



**Seattle
Parks & Recreation**

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Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:00-10:30am, Online

ABGC Voting Members

Arboretum Foundation

Jane Stonecipher, Executive Director

Jenny Wyatt, Board President

City of Seattle/Seattle Parks Department

Kenan Block, Mayoral Appointee

James Fearn, Mayoral Appointee

David Graves, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

University of Washington

Sally Clark, Director of Regional and Community Relations, ABGC Chair

Christina Owen, Director of UW Botanic Gardens

Ken Yocom, Professor, College of Built Environments

ABGC Attendees

Rachel Acosta, ABGC Coordinator, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Lisa Chen, Specialty Gardens Manager, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Ray Larson, Curator of Living Collections, UW Botanic Gardens

9:00am Call to Order and Introductions

David Graves, ABGC Chair

- Consent Items: February 9, 2022 Agenda; January 12, 2022, November 10, July 14, and June 9 Minutes
Changes to Agenda/Minutes: Ray sent minor corrections. Kenan moves to approve the minutes, James seconds; the minutes are approved.

9:05am SR520 Update

Dawn Yawnkauskas, WSDOT

Main Discussion Items/Follow-up:

Funding gap - \$600million to complete Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid and Montlake Bascule Bridge Project.

I-5 and 520 projects are fully funded.

Key drivers for cost increases:

- Extending program delivery 5 years added \$280million
- Reordered express lanes to avoid conflicts in construction but Montlake costs went up;
- Soil conditions and challenges with structures were not fully understood resulting in engineering refinements for Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid Project which added \$290 million; and,
- Extended multi-use trail and enhanced neighborhood connections also added costs.



- Scope updates for I-5 Express Lane Connection project added \$25 million – addition of auxiliary lane along I-5 express lanes shoulder to preserve the four, reversible lanes

Governor's supplemental budget - \$16billion "Move Ahead Washington", if it passes, it would allow WSDOT to move forward with Portage Bay Bridge, Roanoke Lid Project, but not 2nd bascule bridge.

Portage Bay will begin construction in 2023 and finish in 2030

Construction updates:

SR520/I-5 Express Lanes Connection –

SR520 Montlake Project – Eastbound bridge replacement happening now. Concrete strike is causing delays. Constructing Montlake lid; eastbound bridge and multi-use bridge.

Due to concrete strike, evaluating work elements that do not require concrete. Collection tree removal is moving up timeline. Coordinating work to remove trees with UWBG.

This summer, will reconfigure Lake Washington Boulevard. Substantial piece of construction – new drainage to go in; roadway will move a little north, roadway will be repaved. Working with Graham to determine whether extended closure or series of weekends. Will keep ABGC partners in the loop.

Bridge construction progress - Girders being cast; outside of concrete strike zone. Continue to do form work on bridges and prepare for bridge decks to be placed when striking abates. When putting girders in, there will be a temporary close to the eastbound ramps.

Eastbound on-ramp removal this spring; cranes on barges will lift them out. Higher water levels allow for easier access. Bent 2 will be preserved.

Cell tower trees died, were replaced and new trees are now dying. Landscaper coming in to determine cause of death and establish another planting plan.

Cell tower will be removed as they wrap up SR520 project.

SR513 – Montlake Bridge will be repaved on each end; panels and mechanics are working well on the bridge.

WSDOT/SPR coordination – Property Transfer and North Entry Project

Timeline – Funding for north entry in fall 2022

WSDOT will require temporary easements for some of the areas for construction staging and planting maintenance.

SR520 project will be done by the end of 2023 if the concrete strike terminates.



WSDOT and SPR are working on the Real Estate Agreement to transfer the WSDOT peninsula to the City. However, WSDOT will still require possession of parts of the peninsula to:

- Monitor and complete the 5-year plant establishment in the shoreline area;
- There will be a construction easement until 2028; and,
- They will need some of it for a construction staging area for nearby projects until 2030 – including cell tower lease area.

The southern portion of the land swap area will be available by 2023. Jane asks if the ABGC could walk the area to get a better understanding where this is.

Christine asks for plant list for areas included in plant mitigation in the WSDOT peninsula. SPR/WSDOT agreement – how will these agreements impact UWBG for long-term care. David Graves is working with WSDOT. Dawn proposes a sister agreement of roles/responsibilities – WSDOT wants to get out of the way and allow SPR and UWBG figure out the terms of their management of the area.

David says SPR assumed UWBG coordination, but they aren't at this stage of the Agreement yet.

Dawn and David to set up a meeting with permitting people. Dawn spoke with them and they said she has voiced ABGC concerns to them and will close the loop.

Plans are to remove all asphalt, pavement in the area but not a lot of regrading in the area. Ray says they would like to be able to use the dirt in other areas. Important to drill into this further to ensure coordination.

The ABGC will form a separate small group to meet about North Entry Project funding and looking at wording from draft Agreement, North Entry concept, and how to help each other – in early March.

Section 106 commitments

- Interpretive signs
- Maps at right scale for tribal partners
- Ethnographic exhibit – walking in footsteps of ancestors; envision what it used to look like and what it will look like in the future.
- Union Bay Natural Area – interpretive signage containing Indigenous knowledge about water fowl.

SDOT – The ABGC express concerns about traffic mitigation as construction changes occur. Dawn mentions she is in coordination with Jon and SDOT during construction; Dawn will mention it to Ganth at SDOT.



Next meeting with WSDOT in May or June.

Discussion

Will know how construction delays impact their timeline when they return in may/june.

The planting areas in WSDOT peninsula was new to david.

Follow-up mtgs with WSDOT regarding 1)how property will be turned over to SPR and 2) mitigation funding

Late February conversation for internal meeting to figure out strategy/approach to meeting with WSDOT

David to follow up with permit folks at SDCI regarding shoreline plantings

Lisa asks whether SPR has considered costs of increased maintenace – David says it's 10 years out so not yet.

David to schedule meeting last week in March. David, Jane, Sally and Christine for money conversation. Ray, David, Christine and Jane for planting stuff.

9:45am Partner Updates

Arboretum Foundation:

- Engaged with Olympia lobbyist to track progress on transportation bill; legislative session came back with \$406million; The Foundation requested up to \$300,000 to support community inventory, and it is looking positive for being included in budget.
- Central Park Conservancy Lab – Accepted as part of 2022 cohort as part of governance study. Capacity building grant to facilitate conversations around partnership and structure. \$25,000 for execution.

10:00am MPIG Updates

Main Discussion Items/Follow-up:

10:15am Old/New Business

Main Discussion Items/Follow-up:

Partner updates/MPIG updates and WSDOT follow-up discussion at next meeting.

10:30am Adjourn