year.

UWBG has a plethora of photos of the Arboretum. They are going to cull and put on the cloud for easy access.

Miller Library received funds from the Miller Charitable Trust. They awarded the UWBG \$10,000 for a bookcase to display their rare books.

Staffing changes at UWBG education programs. Kim Daniel is the new Education Supervisor, and she is a great addition. Kit Harrington was lead Fiddleheads teacher and is moving back to the East Coast to be closer to her family. Sarah Keller, who started the program with Kit, has been filling in for Kit and will return to UWBG to take her position. Hanna Bressler will start January 1st as a new teacher.

School fieldtrips are on hiatus for the winter. They will return to their normal steady pace in the spring.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Sally mentions the new registration system is great.

Superintendent search has started; Seattle Department of Human Resources (SDHR) is handling the search. Hope to have someone by March. Executive Team met yesterday with SDHR to provide their feedback and guidance.

At the last meeting, Jane asked Robert about funding for a maintenance laborer for the Loop Trail. Robert responds there is funding for a position and a half but no personnel yet.

There will be a building assessment on the Graham Visitors Center in 2019. The trellis will be delayed because of a host of issues. The entire trellis structure will be replaced. It will be tricky to move around the wisteria and the many events.

SPR is hiring a Senior Cashier for the Japanese Garden. The Japanese Garden Pond renovation will start in January.

Arboretum Foundation

The Foundation has received three five-figure grants. They are going to fund education programming, programming in the Japanese Garden, and for maintenance of the Japanese Garden.

February 19 is opening of the Northwest Flower and Garden show. The theme is Gardens of the World. The Arboretum Foundation display is entitled "Under the Mediterranean Sun," containing a sun-drenched Mediterranean terrace. The party theme is Mediterranean Dreams.

Master Plan Implementation Group

A few issues need to be wrapped up on the Arboretum Loop Trail: signage and wayfinding, and a cedar needs to be removed at the stone cottage.

The crosswalk at Boyer has not been done yet, but hopefully soon.

Waterfront Trail – It would cost approximately \$2.5 million to completely renovate it. MPIG is looking at what should be included in the first phase. The timing is tricky because there are permitting constraints and the construction will have to take into consideration the fish window. Jane asks if they could start some work earlier on land parts to keep costs down.

Cell tower proposal – Michael reports the cell tower will be a monopole instead of a monotree.

Old/New Business

Retreat – Sally leads a discussion with the Board about postponing the annual retreat to allow for the ABGC to create a retreat that will be worth everyone’s time. She suggests the ABGC think about a discussion on the larger strategic vision for the Arboretum in the Spring 2019. In the meantime, the ABGC can think about what is valuable to bring the teams together. A high-level conversation about the partnership.

Communications:

- Waterfront trail – when this project starts it is a good news story. Garrett to ABGC in January/February to talk about the Waterfront Trail.
- The ABGC discuss whether they will publicize results of the EEC public meeting and decisions moving forward. The comments will be published so people can see what is heard. There is not a commitment to announce anything but the donors for the study will receive the results.

WSDOT contractor has been selected. In beginning stages of design/build, get on the WSDOT calendar for February/March.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 9:40 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair