

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – January 9, 2019

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
- *Excused*, 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
- Robert Stowers, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Parks and Environment Division Director
- 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 Gibble

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Sally is running late so Michael moves to approve the December minutes and the January 10 agenda; the ABGC approve the Consent Items unanimously.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

The Arboretum lost some plants during the storm. Trees from the Broadmoor side fell and impacted some of the Arboretum collection.

The staff have been working on Viburnum plantings and the China Forest along the Loop Trail.

UWBG education staff are gearing up for Spring programming season. They are taking this opportunity to regroup and look at staffing needs and fees for the summer.

Solstice event – The UWBG held their first Solstice Event. There was a luminaria walk from the Graham Visitors Center (GVC) to the Witt Winter Garden. The weather was lovely. Inside the GVC, attendees could make garland or centerpieces. There was cider, a food truck and a firepit where one could put wishes for the new year. The Fiddleheads Preschool solstice event was earlier and it was great.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

The search is underway for a new Superintendent. There is a steering committee meeting next Wednesday. The goal is to have someone by the end of the 1st quarter.

Landscape and horticulture crews are preparing for pond improvements at the Japanese Garden starting on January 15th. Temperatures are above normal average which will help the work. Permits have been submitted. David Graves is waiting for one more review from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Most of the work is being done in-house. A contractor is doing the vacuuming of the little pond. The biggest challenge will be if the weather gets colder and the pond freezes. The weather report shows a stretch of clear, dry weather for the next couple of week according to the National Weather Service.

Arboretum Foundation

Foundation staff are preparing for the Opening Night Party; the theme is centered around the Mediterranean. The Arboretum's collection has plants representing 16 of 22 countries that border the Mediterranean. The party is called Mediterranean Dreams.

Walks and talks for donors is moving to the end of the month. There will be free Japanese Garden admission on first Thursdays. The UWBG will also be offering walks through the Arboretum on first Thursdays.

Jane received an email from STG Presents. STG wants to talk with the Foundation about music in the Arboretum; she'll keep the ABGC posted.

The Arboretum Foundation received several small gifts focused on the upper portion of Rhododendron Glen. They might be getting a larger gift focusing on the same area. The ABGC should spend some time talking about how a bigger project could unfold.

Master Plan Implementation Group

The temporary construction fence at the birch lot is ready to be removed.

During the recent storm, there was a tree failure in Duck Bay. SPR staff will assess whether there is anything to be done to remove the tree.

MPIG will have their final meetings with Mithun about the Environmental Education Center (EEC). Mithun came up with an overall building footprint that reduces the conflict if there are events occurring simultaneously at the GVC and EEC. The plan would require the space where the greenhouse is now so MPIG will need to find a new location for it. MPIG will have a draft business plan at the next meeting.

There is some graffiti on the WSDOT peninsula. If it is still there today, the ABGC will reach out to WSDOT and request its' removal.

Garrett is working on the documents for the Waterfront Trail Project based on cost and priorities. He is planning to brief the ABGC at the April meeting.

Jane asks about the Olmsted Parks funds from the Park District. Michael responds that staff are looking at initial cost estimates to see how accurate they are given the rising construction costs. Michael will follow up. Crabapple Meadow is still one of 10 in consideration.

Is there any activity with the new funding cycle of the Park District? Kathleen Conner is leading the efforts for the Strategic Plan that will inform the funding initiatives that form the new six-year plan.

Old/New Business

Jane will propose a story with the Madison Times Reporter about the education programs.

Kenan will be out of town for the next meeting.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Sally Clark, ABGC Chair