



Arboretum & Botanical Garden Committee

March 17, 2026 9:00 – 10:30AM, Online

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

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

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

ABGC Attendees

David Graves, Strategic Advisor, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Peter Rees, Board Vice President

9:00AM 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: Jan 20, 2026 meeting notes
 - Correction: Graham Visitor Center

9:10AM 520 Subgroup Update

- No major updates
- Thoughts on 520 subgroup should morph into North Entry subgroup
- Improved signage conditions
 - suggestions to implement a map to help guide visitors safely

9:16AM MPIG Subgroup Update

- Waterfront Trail
 - Phase 1 was put out for bid and received 5 bids

- Bids under review
 - Going through the initial steps to request reward
- Phase 2 is in planning
 - Negotiating contract and looking for grants for funding
- Pacific Pathways
 - March 21@ 10am, public engagement opportunity along the trail
- Japanese Wall
 - Plans are in place to have demolition starting June 22/23
 - How to handle public access during destruction
 - Work to help improve accessibility on pathways

9:25AM Partner Updates

- UW
 - The college of the environment looking for a permanent dean\
 - Budget of medical side, have not be resolved by pushed aside, will be revisited
 - Working on a strategic plan for the University, expected to be completed around mid-may
- Arboretum Foundation
 - Announcement for SBG CEO will be announced soon
 - Dean has approved the candidate
 - Transition plan: Ramping up on hiring, such as IT, Fundraising, HR
 - Hoping to have offer letter in May
 - Employee shifts to happen around may – September
 - This will be the last year of doing summer camps with university employees

9:37AM Old/New Business

- CUH Parking Update
 - University Transportation Services have a proposal to change the parking lot into a paid lot
 - Negotiating to get the lowest rate, \$5/day
 - UWTS have agreed to establish 2hr free parking and \$5/day after
 - Laurenhurst neighbors show approval with this plan
- ABGC tri-party agreement meeting next week on March 24

9:50AM Adjourn