

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – June 12, 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
- 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: 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 8:35am. 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.

Presentation: SR520 Project Updates

Dawn introduces Graham Construction, who won the bid for the next phase of the SR520 project; Matt Goyer – Design Build Coordinator; Bob Derry - Communications, John Welch Deputy Project

Manager; Todd Harris Deputy Project Manager. Amanda Sei from SDOT is here to discuss updates to the neighborhood traffic management plan.

Dawn assures the ABGC that the cell tower air space lease explicitly requires Crown Castle work with WSDOT to find new space for cell tower. Also, the agreement that transfers the WSDOT Peninsula property from WSDOT to Seattle Parks and Recreation will state the cell tower will be removed prior to ownership transfer.

Rest of the West – Community engagement opportunities are ongoing. The construction management plan is posted on the web; and monthly construction meetings coming soon. The I-5 express lane project is moving forward and will go out to bid in 2020 and finish by 2023. The Portage Bay Bridge is in design process and the goal is to finish that by the end of the year and will use that to inform the Request for Proposals. WSDOT hopes to start construction in 2023.

Open house in September for I-5 Express Lane and Roanoke Lid Projects. WSDOT is working with the Design Commission and will roll their input into the projects.

John – Deputy Project Manager, Graham Construction. Graham is deep into the design phase; They are performing some early work potholing and Geotech. They will begin construction in mid-July. They are moving the existing southbound structure to the northbound structure. The landscaping begins in 2021

Graham is conducting many in-person and online outreach events. The deadline to comment on the Construction Management Plan is June 20, 2019. The online preconstruction open house is on June 7, 2019.

Graham is attending the Design Commission to review the Montlake Lid review and the pedestrian land bridge; it may result in a subtle change in location of the Portage Bay Overlook.

- A – flier stops – closed June 22 and will not return
- B – offramp closed in July – shifting traffic to temporary ramp;
- C – pedestrian and bike path that goes on 24th will be replaced by temporary ramps

Top concerns from the public is noise and vibration; Graham will have real-time noise monitoring to ensure they stay below threshold.

John reviews the construction plan starting summer of 2019. The temporary on-ramp will go from Lake Washington Boulevard and onto SR520.

Existing Arboretum on-ramp will still be open during the construction of the temporary on-ramp.

Future Montlake area – There will be a surface swale instead of a pond; increase surface area and make it flatter; allowing for better landscaping.

The trees being removed to install the temporary eastbound on-ramp are the same trees that were planned for removal for the pedestrian land bridge. Graham is planning to inventory the trees to assess health of tree, measure, location, and get a proper count.

The ABGC asks for a copy of the tree inventory map.

Vegetation Management Plan and erosion control – This is Appendix C to the Construction Management Plan.

Graham has not done any design yet for Foster Island Trail and undercrossing.

Montlake lid greenspace – shortened the lid on the west end by 45 feet; loss of 2.7% of green space on the lid itself; 1.5% total loss of greenspace to contractor design;

The Pedestrian land bridge has to clear 16.5 feet. There will be berms on each side of the trail so bikes and pedestrians will not see the freeway.

CCMP – The Community Construction Management Plan spells out the environmental and community impacts.

Montlake Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan – Amanda Sei, SDOT Interagency Project Manager

Improve signal interconnectedness with real-time traffic management system, which will lessen congestion along the corridor.

Spring 2019 completed review of feedback from the TMP and identified traffic calming measures; based on this they are implementing 9 new traffic calming measures, including:

- New speed humps on Roanoke, Miller, Calhoun, and McGraw
- New speed cushions on 19th Ave E (W Montlake Pl E) and a short segment of Boyer Ave E
- New pavement markings on Boyer Ave E, Shelby-Hamlin loop, and 26th Ave E at Calhoun

Next steps

When should WSDOT come back? WSDOT and Graham will be meeting with the Seattle Design Commission through the summer. Fall may be a good time to return to the ABGC and present graphics resulting from those meetings. Graham will be working on the grades structure over the summer. The ABGC would like to see them return before they start building the temporary on-ramp.

The Board discusses several items they would like to see at their presentation in the Fall:

- How Graham will create continuity extending to Montlake boulevard which was the historic entrance to the Arboretum.
- Better graphics of the retention walls from the pedestrian land bridge.
- A clearer understanding of the construction timing in the fall.

WSDOT will start wetland mitigation on the WSDOT Peninsula soon and will need ABGC feedback.

SPR is involved in the Rest of the West; there are specific interests in how the lid is designed; the ABGC wants to be included if there are significant changes.

Fred mentions WSDOT will be removing the poplars along Lake Washington Boulevard. They are historic trees that belong to the UW collection and they need to be compensated for them.

Underneath the bridge on Foster Island, WSDOT has an agreement with the UW to maintain it and the UW will want to be part of the development of this area. There is a historic design, some sections have already been implemented and there is an agreement with the local tribes. Graham says they will make sure the ABGC/UW will be included in any conversations around the design of Foster Island.

When will mitigation start? North Entry – opportunity to implement parts of that before the construction is done, but there will be staging there. WSDOT says they could start researching grant opportunities, daylighting Arboretum Creek, and planning the construction of the roundabout.

Wetland mitigation at the WSDOT Peninsula – planning effort will start before Graham has finished in that area for a seamless transfer; mitigation area cannot have trails through there during construction.

The ABGC is interested in starting on the roundabout and daylighting the Creek if they can.

The ABGC ask for a draft schedule for mitigation projects.

Berger had come up with a concept for the North Entry project, but there are modifications; some grants require better drawings and it might be worth it to start the design process now.

Interest in 2 check backs

- Understand how earlier projects are happening; meeting, email?
- Deeper dive on what things look like after Design Commission; and in-depth landscape conversation – October?

Bob Derry reminds the Committee about Construction Corner on the WSDOT SR520 webpage, which has construction impacts and a 4-week schedule.

Urban Design Taskforce meetings – As they get into the design stage, David will include Parks and Environment Division and Fred at UWBG.

Discussion

Fred spoke with the Director of Real Estate at UW and there is a special consideration for collections. They will need to be compensated for those trees.

ABGC discuss the changes to the project and wonder which phase the mitigation money will come. Some of the work can start soon; is release of money tied to construction timing?

Is it worth planning and looking at the entire project in an effort to maximize mitigation dollars? The Board discusses the timing of the mitigation projects. They decide to write a letter to memorialize their understanding as of now.

WSDOT committed to \$12million in mitigation money. They will ask for the release of some funding to start design work. The goal would be to have the design ready by the time Graham is done in 2022.

David suggests taking the entire North Entry to 10% and then move the Arboretum Creek and roundabout to 30% starting in January 2020. The ABGC could work on design while submitting for grants. This would allow for the 18-months of permitting and ready to bid by 2023.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Fred thanks the Arboretum Foundation for the Operating Gift they gave to the UWBG.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

No updates.

Arboretum Foundation

Annual meeting on June 19; honoring the generous Rhododendron Glen donors

Master Plan Implementation Group

There has not been a meeting yet.

Old/New Business

Rhododendron Glen – Removing several trees for better collection conditions this week; weeding, clearing out dead plants; and, prepping for fall planting;

Rachel will send out the Broadmoor letter.

60th anniversary for the Japanese Garden – Jane asks for and is collecting creative ideas; high-profile visitors; an event centered around the Tokyo Olympics.

Update on Executive Director search for the Arboretum Foundation – sorting through the applicants; interviews starting shortly.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair