



Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

June 16, 2026 9:00 – 10:30AM, Online

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Seattle Botanic Gardens

Maribeth O'Connor, Board Chair

Christina Owen, Executive Director

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

Ken Yocom, Dean of College of Built Environments, Faculty Representative

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

- 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 17, 2026 meeting notes

9:05AM 520 Subgroup Update

- Waiting for SDOT to coordinate with WSDOT to work on signage, remains hazardous coming from the land bridge
- No new updates
- Building relationships with SDOT folks to benefit the Seattle Botanic Gardens

9:08AM MPIG Subgroup Update

- Concerns about the trellis work on the south side of visitor center
 - No plan from the city to be addressed from the city
 - Talked to Kim to get the ball rolling to fund a design

- Kim going to report back
- Foster island trail work is being done
 - Most of the work is offsite
 - Signage incentive to move it to the bigger parking lot, or other smaller sign on the trail head
 - City asked to support phase 2, Christina sent letter of support, they are looking for funding
- Japanese Garden is under work on June 22
- Pacific Pathways moving along
 - Accessibility pathways, extra design work to allow folks to go even further up the hill
 - Standard city permit process
 - Hope to go to big by the end of the year
- Head waters project, been difficult
 - City doesn't see the university's role in that but its on azalea way
 - Efforts to talk to the hire ups to communicate
- Waterline to the arboretum on the north entry trying to get replace
 - Working with the city to get it replaced
 - Get it done by small works
- MPIG Subgroup
 - 1934 was not amended multiple times, it was only done one but did not change the roles and structures
 - Needing to find the Ordinance sponsor
 - Ex-officio
 - (does not mean nonvoting?), but a role that doesn't need the same appointment requirement
 - mean non-voting but can participate
 - requires clarity if voting or non voting
 - determine how many people for quorum
 - maybe a tribal appointee
 - removing mayoral appointees?
 - Term lengths
 - Currently it is 7 years
 - After 6 year max, an individual can return after a term if they do so choose
 - Each org gets to appoint their person(s), allowing observers (ex. Peter and Ray)
 - SBG schedules and chairs meetings, Christina hired an Executive assistant to help with note taking
 - SPR (Kim) will track down who should maintain records for public access
 - Annual reports designated as a SBG function
 - Project Review committees
 - When would they be created, who would be involved

- Doesn't need to be in the agreement but to the discretion of ABGC
- New written charter
 - ABGC makes sure SPR is involved
 - Public access to what's going on the arboretum
 - About the north end of the peninsula, the public will be more interested
 - Kim – project level works pretty well
 - Referencing what was outline in 1934, cooperative agreement, purposing to just adjust two existing agreements
 - Conflict resolution to go through ABGC

10:00AM Adjourn