

## **Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – July 11, 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 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
- *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**

Sally calls the meeting to order at 8:40am. Sally asks for approval of the consent items: the June 13 meeting minutes and the July 11 agenda. Michael moves, Kenan seconds, and the minutes are approved unanimously.

Jane introduces Jason Morse, Arboretum Foundation Board President, who is joining the ABGC. He has been on the Board for 4 years and works as a landscape architect. Jason is originally from Montana, went to WSU and has lived in Seattle for 25 years. The ABGC welcomes him to the Board.

### **Budget, Personnel and Other Items**

#### **University of Washington**

UWBG hired a recent graduate student and two others who will start the renovation work along Lake Washington Boulevard.

Director search – UW is negotiating on with one candidate. The offer presented to the candidate was for an associate professor and tenure track, which means this person will have to work towards tenure and tenure is not guaranteed.

American Public Garden Conference – The agenda for next year will center on diversity. The UWBG will send a paper on the work they have been doing to increase diversity and equity in environmental work.

Summer camps are in full swing! They are completely full. It is really fun seeing the Arboretum full of classes and camps.

The focus groups for feedback on the environmental education center are finished.

### Seattle Parks and Recreation

Retirements yesterday – Susan Golub, Policy Unit Manager, and Cheryl Eastberg, liaison between SPR and Seattle Public Utilities, retired yesterday.

Jen Chan is starting today as the new interim Deputy Superintendent. She worked for Deputy Mayor Moseley. Holly Miller is retiring in August.

Parks Superintendent search has not begun.

### Arboretum Foundation

The Arboretum Foundation convened a successful annual meeting in June. Fiscal year ended June 30, but the numbers have not been finalized. The gift shop saw a 30% increase, Jane owes it to regular volunteer shifts on the weekends and the addition of some logo materials which seemed to sell well.

The Arboretum Foundation staff are busy planning for the garden party which is tomorrow night, July 12. There will be between 250-300 people attending. City crews are helping with parking and set-up details. Interim Superintendent Williams will speak and so will Bob Wiley, the main donor for the Machiai roof.

Student Conservation Association crews started yesterday. They will be at the Arboretum for the next 4 weeks working near Arboretum Creek. Niall is working on a blog story and it is a good news story to share with the partners.

Japanese Garden had 9000 visitors from March to June, an increase of approximately 15%. Charles will send the number of visitors to the Japanese Garden to the ABGC.

### **Discussion: Broadmoor Letter**

The Board discuss the ongoing issue with Broadmoor contractors lining up their vehicles on Foster Island Road to enter the back gate into Broadmoor. Cars trying to get to the Graham Visitors Center are forced to go around the trucks into oncoming traffic. There are signs that say, "no stopping or standing." Enforcement is tricky since the back-ups are inconsistent. The ABGC discuss potential courses of action. There have been some complaints by the teachers. Fred and Wendy will talk to staff/parents to see if they have concerns.

Fred will send them an email requesting Broadmoor review the issue and allow the Broadmoor community the chance to fix the problem.

Initial email to go out soon with a follow-up letter. Circulate to ABGC after it is sent.

### **Letter to WSDOT**

The letter was drafted soon after the April meeting with WSDOT and reiterates concerns about traffic issues and mentions the undercrossing and the mitigation money. Michael will check the language about timing of payment with David Graves. Rachel will schedule another meeting with WSDOT in October.

Letter from WSDOT regarding cell tower – Michael will call the woman today to discuss the location of the cell tower. The property is currently WSDOT's but SPR does not want to inherit the cell tower when the land is turned over to the city. Generally, SPR does not allow cell towers in parks and does not wish to start.

### **Master Plan Implementation Group**

Master plan priorities – The priorities are broken into categories based on size and type; prioritized based on need.

- o Education Building predesign is happening now; big priority. UW and Arboretum Foundation would have to do a capital campaign to raise funds for this.
- o Improvements with Crabapple Meadow – better drainage, electrical service, irrigation; and, depending on the chosen location of the Education Building, there could be synergy with this project.
- o Rhododendron Glen – possible Department of Ecology grants
- o Pacific Connections – add electric
- o Pacific Connections – Australia

Minor capital projects

- o New path to connect from Azalea Way to the Overlook.
- o Pacific Connections – bathroom at Pacific Connections. ABGC is looking at options. They would like to get a composting toilet. In the interim, it would be great to have something up there. The UW farm has a composting toilet and it works great.

Renovation projects

- o Arboretum Waterfront Trail – \$1.425mil WSDOT/RCO grants; currently in design, construction would start in 2019.
- o Landscape renovation along Lake Washington Boulevard; work is underway
- o Renovating the Japanese Garden pond
- o GVC Building renovation – there is warping in ceiling and roof; there are some mold issues in the basement due to leakage. SPR would need to pay for some of these repairs.
- o Plant collection renovations – Camellia, Linden and Mediterranean Gardens.

Funds for these projects are easier when there is donor appeal; the priorities could shift based on donors.

Arboretum Loop Trail –

- o Moving forward on crosswalk at Boyer. This work is in process.
- o Applied ecology is trying to get in control of the weeds in the wetland planting.
- o Jane mentions there haven't been complaints about bicyclists on the trail for a month.

**Old/New Business**

Max will come and talk with the ABGC about the Agreement between SPR and the bikeshare companies.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 9:50 a.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sally Clark, ABGC Chair