

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – July 10, 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. Iain is stepping off the Board. The ABGC will miss him tremendously and wish him the best. Fred is working with the UW to find a replacement.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

Upcoming events:

- Muslim Student Association Tree Planting Ceremony on October 11.
- Asiatic maple collection on October 13 in honor of Dan Hinkley.

- John Wott will be moving away on in September. There will be a party in his honor on July 25.

UWBG meeting with UW staff on the Environmental Education Center. In order for this project to be feasible, the projects costs need to be reduced. They are working to bring costs down.

Botanic Garden had its' best fundraising year ever. Arboretum Foundation and Miller Library were both donors. The UWBG are grateful.

Wendy adds the lead teacher is leaving at the end of the summer; putting out an offer this week for their replacement. Summer camps are full.

The tram tours are well-attended; they are staff led and informative. They happen twice a day on the weekends.

Arboretum Foundation

Starting a new fiscal year this month and welcoming 7 new board members. They bring a wide range of skills. Superintendent Aguirre will attend the July 17 Board meeting to talk about the SPR planning process.

Student Conservation Association crews will be joining Arboretum staff for 2 weeks to work along Lake Washington Boulevard.

Joint Volunteer Appreciation Event on August 8 at the Graham Visitors Center.

Started planning NW flower and Garden Festival; the event planners would like to modify the relationship between them and the Arboretum. They would highlight the Arboretum in exchange for slightly more costs. They may be offered a booth at no charge; the Foundation would need to think about whether they want to staff a booth.

Theme is Spring Fever- a nod to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Highlight conservation themes; bring in some endangered plants. Andy Sheffer reached out to the Foundation to talk about how his shops may be able to be involved.

Japanese Garden – opened a month late but attendance is up! July 4th was a big day for the garden. Tanabata, Children's Day, was on a Saturday and 1500 people attended. There are impacts to the garden from that level of attendance. They may need more staff to monitor people at the garden.

The Arboretum Foundation applied to the Department of Neighborhoods grant for a composting toilet at Pacific Connections. It will cost approximately \$35,000. The ABGC discuss ways to fund this in case they don't get the DON grant.

Jane has accepted the Executive Director position. The ABGC is glad she will continue in this role moving forward.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Robert Stowers will run the Enterprise and Partnerships in Community. Patrick Merriam is the Interim Parks and Environment Division Director.

Jon Jainga is the new Safety Manager.

Patricia Bakker is in Jon's position as interim Natural Resources Unity Manager.

Master Plan Implementation Group

The Graham Visitors Center was assessed. A consultant was hired, but they have not started their work yet. The leaky roof will be fixed before the rest of the work.

Rhododendron Glen received a nice donation and work has been ongoing. UWBG staff are remodeling the upper area of the collection. The Metasequoia (dawn redwood) are really popping now. The donors were honored at the annual meeting.

Waterfront Trail – The ABGC wonder if the 1st phase of restoration of the Waterfront Trail need to be complete before asking for more State funds. Sally says it doesn't hurt to start inquiring.

Sally is happy to work with the Arboretum Foundation on a multi-year budget ask to the City for the Arboretum.

Interpretive signage is posted for the Magnolias.

Old/New Business

SR520 letter – Rachel drafted the letter to WSDOT. The ABGC will send their edits to Rachel by Friday at 5pm and give David Graves the opportunity to review before sending.

Kenan feels the ABGC could honor Iain's contributions through a summer garden. His Winter Garden is such a beautiful respite during the long winter months.

Mami Hara – Jane listened to a presentation by Mami Hara, Seattle Public Utilities, talk about watershed improvements. It would be great to have her come to a future meeting.

August or September tours for the ABGC? Amanda Hannah mentioned there may be money for the lower pond. Tram tour? September meeting. Canceling the August meeting.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair