

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – June 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
- Jim Reid, Arboretum Foundation Board Vice 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
- *Excused*, 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
- *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. Sally asks for approval of the consent items: the December 2017 and May 9 meeting minutes and the June 13 agenda. Jim moves, James seconds, and the minutes are approved unanimously.

Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Fred and UWBG staff are working on the request to the Arboretum Foundation for the next fiscal year.

UWBG Director search has gone to faculty. There is a meeting tomorrow to discuss the candidates. Fred met with Dan on Monday – Dan and Fred were disappointed faculty did not attend any of the candidate sessions since they have a vote on who will be the new Director.

Dan wants to standardize the hiring process. He will decide on the final candidate and start the negotiations.

Unfunded mandated raises – UWBG is looking for opportunities to develop revenue. UWBG will have to become more business-like.

Alicia blood – Youth and Family Education Supervisor is resigning. UW is starting a search this summer. She has done a tremendous job.

UWBG hired a person for the Lake Washington Boulevard project - Derek Allen, a recent graduate from the UW.

ROOTS Interim Director is speaking with the UW about projects/work skills program for youth, potential partnership opportunity with the UWBG.

The predesign of the education building is moving forward. Drawings should be ready to share by October.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

No Superintendent search yet.

The City is working on an agreement with the bikeshare companies about where they should or should not be in parks property. Michael will have Max come talk with the ABGC.

Arboretum Foundation

Annual meeting is on June 20th.

Summer party is on July 12th. Sushi and sake in the garden. Interim Superintendent Christopher Williams and Bob Wiley – donor of Machiai roof, will be speaking.

Legacy Society, Craig Trueblood started in 2011, the Arboretum Foundation is bringing in a consultant to reinvigorate that effort.

Lake Washington Boulevard – Student Conservation Association will be working at the Arboretum for 4 weeks. They will spend 2 weeks with UWBG staff and 2 weeks with SPR staff. The work will be around Arboretum Creek. The ABGC suggest talking to the partners communications staff about how best to write this up and distribute.

Discussion: Issues with Broadmoor Contractors

The back-up on Foster Island Drive from contractors waiting to enter Broadmoor has started happening again. ABGC members have met with them and they seem unwilling to bend to alleviate safety concerns on Foster Island Drive. The ABGC discuss the best plan for moving forward. Enforcement is an issue since the back-up does not occur every day, it would be hard to get Seattle Police to sit out there. There may not be a legal issue. The ABGC discuss potential recourse: They decide to write a letter to the homeowners, cc'ing the Capitol Hill Blog, and the District 3 City Councilmember. A letter to homeowners highlighting the safety concerns and detailing the history of our communications with them. Offer solutions, such as: Open the gate earlier, have contractors go in through the main entrance, negotiate with golf club to have them park in the golf parking. Michael will check with the law department about potential recourse if they do not provide alternative solutions.

Master Plan Implementation Group

Dangerous crosswalk issue at Boyer and Lake Washington Boulevard where there is a misaligned crosswalk. Garrett will put together a project schedule. It will need to be designed and surveyed. It will cost around \$15,000.

Parks Jamboree – There was a tremendous weeding effort to remove horsetail. There will be a planting thanks to the Arboretum Foundation donation.

Waterfront Trail – Seattle Parks received Recreation Conservation Office grant funding for the Waterfront Trail, the money will only cover a portion of the renovations needed. MPIG will prioritize the trail section on Foster Island and the parts of the trail that are underwater. They hope to start construction 2019-2020. The ABGC discuss whether there is potential to get a Department of Neighborhoods grant if the ABGC worked with a neighborhood group. They may have an interest in seeing the project get done.

There remains \$140,000 in the Loop Trail budget. The ABGC to determine how to spend those last dollars. There are some drainage issues, a catch basin that needs to be added, and trail guides printed.

Master Plan Projects Priority List – Michael will update it and bring it back in June.

Olmsted Park District fund – Is there anything further for the ABGC to do? The consultant report lists 10 potential sites and they are working on pricing out each project. Michael will check and find out when the ABGC should talk with the decisionmakers.

WSDOT – The traffic issues continue. It took 30 minutes to get from here to Montlake. SDOT and WSDOT need to figure out the timing of the signals. It is a 2-stage mess – current mess and the new construction mess during the Montlake lid phase. Traffic cannot flush through with the signal timing.

Rachel to distribute the letter and send final edits to it today. Rachel to add a sentence about the \$12 million mitigation money and use a stronger voice for follow-up. "Since the last phase of the

construction, the traffic has increased and waiting times worsened. Could you please let us know what you are doing now to address the traffic issues?"

Discussion: Events in the Arboretum

Michael reviews the "special events" criteria in Seattle. Memorandum of Understanding between SPR and UWBG. SPR has not been doing a good job coordinating with the Arboretum on scheduled events.

The ABGC considers a written policy around making the Arboretum Loop Trail off limits to organized runs/walks through the Arboretum. Are there parameters? Organized events with an entry fee? How big? There may be certain dates/times that are blacked out. ABGC wants to be able to say yes/no to certain events OR at least, be a part of a meaningful communication loop.

Pilot: Would it be a good idea to have an event with a neighborhood group or talk with a running club for advice? There will be impacts to the Arboretum if there is an event; there should be a revenue share to maintain upkeep. There would need to be staff/volunteers to keep people on the pavement. ABGC suggest having specific information on the web regarding necessary steps for an event at the Arboretum. City to coordinate with ABGC?

The Arboretum Foundation and SPR made an agreement that states the Arboretum Foundation may get blanket approval for alcohol at events scheduled if the list is received by the end of January. However, the Foundation seems unsure how to get the approval for events with less notice.

The ABGC discuss the confusion that exists when there are SPR permitted events at the Arboretum. With the lack of communication, there can be multiple brides in the same facility and it can be very confusing for guests and UWBG staff about where to direct people. The ABGC feel better communication is paramount.

Old/New Business

This is Jim Reid's last meeting with the ABGC. The ABGC thank Jim for his service. Jim says it was a pleasure being on this committee. Jim brings great energy and inquisitiveness and focus. The ABGC will miss Jim and his energy and good attitude. Jim adds that it has been fun to see things more expansively and know about all the many neat opportunities. He is given a plaque as a small gesture of the great work he's done.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Sally Clark, ABGC Chair