

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – May 8, 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

- *Excused*, Jane Stonecipher, Arboretum Foundation Executive Director
- *Excused*, Jason Morse, Arboretum Foundation Board 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), 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, Associate Director
- *Excused*, 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 calls the meeting to order at 8:35am. There is not a quorum, so Sally delays approval of the consent items.

There is confusion about whether the permit for the cell tower is for a fake fir tree or monopole. The ABGC thinks it was an error in the press release. David Graves will let us know.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Fred reached out to the Muslim Student Association to set up a meeting and date for a tree planting to honor those killed in the Mosque shooting in New Zealand.

There will also be a Jacobsen tree dedication; sister-city organizations will attend.

The UWBG received a neighborhood noise complaint from noise levels emanating from the Graham Visitors Center. It was a girls' high school prom.

A woman who lives in the neighborhood called the Arboretum and said there is a camera pointing toward her deck from the Arboretum. Members of the ABGC are flummoxed and there was much discussion about where the camera could be. The foliage seems to have taken care of the problem for now.

John Wott was awarded Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Horticulture Society. Riz Reyes, former student and employee at the UW, was honored as Horticulturist of the Year.

Student Conservation Association work party went well and there were about 130 participants.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

SPR staff were able to move some trees out of the kayak path in the water near Fox Island. This didn't require a Washington State Fish and Wildlife permit.

Pond improvements went well at the Japanese Garden. They reduced the number of turtles in the pond. The resident eagle is eating the koi.

SPR is in the hiring process for a Senior Lead Maintenance Worker for the Loop Trail. SPR is working to make the position permanent for next year.

Jesus Aguirre re-confirmed as SPR Superintendent.

Master Plan Implementation Group

There has not been a meeting yet.

Old/New Business

Environmental Education Center –

Fred has a phone meeting with Stephanie Harrington, Associate Dean in the College of the Environment. Fred and Jane will present the pre-design to donors. This building will be funding dependent. The Dean's Office needs to feel this is a priority.

Retreat planning –

Sally says the partners are not ready for a retreat conversation regarding governance. Wendy says internal discussions with UWBG staff should happen before any partner conversations. Dan, Jason, and Jesús met and Jesús said the City would like to be more involved in the governance conversation than they have been. The partners would like to create guiding principles for moving forward.

Each organization has complementary but unique missions; ensure that their missions are manifest and well-represented. Fred says a taskforce may be formed; it would be a high-level group of people checking the feasibility, challenges, opportunities, and options. What structures are being proposed and how to get there? What principles should be considered when determining the success and long-term health and stewardship of the Arboretum? Equity, access, and education being refined/governed by a new model. Resources – how would a new governing structure improve the allocation of resources and fundraising?

The ABGC decide to postpone the retreat. They will find out from leadership when a retreat would be timely. Michael suggests the taskforce have a facilitated conversation so the members could have a non-biased, open-minded conversation with fresh ideas.

Kenan mentions the group had discussed climate change as a topic for the retreat; and, how the partner organizations are working together to combat climate change.

Jane will be leaving her position starting in September. They are starting to hire a new Executive Director. She may stay on to assist with projects.

How can the ABGC support the governance structure conversations continuing? The ABGC discuss sending an informal email to Jesus, Dan and Jason and mention these points:
The ABGC think reviewing governance is a great idea. The commissioners heard there may be a task force and wonders what the charge would be. They suggest a facilitated process would be most valuable. The ABGC would like to put forth some guiding principles: process and result recognize and honor complementary and unique missions, Arboretum governance should maximize equity in opportunity and access, health and stewardship of Arboretum is first; the renewed governance should expand resource development opportunities. The ABGC ask what the physical scope of the governance would be. The ABGC recognize it is their job to carry out the Master Plan, but this will continue no matter the governing body.

The email should be from the Members present for this discussion.

Put some pressure on timeline. Rachel to draft the letter.

Sally reminds the Board that the ABGC may want to send a letter to Broadmoor regarding traffic on Foster Island Drive before summer programming and contractor queues commence.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair