

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – February 13, 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
- *Excused*, Jim Reid, Arboretum Foundation Board Vice President

City of Seattle

- Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks, Projects & Planning Division, Director
- *Excused*, 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 Gibble, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Assistant Director
- Michael Bradshaw, University of Washington Botanic Gardens
- Jordan Merriam, Natural Resources Unit, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Jane Stonecipher & Jason Morse

City: Michael Shiosaki (lead) & Kim Baldwin

UW: Fred Hoyt/Wendy Gibble

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Sally calls the meeting to order at 8:40am. The Board reviews the meeting agenda. The Board decides to postpone approval of the retreat summary until the next meeting.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Fred attended the Opening Night Party at the Flower and Garden Show and thanks Jane for the nice party.

Education Building - UWBG had a pre-submittal conference for the education building and there were about 45 attendees. Susanne Rockwell, SPR planner, is the project manager. The interview committee is set up. Susanne, Michael and Fred will meet monthly.

Fred sat next to an Ron Galiardo, from Amazon, who said they may have opportunities for internships at the Sphere on the Amazon campus. Ron agreed to do a tour as a fundraiser at the opening night party, the auction item sold so quickly that he added a second tour, which sold quickly as well.

UWBG staff updated the collections policy on the UWBG website.

They are in the middle of interviews for a Cascadia gardener and looking forward to having it filled.

New wifi has come; UW IT is modernizing the technology at the Arboretum.

Kern Ewing is retiring and there will be a party sometime in June. Kern is restoration ecology faculty at UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

UWBG is having a book sale on April 6 and 7.

The UWBG Director search has started. This time they will open the search to Professors of Practice. Jim, Wendy and Michael are serving on the search committee.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Christopher is acting Superintendent again. Holly Miller is interim Deputy Superintendent.

Kathleen Connor has moved into the Superintendent's Office to lead the planning efforts for the next 6-year spending cycle for the Metropolitan Park District. David Graves is working as Planning Manager in the interim.

Portage Bay Park received a good bid. Construction will start in the next couple of months.

MPD – There will be a lot of public process. There will be opportunities for input.

Arboretum Foundation

Opening Night Party – They estimate the total funds raised was \$305-310,000. Jane says they were lucky to have Sally as Master of Ceremonies. It was a great opportunity to honor Iain Robertson and his renovation of the Witt Winter Garden. Many old friends came and there was

a whole new group of supporters who were slightly younger. Sally says its great the party was successful and fun.

Loop Trail Grand Opening – Sunday, April 8 with a ribbon cutting at the beginning. Event will last 3-4 hours. They are considering having Emerald City Trolley help with off-street parking. There will be self-guided activities throughout the Arboretum.

Fred and Jane walked the Loop Trail with Dan Beekman yesterday. The article should come out in the next few days.

Jane was approached by Garden Club representatives about a Garden Club of America grant. It is a \$30,000 grant. 2 ideas came up both around renovating the upper pond with a possible partnership with the Student Conservation Association. This is at the very earliest stages, so nothing definite yet.

Many programs at the Arboretum start on March 1. Japanese garden opens for the season. There are many walks and talks too.

Selling some of the display garden plants on Saturday, February 17.

Retreat Follow-up

Sally and Jim created the Agenda in response to many of the questions and concerns the ABGC have talked about in attracting more diversity and expanding the participation to new and different communities. She talks about how to determine new priorities and what is coming up next.

Sally asks the ABGC for their thoughts on the retreat.

The panel had great insights about how to define who is in our universe and who we want in our universe. How relevant is the arboretum in the community?

Outreach – Meeting people where they are; think deeply about the variety of audiences the arboretum is intended to serve. The city is changing and we have to be tuned into that.

Appreciated how much time Stephanie and Dan spent at the retreat.

SPR and UW are grappling with huge financial pressures. This creates a mandate for the Foundation to step up in a bigger way. It painted a clear picture of the need and why the model works, to have that fundraising arm to support the partners.

Increasing diversity of people who visit the arboretum; demographics have changed in the city. Relics of the African American communities – a different strategy about groups. Have deeper conversations about race and equity, if it is truly something the ABGC wants to work on here.

Each panelists organization does so much work to talk about expanding access; in order to effectively have that conversation, the ABGC would need to do some deep diving as an organization around diversity.

A conversation about bikeshare companies and the pros and cons, ensues. Kenan thinks the bike share program will bring more people into the Arboretum.

SPR will be signing onto an agreement with SDOT and the bikeshare companies that will spell out what the bikeshare company are required to do.

Bikeshare is a potential sponsor for the ALT grand opening; Michael says the agreement is not in place yet so hold off for now. Kenan suggests putting signs around to let people know they are not allowed in certain places. MPIG is being sensitive to not put too many signs in the Arboretum.

Development of principles – use those principles to review priorities at the next MPIG meeting.

Want to serve communities and figure out how to reach them, but there is no parking for busses to come. The Master Plan doesn't allow access to these communities. Access is a big impediment.

The Master Plan was silent on diversity as it focused on development and preservation of the Arboretum.

Once the Metro Rapid Ride is installed from Downtown Seattle to Madison Park, it will allow for more public transit riders to access the Arboretum.

Sally talks about how when Tom Mara was talking about KEXP'S Mission, it does not have the word radio in it -- it's about enriching lives through music.

Sean Watts from the Seattle Parks Foundation talked about what diversity means in terms of affordability, age, race. Sean could be a resource to help the ABGC have a conversation about that and how they think about their mission differently.

The ABGC discuss reviewing the mission and the master plan. No one expresses a strong interest in opening up the master plan at this point.

Friends of Arboretum Creek – SPF and SPR are having conversations about joint priorities; this could be an interesting project.

Sally asks people to review the summary and think about what people would like to follow up on.

Iain says the mission of the ABGC is to have the partners talk to each other.

Master Plan Implementation Group

Arboretum Loop Trail - Garrett talked about remaining issues; \$200,000 in contingency – prioritize how final dollars are spent. Calls about speeding bicycles on the Loop Trail. They will use some money to add signage for bicyclists, interpretive signage, and before official opening – they want to get official site maps that show the Loop Trail.

State capital budget passed which means the Recreation Conservation Office grant money is available for the waterfront trail. MPIG is trying to figure out how to leverage this money for future dollars.

Japanese garden – Looking for funds to renovate the pond. Need to add the capital projects in the Japanese Garden to the list of projects.

Next MPIG meeting, Fred invited them to go investigate the composting toilets at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Old/New Business

Iain asks the ABGC members to look at the north end of the building where there is a little courtyard. He asks us to imagine the shrubs are on the outside and grass on the inside. It is a tiny flip that could create a room. The way it is now, it gives the road more space.

Election – Kenan moves to nominate Sally Clark chair of the ABGC for another year; Fred seconds; it is approved unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 9:55am.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair