

## **Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – October 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
- David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Strategic Advisor
- 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), 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, Associate Director
- *Excused*, Michael Bradshaw, University of Washington Botanic Gardens

#### **Standing Committees**

##### **Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):**

AF: Jane Stonecipher & Jason Morse

City: David Graves (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 8:40am. Sally asks for approval of the June, July, and September meeting minutes; Jane moves and James seconds. The minutes are approved.

### **Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items**

#### **University of Washington**

Sally, Fred, and Jeanette Henderson- Director of Real Estate at UW, met with WSDOT regarding the trees on Lake Washington Boulevard to be removed for temporary ramp. Since then, the trees have

been marked. Fred says they are looking to make design changes to save the trees. WSDOT to get back to Fred by the end of the week.

Ray Larson, returned from a successful plant expedition to the Siskiyou mountain range. They brought many plants back. Staff from Kruckeberg Gardens will propagate the plants. This will assist with the refurbishment of Cascadia. Funding for the trip was provided by Unit 16. The ABGC talk about what a cool story this is and Jane will reach out to the new garden writer for the Seattle Times. They do these trips twice a year. This is a good media opportunity.

Director's Roundtable – Fred met with garden directors from around the Puget Sound at the Amazon Biospheres. The APGA conference will be in Portland next year. They discussed bringing it to Seattle in 2025. The conference next year is an opportunity to present the Arboretum and raise the level of the Puget Sound from a marketing and tourism stand point.

UW Farm retreat tomorrow – Two Deans are attending, and it offers a great opportunity to request funding.

The Farm dinner is on October 23.

Fred attended a fundraiser for a collective of farms called Common Acre. People can come, and pick veggies and the people farm communally. It seems like a good organization.

Union Bay Natural Area – UWBG staff is working directly with WSDOT on mitigation efforts in the wetlands. There are eight years remaining. More funding is coming but it will be important to save as much as possible since there will not be future funding.

Fred is meeting with Dan Brown regarding opportunities for education at the Arboretum – they may hire an advisor to the Director. There are many programs at the Arboretum and it would be great to have that information in one place.

Kristin Buckley is retiring. Dave Ayell did fundraising for Intellectual House and he is replacing her temporarily. Dave will look at donor capacity for building the Environmental Education Center (EEC).

Monday, Fred will look at the EEC from the practical side with Stephanie Harrington. They will also discuss Iain's replacement for the ABGC.

Seattle/Christchurch Annual Dinner – Fred will make a presentation on the New Zealand garden, and Kyra Matten will do a short presentation as the plant collector for the garden.

Trellis at the Graham Visitors Center is scheduled to be removed. They will plant more sun tolerant plants. SPR will replace the existing trellis.

Asian Maple Collection will be dedicated to Dan Hinckley on Sunday, honoring his horticultural work. He has done tons of collecting on behalf of the Arboretum. He's been a big supporter.

## Arboretum Foundation

Jane visited the Arnold Arboretum, affiliated to Harvard but not adjacent to campus. The Director there is struggling with how to make it more relevant to the students. They are encouraging people on campus to spend more time there as part of a mental health initiative. The Washington Park Arboretum raises more philanthropic dollars than the Arnold Arboretum, but they have a healthy endowment that provides \$13-14 million a year in spin-off.

The Arboretum Foundation held two nights of moon viewing; expanding it from one night the previous year. Over 600 people attended and it sold out in 8 hours. SPR staff assist with parking and event coordination.

The Maple Festival is happening now. It lasts 12 days. The fall color is later this year. 60th anniversary for the Japanese Garden. Events clustered around the winter closure; from December to February. The Arboretum Foundation provides funding and SPR provides the staff for maintenance projects. The Arboretum Foundation wants the events to be a good opportunity for the City also.

Opening Night Party theme is Flower Power.

Park Board retreat was at the Japanese Garden. Gene, Fred and Jason did a presentation to the Board. Fred says the Board emphasized the need to leverage partnerships for the Arboretum and the City.

## Seattle Parks and Recreation

David is not appointed yet, but he will be taking Michael's seat.

The ABGC would like an update on the strategic planning process; Jane asks if the Arboretum Foundation should be thinking about crafting a specific ask. Will there be an opportunity to advocate for funding? David says he will ask Kathleen about it.

The Waterfront Trail is moving forward with permitting. SPR project manager, Garrett Farrell wants to use the funds efficiently.

## Master Plan Implementation Group

Water Quality Study – A group has applied for a grant with King County to test the water quality in the Arboretum. Gene and Fred are developing a watershed taskforce. They are working on a charge letter to provide guidance on how to move forward with this work.

People are creating social trails through the wetlands adjacent to the Arboretum Loop Trail. Wetland mitigation will need to continue. The ABGC talk about the Army Corps of Engineers requirement for 10 years of monitoring. Fred suggests signage to educate the public about the wetland would be helpful.

Interpretive and wayfinding materials for the Arboretum – UWBG has put signage up to help people find their way. Interpretation about the Magnolia Collection is up now.

Japanese Garden pond will be tackled in the summer of 2021. David says they should get going on the permitting soon.

Rhododendron Project – ESA finished phase 1 design. ABGC will be hiring consultant to do schematic. ESA identified four zones; the funded construction project will encompass one or two of those zones but want a consultant to do a design for all four zones. Seattle Garden Club has indicated interest in funding the third zone, which in combination with SPR staff labor, could turn into a \$250,000 project. Jason mentions the possibility of getting Department of Ecology grants.

Compost toilet – Next steps – Jane will create an agreement about ongoing maintenance. She is working with Charles Ng and Kim Baldwin, and then the project will go to ProView for review. They are hoping to have installation after the first of the year. It will be placed up at Pacific Connections.

Geofencing for Bikeshare program – Kim will check with Max about the fencing; they provided three locations at the Arboretum that would cause the least amount of impact.

The ABGC discuss the pros and cons of obtaining federal/municipal historic designation for future funding opportunities through 4Culture. Sally questions whether that designation is necessary for 4Culture funding. The ABGC discusses which type of registration and researching the various options. Azalea Way and Lake Washington Boulevard could have historic status, but anything registered would lose a lot of flexibility in terms of changes and design. Sally will talk with Karen Gordon, formerly with Historic Preservation.

### **Old/New Business**

WSDOT - Final open house on Portage Bay will be on October 29. The temporary on-ramp construction will start soon. They are working to switch traffic onto the existing structures during their upcoming weekend closures.

Iain and Michael recognition – 10 – 10:30 am at the December meeting; Rachel will get cards for people to sign at the retreat; Fred to talk with Iain about the date.

Rachel will see if that date works for Michael. Rachel to look at overlapping membership and invite former board members that may want to come.

Three Stars Memorial – A community member suggested a memorial near where they found Three Stars. There are a lot of land/water owners over on the side where his death occurred. A shoreline tree planting would be nice. It costs \$1000 to dedicate a tree. Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness does a bronze leaf where homeless people die and they may reach out to the

Arboretum. This could be a good opportunity to highlight SPR policy on disposition of ashes and homelessness resources. Jane to reach out to the person who emailed.

Retreat planning – David asks if the ABGC would like Kathleen and Selena to come to discuss the Strategic Plan.

Jane and Fred to work with Sally on the retreat. They will have a phone call to put things in motion. The size of the retreat will be determined by what the goals of the retreat are. Optimistically, the Governance Taskforce will have met but, if that has not happened, they hope to get a 25,000 foot view of values and vision. The governance conversation is predicated on the discussion about the values proposition. The partners are thinking facilitation would behoove the groups to produce results. Sally will convene a phone call next week – Jason, Jane, Fred, Sally, James and Rachel.

Jason and Fred will find a facilitator for the retreat and taskforce.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 10:08 a.m.

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