

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes **Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum – September 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
- TBD
- James Fearn, Mayoral Appointee

University of Washington

- *Excused*, 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 Gibble, 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 Gibble

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Fred Hoyt

Call to Order

Jane chairs the meeting since Sally is out of town. She calls the meeting to order at 8:35am. The Board decides to save the approval of the minutes for the October meeting.

Michael announces he is stepping off the ABGC as he has accepted a position at Seattle Public Utilities. The Board express sadness over Michael's departure. Michael joined the ABGC in 2000 as the Park Board liaison. Fred says Michael has been the strongest advocate from the City and a great partner. He is disappointed that Michael has moved on. The Board expresses a great amount of appreciation for his service on the Board and discuss honoring him at a future meeting.

Fred mentions he spoke with Iain who is in good spirits. He has not officially retired from the UW but he is taking a break. Kenan suggests allowing Iain to design a summer garden. Fred says this has not been a part of the priorities but MPIG could revisit.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

- Fiddleheads preschool starts on Monday.
- School field trips will start in a few weeks.
- The Guided Arboretum walks with a curator and a couple of other classes for adults are happening now.
- Annual retreat for UW Farm – Deans invited themselves because they have the purse strings; \$25,000 donation to the farm from Dan Hinckley. The UWBG is very grateful.
- John Wott is moving. Fred received 15 boxes of archival stuff. They will review it all. UWBG will really miss his presence and his influence.

Upcoming Events

- October 11 Tree of Life planting with the Muslim Student Association
- October 13 Dan Hinckley Maple tree collection celebration.

Arboretum Foundation

September events –

- Fall Plant Sale was very successful, almost 600 people attended. There were more young people and seemingly more interest in house plants.
- Respect for Elders Day at the Japanese Garden; kids and seniors received free admittance.
- Day of Caring – 160 people signed up to volunteer at 8 work sites around the Arboretum;

Broadmoor security guard stopped by to see Jane and it is nice they are being mindful about their contractors.

2nd night of Moon viewing – more focus on making sure there are rain plans; extra support for parking for evening events.

60th anniversary of Japanese garden – The Arboretum Foundation is considering various events to commemorate the anniversary.

Green Hiroshima project – 120 trees survived the bombing. Seeds have been collected from those trees and the Arboretum has applied to receive a tree. Ray Larson is working on permitting with the USDA. Hopefully, seeds will arrive in November.

- Event with Japanese Consulate?

The Arboretum Foundation is having discussions with Youth Theater Northwest about performances in the garden in July.

The Foundation is looking to partner with other organizations for different types of events in the Arboretum.

50th anniversary of Earth Day – project highlighting health and the environment. Collaborate with the University of Washington for a volunteer project.

Warren King George was here to tour Foster Island plantings. Jane welcomed the Muckleshoot to have an event at the Arboretum.

Jane is heading to Boston and will meet with staff at the Arnold Arboretum and bring back any information gained.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

Andy Sheffer is the new Director of the Planning and Development Division; Patrick Merriam is the Interim Parks and Environment Director; Pam Alspaugh is the interim Director of Facilities; and, Robert Stowers is the new Director of Enterprise, Partnership in Communities division (EPIC).

Master Plan Implementation Group

Rhododendron Glen – MPIG met with a consultant regarding the Rhododendron Glen Project. They have done a great job of providing a scope. The Arboretum Foundation has money for phase 1 and project planning. The University of Washington will provide project management. Timing depends on permitting but they are hoping for Summer/Fall 2020. This will allow Arboretum grounds crews to provide maintenance and clean up the water in Arboretum Creek. Andy Sheffer, David Graves, and Kim Baldwin were there. David will be a tremendous help with the permitting. The Arboretum Foundation received a \$750,000 grant and have used some of it to complete some plantings. There will be implications for SPR maintenance staff. There will be some trail work and the lower pond will require some maintenance.

The Arboretum Foundation appreciates that the ABGC honed their list of priorities, it is much easier now to bring the donors a list of projects they can choose to fund.

Environmental Education Center – UW and Arboretum Foundation is looking at potential donors to see if they can move ahead with a project.

Composting toilet – Department of Neighborhoods grant for \$22,000 to purchase a composting toilet by next Spring. The project needs to go through ProView (SPR project review) and write up an agreement to maintain the composting toilet. They will have a contract for routine maintenance with a 3rd party. The Arboretum Foundation will update the servicing agreement with Seattle Parks and

Recreation to include the composting toilet since they come to maintain the Graham Visitors Center and the Japanese Garden. They will invest in enabling remote locking and unlocking – worth it to raise the money to have a high-quality, time-based lock. SPR will look at this as a pilot project to see if it could work for other parks.

Boyer curb cut – Fred to send an email to Kim and Andy regarding the curb cut at the Boyer crosswalk.

Based on Rhododendron Glen Project, the Watershed Project, and the next round of SR 520 mitigation money; it behooves the ABGC to start researching potential grant funding. They will charter a taskforce to start discussing the water project.

Larry Hubble, cofounder of small non-profit called Friends of Arboretum Creek, performed water testing on different areas of Arboretum Creek. They applied for a \$250,000 grant to channel water through Arboretum Creek. This would increase the flow by 40,000 gallons a day. There is a steering team with members from SPU and SPR to provide guidance. Seattle Parks Foundation is the fiscal sponsor and they have been helpful in making connections. The ABGC considers and discusses the managing of these projects.

Arboretum Loop Trail - As part of donor funds, grounds staff will address channelization both aesthetically and engineering. The Arboretum Foundation submitted a grant to help with the sweet gum that fell in 2017 for its removal.

Old/New Business

Retreat Planning – Governance issues/organizational changes; Jason, Jane, Dan Brown and Fred have been working on issues and will meet to discuss with Jesús.

Rachel will reserve the retreat location.

Park Board retreat at Japanese Garden – September 26; The Arboretum Foundation are brainstorming presentation and event opportunities. They are working on messaging; they will talk about partnership; big themes: destination parks, power of leverage, important to see commitment of the city to magnify funding for projects; talk about WSDOT Peninsula return to the Arboretum and the opportunities that holds.

King County Metro – Jane tells the ABGC that there is a growing fleet of last mile vehicles. Metro is working on a big project on connection to Kirkland. They are going to terminate more of the bus routes at UW light rail station. They now offer trailhead shuttles in the summer to regional parks.

Parks Sundays – Metro providing vehicles to shuttle people to parks around town. Expedia will have their own shuttles around town. The Foundation is looking at partnerships to increase access to the Arboretum. Innovative ideas for opening up the Arboretum to different people.

Fred is meeting with Sally Clark and Dawn Yankauskas regarding the poplars removal for eastbound lanes. WSDOT recognizes that the trees have worth. They have been valued around \$700,000. Michael mentions that with him no longer on the Board and Fred retiring soon, a lot of institutional knowledge will be gone. It will be important to have the longer-term memory so WSDOT will stay true to its commitments.

Rachel to contact WSDOT about October meeting.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair