



**Seattle
Parks & Recreation**

healthy people healthy environment strong communities



Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

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

Join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

ABGC Voting Members

Arboretum Foundation

Jane Stonecipher, Executive Director

Peter Rees, 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, Manager, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Ray Larson, Curator, UW Botanic Gardens

9:00am Call to Order and Introductions

David Graves, ABGC Chair

- Consent Items: August 10, 2022 Agenda, February 9, May 11, and June 8 meeting notes
Changes to Agenda/Minutes: Kenan moves, Peter seconds; the consent items are approved.

9:05am MPIG Updates

- Color-coded legend for different phases of project on capital projects planning map. ABGC agrees that this is a good idea.
- Stone Cottage – ethernet is connected. Working on getting dedicated power; rat infestation and asbestos mitigation needs to happen. Est. cost: \$15,000. What are opportunities and what level of investment into this project?
- Japanese Garden projects – Short-term maintenance work and longer-term enhancements consistent with 1960 design. Foundation received \$750,000 gift to make these improvements. Bob Hoshide, working with Berger, is the consultant for this project.
- Pacific Pathways – Berger partnership engaged to look at pathway up hillside to lookout and shelter in Pacific Connections New Zealand garden. Will look at their options at the MPIG meeting in September.
- Arboretum Creek project – A project to bring neighborhood water sources from Combined Sewer Overflows to run through Arboretum Creek for year-round flow. Cleaning it before it gets to the creek through a series of cells and renovate Arboretum Creek to accommodate flow.



- Rhododendron Glen – received permits thanks to David Graves. The crews will get started next week for restoration of the creek. Other parts of the project will renovate the Overlook of Azalea Way Pond; and Irrigation. Construction will last 6 weeks.
- Woodland Meadow – Arboretum Foundation received money for design. They hope to transform the meadow into a year-round gathering spot. They will start fundraising campaigning in 2023.
- Tsutakawa Gates – They are complete! Installation for gates is happening now.
- Waterfront Trail – Staff are waiting on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. They received corrections on construction permit and the project is going to ProView for review. David requested updates on projects from the Corps. This project is funded for phase I, which gets the renovation from Foster Island to Marsh Island. The permits would cover both phases of the trail.
- North Entry Project –
 - WSDOT needs small pieces of park property in Portage Bay Bridge corridor. They want these properties before they go out to bid on the next project in 2024.
 - They will be returning the WSDOT peninsula to Seattle Parks and Recreation in 2030.
 - In 2012, SPR signed a mitigation agreement on SR520 project; project costs for the North Entry at the time was \$12.5mil. There will be escalation. Negotiations are ongoing.
 - Consultant needed to look at Roundabout and feasibility for daylighting Arboretum Creek.
 - Early dollars from WSDOT as part of mitigation.
 - Jane emphasizes that the ABGC focus on negotiations on getting land back in best shape possible to provide the most public benefit.
- ARCH bend –ABGC discuss whether or not to send a letter to the Mayor and WSDOT in regard to preserving the Bend as a memorial to the broad-spectrum, community-led effort to block the construction of the RH Thomson Expressway. The outreach and engagement should focus on equity and inclusion. As the ABGC thinks about the North Entry, the design should center on the story of the land, original inhabitants, and serves the needs of the diverse community of the Pacific Northwest. The ABGC should be intentional about centering the use of the WSDOT peninsula on the story of the land and serving the diverse community. The development of the memorial should include diverse voices reflective of the story and the peninsula. Use funds to do intentional outreach with priority partners. It will be an opportunity to serve as a model as to how these projects operate and do this work to center marginalized voices.
 - Rachel to memorialize Christina's words in the notes for posterity.
 - Focus on property transfer and focus on outreach after the terms are agreed upon.
 - Rainer agrees and is willing to return during a later stage of the project.



9:30am WSDOT Mitigation Updates

- Drafting Guiding Principles for Negotiation
 - Money for design as soon as possible; getting community excited will unlock additional funding;
 - Clear understanding of condition of land transferred for future development
 - Fair escalation rate – tie escalation issue to use timing.
- Julie Meredith and Ron Judd, from WSDOT, are involved in negotiations and would be the authority.

10:00am Partner Updates

University of Washington:

- Fundraising at Dan Hinkley's garden; bolster endowment to provide long-term support to collections in Arboretum.
- Rhododendron Glen – trail closures will be happening over the next few weeks due to construction. UW students will start winter quarter on designing and restoring the Woodland Creek outlet.
- Programs – Summer camps are in full swing; 2 more weeks. Plan to restart "Park in the Dark" and parent/child classes. Ramping up to full capacity. Still unsure about field trips yet. Ongoing speaker series "New Directions in Public Gardens" featuring various community groups talking about opportunities to engage diverse communities. More info here:
<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/about/blog/2022/04/14/2022-speaker-series-new-directions-in-public-gardens/>

Arboretum Foundation:

- Garden has been closed for a month for renovations; several upcoming programs. International Gardens for Peace Day this coming Saturday. Bringing an artist in from Japan for traditional storytelling art from the back of a bicycle.
- Garden performances from Youth Theater Northwest.
- Tsutakawa Gate is being installed. Public dedication and ceremony on September 14. Semi-private thank you for donors and public ribbon cutting. Taiko drums and food trucks. Reaching out to local politicians and other stakeholders.
- The Arboretum Foundation escaped the turnover bubble during the pandemic but is short-handed at the moment.
- Central Park Conservancy joining first board meeting of the "year" tonight. Halfway through the process – the foundational work is done; accelerating pace of work towards considering streamlined governance model. October/November for an update.
- Operating Agreement between Arboretum Foundation and Seattle Parks and Recreation is being negotiating and hope to have it to council before City Council convene for budget.



Seattle Parks and Recreation:

- Broadmoor are building a fence between the Arboretum and their property. Karen, senior gardener, says they are encroaching on city property. Ray spoke with contractor to move the line back and engage with SPR property management to ensure they are not encroaching.
- Meadow project in Japanese Garden is finished; it is fenced while grass grows.

10:20am Old/New Business

Main Discussion Items/Follow-up:

- In-person or virtual meeting? Wait and see approach.
- Questions for WSDOT visit:
 - 2 acres available at end of Montlake phase; what will status of land be?
 - What is area they can turn over sooner? When? And what condition will it be in?
 - Mitigation planting areas? Graphics?
 - Physical mitigation requirements from permits?
- How will the ABGC approach the meeting with WSDOT? They may be frustrated with the City. Executive Committee to meet and discuss strategy.
- Sally will be doing an OOC gig at UW so may not be in our meetings regularly for the next six months or so.

10:30am Adjourn