

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – December 11, 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, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- 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

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- *Excused*, 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: 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 8:30am. She asks for approval of the October minutes and the December 11 Agenda. Kenan moves and Jane seconds; the minutes and agenda are approved.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Miller Library – UWBG received a grant for \$145,000 for the Miller Library and a grant for \$8,400 for interpretation and wayfinding at the Arboretum.

Fred met the Honorary Consulate for Australia and they are discussing ideas for collaboration for the Australia garden.

Desert Zoo and Botanic Garden in Palm Springs – the Director contacted him about a collaboration regarding conservation.

Fred says there are discussions going regarding a Historylink collaboration – a podcast maybe? Student project? If there are ideas about people to be interviewed or featured, let Jane know. Michael Yadrick, Forest Ecologist with Seattle Parks and Recreation, has a podcast called Treehugger about forest ecology and it is really good.

Solstice program – 165 people have signed up to attend. There will be a walk in the Arboretum with luminaria. There is a \$10 admission fee. Sue Nevler has been pushing for this and many of the regional gardens are doing it.

Arboretum Foundation

The Japanese Garden is closed for the winter. The Japanese Garden had 128,000 visitors this year, despite season being 1-month shorter due to the North Pond project. Winter projects are beginning. Jane says MPIG is thinking of some smaller projects like entry signage, culturally appropriate lighting. A Shinto blessing is scheduled for first open day of the garden, March 1.

The Arboretum Foundation will have a June 5 ribbon cutting for the anniversary of the opening the garden in 1960. They would like to open the garden for free to the public; the Consul General of Japan to present seeds from the Hiroshima Project. Jane is hoping to invite the Mayor/Super/other dignitary to receive the seeds.

MOHAI and Seattle Public Library would like to help recognize the anniversary.

Fundraising – The Arboretum Foundation received a \$165,000 bequest.

Earth Day 50th Anniversary – There is a leadership group that is meeting to discuss events.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show - This year's garden will feature rare and endangered plants, highlighting the importance of biodiversity; King5 will be covering both Earth Day and the Flower and Garden Show. They may ask SPR to help with the shop work. Jessica is thinking about an evening lecture.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

The composting toilet went through ProView yesterday; the partnership between SPR and the Arboretum Foundation has been going well.

Strategic plan is being finalized; the divisions are preparing their aspirational budgets for the next 6-year cycle of funding. Fred asks about where partnerships will land in the plan. Jane adds that leveraging funds through partnerships are going to be important. How does the UW and the Arboretum Foundation coordinate a message to the department that is impactful?

David will follow-up and respond at the January meeting.

Master Plan Implementation Group

Water quality study- Friends of Arboretum Creek grant will be approved. They are looking at a design to capture water above Japanese garden. This would add 40,000 gallons of water a day to Arboretum Creek. Larry Hubbell is doing that work and he is now a member of the Arboretum Foundation Board. Jane says there will need to be a more formal discussion to manage the work. Kevin Bergsrud, SPR project planner is on the team to look at this project as well as someone from SPU.

Drainage at North end; Garrett is looking at solutions.

Boyer Curb Cut – Still not done

The staff at the Graham Visitors Center made a presentation to Kevin. There are three pages worth of maintenance that needs to be done. Kevin is working to prioritize, but there is no funding for these projects yet. Big projects are hardwiring the sump pumps which are currently plugged in outside.

Environmental Education Center – no updates. The Aquarium received \$34 million from the city.

Rhododendron Glen – Berger was chosen for design and MPIG is negotiating the contract. BRH will do the surveying. Seattle Garden Club may put in a grant for funding for the lower pond. MPIG needs to meet with Lisa and Amanda to discuss possibilities for leveraging the restoration dollars – project to start summer/fall 2021

Lower Woodland – Beautifying the outlet of the pond by the Loop Trail. It is in a minor permit process. There is a big stump in the lower woodland pond, but the Department of Fish & Wildlife qualify it as habitat. It is hard to get trees out of the water.

Lake Washington Boulevard work is looking great. Staff have created a west side of the road planting plan to brighten it up. The Student Conservation Association worked on this project in the past. Jane and Fred spoke with staff at SCA who said they may not be able to continue the local chapter in Washington State because they are not getting the funding they once did. Jane mentions Seattle market is more expensive to operate here because of the minimum wage. Sally asks if SCA is considered a workforce development program? Sally says King County has a new Director of their workforce development and she's doing a great job. Sally will reach out to her to see if there is a support channel.

Fred and Sally and Jeanette met with WSDOT about the trees along Lake Washington Boulevard. Fred was very upset with WSDOT for transgressing the stakes and bulldozing close to the trees. Since then, there has been no communication.

Fred sent Dawn a request for \$225,000. WSDOT admits they erred because they thought they were part of the Canal Reserve mediation. Dawn has a map that shows the temporary path that aligns with the permanent path; the ramp was not contemplated when the contract was signed. Graham came up with this plan to cause less disruption and shorten the timeline; but they were not proactive about the trees.

Rachel to talk with WSDOT about returning to ABGC. UWBG and SPR staff will coordinate with Graham for Lake Washington Boulevard closures for work along the boulevard. Amanda is creating a list of projects they need to accomplish.

Fred will reach out to Dawn and explicitly state they want to begin conversations about mitigation.

Old/New Business

Elections: The ABGC move the elections to January – in the meantime, leadership will have some conversations about how this moves forward.

Celebration for Iain Robertson, Michael Shiosaki, Jason Morse

Rachel invited some past board members to help us thank the retiring members for their service to this committee. Jack Collins and Jim Reid attended.

Iain Robertson was unable to attend the December meeting, but the ABGC is thinking good thoughts for him and wish him all the best. He is missed.

There has been much turnover on the Board this year. Michael's presence and understanding is hard to replicate. His impact on the Arboretum is an amazing legacy. Kenan says that serving on the ABGC with Michael has taught him so much and his love of the Arboretum is such an inspiration. He appreciates Michael's efforts.

Charles says that Michael's dedication to Seattle Parks and Recreation and service has been wonderful and he's been a role model. Patrick seconds and says he enjoyed working with him. David thirds and says his leadership is missed. Michael worked on the Master Plan and he was incredibly influential. What a gift to the Arboretum.

Jason says Michael's role on the ABGC and as a City representative transcends his role as a representative of the City to a person who loves the Arboretum.

Fred says Michael's advocacy and partnership has been so important to him. Michael has assisted with supporting Center for Urban Horticulture also. He's not just a partner, he's a friend.

Jim Reid, former ABGC chair, speaks about each of his retiring board members.

Jason – Jim says he’s never taken credit for Jason’s success on the Arboretum Foundation Board, besides recruiting him to be on the Arboretum Foundation Board. He is a great member and a steady leader. He helped design the summer garden. He assisted the Arboretum with their governance and a beautiful legacy.

Iain – Jim received such a great education from Iain. He appreciated how Iain was always challenging the bureaucracy and he left such a beautiful legacy in the Arboretum.

Michael – This past Labor Day; Jim went to dinner at Michael’s house. He has created a beautiful garden with a lovely sense of serenity and balance. Love, loyalty and caring reflects in his personal and professional life. Jim worked in government for a while; and it can be stifling. To work in government, one has to be savvy, sophisticated, patient and persistent. Michael advocated for the garden and for those who love the garden. We all owe Michael a huge debt of gratitude for the work in the Arboretum.

Michael says the Arboretum has been a part of his family for so long, and he’s still here. The Arboretum is his favorite part of the parks system. He started advocating for the Arboretum when he was on the Park Board. It has been a pleasure.

Iain was Michael’s college advisor in Landscape Architecture; everything he learned, he learned from Iain.

Jason is shifting off the ABGC; he will stay on MPIG. Jenny Wyatt will step onto the Board starting in January.

Sally mentions Jason has been a great addition; his energy and focus has been important for the partnership.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair