



Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

December 16, 2025 9:00 – 10:30AM, Online

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Arboretum Foundation

Elizabeth Lunney, Interim Executive Director

University of Washington

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

Ken Yocom, Interim Dean, College of Built Environments

ABGC Attendees

Ray Larson, Curator, UW Botanic Gardens

David Graves, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Lisa Chen, Manager, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Peter Rees, Board Vice President

9:03AM Call to Order & Introductions

Aaron Hoard, ABGC Co-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: Sept 16, 2025 meeting notes

9:04AM 520 Subgroup Update

- Outstanding signage issues around North Entry
- WSDOT continuing to clean up the Montlake phase

9:08AM MPIG Subgroup Update

- Pacific Pathways
 - Approval of 30% design phase
 - Proposals for ADA pathways
 - Slopes are under 5% with stairs between switch backs
- China Forest
 - Planting more trees and protecting the current trees

- Cost estimates are in, fundraising will begin to support the project

9:14AM Partner Updates

UW

- Agreement going to Regents as an action item for January 8 meeting
- Coyotes
 - Closed the park a few evenings for assessments and removals
 - Focusing on education, to be loud and big when encountering a coyote
- Luminary Walk on Dec 19 - 21
- Tree Ordinance
 - Outreach to SDCI director to begin the discussion
 - Planning for this in January

Arboretum Foundation

- Early start with hiring in anticipation of bringing staff and crew
 - Launching the search committee for the CEO
 - More hiring on the operations side to support HR and IT
 - Sending offer letter to staff in 2026

Seattle Parks

- Last October, Seattle Parks planned to separate units and merge others
 - Specialty Gardens division transitioning into a new Environment division with a new director to be hired in the new quarter
 - Best to include the new director into the Tree Ordinance discussion
- Current team is working with Arboretum to deal with coyotes and to take sustainable actions
 - Coordinate with King County to help with relocating

9:31AM Old/New Business

- Encampments
 - Several encampments sprung up in the Arboretum and have been reported
 - Awaiting action and or removals

9:33AM Adjourn