

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Center for Urban Horticulture – March 14, 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

- *Excused*, Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee
- 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
- *Excused*, 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
- *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 Gibble

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Michael calls the meeting to order at 8:40am. The Board reviews the meeting agenda. The ABGC does not have a quorum but a discussion on bicycles at the Arboretum is added to the Agenda.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Education group received a small grant from the Russell Family Foundation for a programming internship for high school students from underserved communities. This will be a fun program to build.

Marilyn Montgomery left to work for central advancement with the UW. Formerly, Associate Dean of Advancement at the School of Environmental Forest Sciences.

UWBG is hiring a gardener for Cascadia; 3 graduate students have applied.

UWBG director search – The job opening has been posted. So far, they have received inquiries from three candidates who applied previously. There is a soft deadline of March 20. April 4th is the selection committee meeting.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

SPR has received the budget instructions from City Budget Office. They have a target to cut general fund by 5%.

Superintendent search has not started. SPR staff are grateful that Christopher will act as Interim Superintendent until a replacement is found.

Arboretum Foundation

March is a big month for the Arboretum Foundation. Volunteer groups start their activities this month. Japanese Garden opened March 1. There will be a Shinto blessing on March 4.

The Foundation received a large gift of \$275,000 targeted to improvements along Lake Washington Boulevard and the Loop Trail. There are a few stipulations, but it is not restrictive.

Discussion: Bicyclists in the Arboretum

The ABGC discusses solutions to the aggressive bicyclists riding through the Arboretum on the new trail. There have been several incidences of people being harangued by cyclists on the trail. The trail was meant to be for all types of users and the Board expresses concern that the cyclists will scare away other types of users.

Suggestions include: offsets, signage, speed bumps, and potential closures during high use days.

SDOT is providing educational programs along major multi-use trails; to help educate all users on appropriate etiquette.

Update: ALT Grand Opening

Event details: 12-3pm

Self-guided with activities happening around the loop. Clusters around the Graham Visitors Center and Pacific Connections gardens.

Sally suggested as Master of Ceremonies.

Michael will make sure Interim Superintendent Williams knows Mayor Durkan declined and confirm his attendance.

Jane had arranged to have cross country teams run the loop as part of the opening, but it is against Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) regulations.

In case of inclement weather, 10x15ft canopies will be situated around the park. Michael and Fred will do a slideshow presentation regarding the story of the loop trail at the Graham Visitors Center.

Fred will talk with Meg to keep Kenan in the loop on media stuff.

There will be parking along Arboretum Drive.

Last minute to do's:

- Graffiti removal across from Japanese garden will need to happen; Ohno, the contractor for the Loop Trail, will paint it once.
- Orange construction fencing removed around the Birch Lot - potentially switch it out for green/ black fencing.
- Dead trees that need to be removed.
- Circulating map drafts; to create takeaway maps that show activities for the Grand Opening. The ABGC wish it the map had a GIS editable display – to enable future changes.

Master Plan Implementation Group

Broadmoor - Contractors queuing up again on Foster Island Road. They are scheduling a quarterly meeting – the partners ask Michael for a city representative.

Interpretive signage for the Loop Trail are completed and ready for MPIG final review.

Negotiations with WSDOT – ABGC members would like WSDOT to provide electricity from the bridge for the elevated area underneath the bridge on Foster Island. WSDOT has postponed when the UW will take over maintenance.

New person in charge of the SR520 project for WSDOT – Denise Cherry.

ABGC discuss negotiating with WSDOT who may need to encroach onto Arboretum property along the South side of the Montlake Bridge.

The Section 206 – concurring parties meeting is mainly targeted for the public to voice their concerns.

Kim Baldwin, Planner for SPR talked to Andy Sheffer about providing an update on historical relationship with the local tribes. The ABGC discuss the importance of maintaining a relationship and keeping access to the tribes' ancestral home.

Michael shares the good news that Washington State, through the Recreation Conservation Office Aquatic Land Enhancement Account awarded the City \$1.25million to improve the Waterfront Trail. Michael will work with Garrett to create a project schedule. The ABGC would like to prioritize Marsh Island since it is in the worst shape.

SPR will need to work with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Educational Building Request for Proposal – 5 architecture firms applied and they are all highly qualified.

Japanese Garden pond – Oliver Bissetti is working to make the Japanese Garden Pond renovation a defined project. Lisa and Pete Penicki are looking to do some quick fixes for some of the erosion issues. The ABGC wants to make sure Oliver and Lisa are talking so there are no redundancies in the work.

The ABGC discuss the importance of the relationship between the Arboretum and the tribes who lived here. Warren will be giving a symposium next week. Fred will talk with him about a future get together.

SPR will be working on an assessment of the Graham Visitors Center.

Olmsted Fund – The ABGC discuss whether there is a project identified in the Master Plan for the meadow. There is a fund in the Park District package – planning document discussing how these dollars should be spent and Crabapple Meadow was identified as a potential project.

The ABGC discuss other alternatives for the Olmsted Fund, for example, a trail from the Birch Lot to Pacific Connections or accessibility for the Ridge Top Trail.

Azalea Way and Lake Washington Boulevard are in the Olmsted plan.

The ABGC discuss the possibility of an art exhibit at Pacific Connections gardens – Jane will scope out possibilities and bring it back to the ABGC. The ABGC feel culturally appropriate art is a good idea.

At the last MPIG meeting, they visited the compost toilets at the farm at the Center for Urban Horticulture, as a potential solution to restroom issues at Pacific Connections. The porta-potties were removed from Pacific Connections and there has been subsequent vandalism and break-in to the fiddleheads' porta-potty. \$30,000 for one compost toilet. Contractor services the toilet but maintenance is up to SPR.

Students, who work in the Arboretum are interested in funding a portion of the installation.

Michael will follow up on the mystery of the missing porta-potties. He will make get something back there before the Grand Opening Celebration on April 8.

Old/New Business

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Sally Clark, ABGC Chair