



Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

June 17, 2025 9:00 – 10:30AM, Online

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Arboretum Foundation

Elizabeth Lunney, Interim Executive Director

Maribeth O'Connor, Board President

City of Seattle/Seattle Parks Department

Kim Baldwin, Seattle Parks and Recreation Representative

University of Washington

Aaron Hoard, Director of Regional and Community Relations, ABGC Chair

Christina Owen, Director of UW Botanic Gardens, ABGC Vice Chair

ABGC Attendees

Ray Larson, Curator, UW Botanic Gardens

David Graves, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Peter Rees, Board Vice President

9:03AM Call to Order & Introductions

Aaron Hoard, ABGC Chair

- **Land Acknowledgement:** The ABGC acknowledges and affirms the indigenous Coast Salish as the original caretakers of our waters and landscape, who nurtured and shaped today's parkland. We honor their legacy with gratitude and appreciation and will safeguard their knowledge and stewardship as enduring treasures to promote community welfare, cultivate inclusive expressions of nature and recreation and commit to land acknowledgment for each ensuing generation.
- **Minute Approval:** March 18, 2025 meeting notes

9:06AM 520 Subgroup Update

Maribeth O'Connor, Ray Larson, and David Graves

- Berger team finishing their work, preparing the report for July. The report will be sent to Ray Larson and David Graves. Updates will be presented for the next quarterly meeting.
- Additional work being done around Wilcox bridge
- Ray Larson and David Graves will request a visit from Berger at our next quarterly meeting
 - Berger would present their overall report to ABGC

9:11AM MPIG Subgroup Update

Maribeth O'Connor

- Permits for the waterfront trails project have been approved
 - Looking for the best cost-efficient approach with limited budget
- Pacific pathways
 - Received funding from previous legislative sessions
 - Design and permitting are the next steps
- Ongoing building projects
 - Stabilization work for the trellis
 - Basement flooding issue
- The need to understand the partnership with the University before continuing with future planning.
- Discussion on looking to update or create a Master Plan for future projects.

9:24AM Partner Updates

UW

- UW Botanical Gardens team and Donors visited the UK to view foreign gardens, learning from them programmatically, administratively, and botanically.
- UW Attorney Generals and Arboretum Attorney Gerry Johnson will be meeting
 - Asking for clarity regarding the financial partnership from the University due to the federal level pressure.
- Planting 19 trees along Azalea Way
- Hiring Difficulty
 - Lost a new hire to the city due competing wages

Arboretum Foundation

- Last Thursday, there was a large unsanctioned party that resulted in property destruction of plinths.
 - Evidence was left at the scene to identify the individuals as students from Bush School.
 - Available community service opportunities for students to fix repairs
- Multiple past encounters with an individual camping at the park
 - Past attempts to use Seattle's care team, SPD, and Fire department with assistance have been unsuccessful
- Collaboration with a Bush School teacher that has been looking at water supplies with students at the Arboretum creek
- Discussion over fundraising ideas
 - The state's support is a fraction for construction plans.
 - Looking for 5 million for long-term maintenance and long-term funding to support horticulture projects

Seattle Park

- Previous item on last meeting's minutes
 - Hoda Gray could not visit today
 - They would be happy to join in future meetings to provide support with tribal engagement
- Capital development project, FIFA work being done
- Parks and Rec are busy with capital development and six-year plan

- North entry project, 520 project is wrapping up
- No plans on timeline when WDSOT will leave the peninsula
 - 2031 is on the radar as they finish projects
- David Graves will follow up with WSDOT this week to prioritize signage around north entry
- Discussions on MPD process for the Montlake Peninsula
 - Starting with the superintendent office, the ballot will be for 2028
 - 6-year cycle, planning for the next cycle will be either at the end of this or next year
 - Budget planning could start next year
 - Kim Baldwin will provide parks contacts to Christina Owen for those involved in the MPD process
 - Request for a transparent schedule for steps forward
 - Needing the Berger report before creating a timeline
 - Looking for an official document to list promises, schedules, expectations, phases, etc. of the project for the future/next few years
 - Kim Baldwin suggests a project management firm for support
 - Recommendation: Elliot Bay Connections
 - Leaning more towards project management rather than MPIG involvement/tracking
 - Agenda item for next time meeting

10:09AM Old/New Business

- New sister garden located in Nantes, France will be completed soon
- No new business

10:10AM Adjourn