

Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee (ABGC) Minutes

Via Zoom – June 9, 2021

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
- Jenny Wyatt, 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
- Ray Larson, University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG), Interim Director

Other Staff Present:

- Rachel Acosta, Seattle Parks and Recreation, ABGC Coordinator
- Wendy Gible, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Associate Director
- Lisa Chen, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Unit Manager

Standing Committees

Master Plan Implementation Group (MPIG):

AF: Jane Stonecipher & Jason Morse
City: David Graves (lead) & Kim Baldwin
UW: Ray Larson/Wendy Gible

SR520 Technical Committee:

City: David Graves; UW: Ray Larson

Call to Order

Sally calls the meeting to order at 9:04am. Sally reviews the agenda and the Board members introduce themselves. City and UW are still observing work-from-home at least through September.

Partner Updates: Budget, Personnel and Other Items

University of Washington

- Maya Tolstoy is the new Dean for the College of Environment. She comes from Columbia University. She starts January 1, 2022.

- Botanic garden Executive Director search – 1st interviews next week; ABGC will be invited to candidate events; hope to have a selection by end of June.
- Budget cuts rescinded. This will help the UWBG backfill some of the losses. Potential to offer some student support among other things.
- Climate ready landscape plant study is starting – 3-year study with 6 Western universities looking at ornamental plants with adaptability to climate change. An acre being planted now and another acre in the fall.
- Received American Public Gardening Association (APGA) grant award for UW Farm for the “U Cook” program. They provide outreach and cooking instructions for diverse communities and students. They collaborate with the College of Built Environment to construct an outdoor kitchen.
- APGA conference held virtually this year; lots of classes this week.
- Rhododendron Glen – planting progress and plans for bid; submitting additional notes to Army Corps of Engineers and hoping for permit in July.
- New Head of School for Fiddleheads, Madeline Cole who starts this week. 1-week camp for alumni for Fiddleheads.
- Urban Forest Symposium – New vision for urban forestry, focusing on new directions for culturally appropriate engagement, and building a more inclusive and diverse workforce.
- Summer camp – modified not at full-capacity summer camp this summer.
- Rare Care Conservation Program – Anna Carragee, Masters of Environmental Horticulture student is the new Outreach Coordinator, coming from the Kubota Gardens.

Arboretum Foundation

- Annual Meeting is a week from today.
- Closing the year in a better fiscal position than anticipated. Donors have stepped up and the stock market has contributed in positive ways.
- Events – Small in-person garden party on August 12 at the Japanese Garden; 150+ staff and volunteers. Working with SPR safety team. Commissioned a piece of music by Paul Shihara; Garden of Enchantment; perform by a trio of Seattle Symphony musicians; Jane will record it.
- Interviewing for the Director of Advancement; excited to see this process move forward.
- Ray and Jane taking CM Juarez on a tour of the Arboretum. She is the chair of the Public Assets and Native Communities Committee for the Seattle City Council.
- Student Conservation Association will return this summer. Along with Wendy’s team there will be a good story about the teen opportunities at the Arboretum.
- Jason Morse is on a 25-garden tour around the country; meeting with management teams and provided consultant references who has worked on these projects before.
- Covid protocols are ever-changing. Being at the intersection of the City and University – it can be difficult to interpret how to move forward. Finding right messaging to help them understand the rules, when there is a lack of consistency, how to create clear and consistent expectations. ABGC will form a small group to discuss communication.

- Arboretum Foundation Board having deep-dive discussions around the history of the Arboretum, education programs, SPR briefing; they are now in a great position to make some moves next year.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

- SPR is hiring an additional gardener; interviews wrapped up last week.
- Patti Bakker is moving to out-of-class so Amanda will be filling in for Patti for 90 days as NRU manager.
- Strategic Plan is getting geared up and will be doing outreach in the fall.
- Spray parks and 2 outdoor pools opening next week
- Planning Development and Maintenance Division will be back in the office in mid-September.
- SR520 update – Real Estate Agreement between SPR and WSDOT will not go to City Council until 2022.
- North Entry – Berger partnership is under contract to review ARCH proposal and North Entry design.
- WSDOT is to complete an ethnography for Foster Island. Section 106 commitment – rethinking ethnography idea from a report to a physical installation. The ABGC discuss potentials for bringing in indigenous history to the North Entry.

Jenny mentions having public input to create a North Entry that incorporates indigenous culture and historical use; and the ARCH proposal. This is a huge learning opportunity for indigenous students and others to discuss potential.

Master Plan Implementation Group

Rhododendron Glen - Fish and wildlife permit secured for Rhododendron Glen. MPIG providing feedback to Army Corps. Next step is cost estimate and the project is going to ProView for comments.

Old/New Business

Rename Waterfront Trail – Consider indigenous name? UW Tribal liaison? Who has jurisdiction to rename? There are indigenous maps available that have place names – Ray will provide it. Christine Kenney, at UW, is creating a compilation of place names.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourns at 9:58 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Sally Clark, ABGC Chair