



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
- 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
 - Working with Kim to get the ball rolling to fund a design
- Foster island trail work is being done
 - Most of the work is offsite

- Signage incentive to move it to the bigger parking lot, or a smaller sign on the trail head
 - City asked to support phase 2, Christina sent letter of support, they are looking for funding
- Japanese Gardens expected 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
- Head waters project has been difficult
 - City doesn't see the university's role in that but it's 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
- ABGC Subcommittee
 - Section 1 Corrections
 - Title: ABGC and the Creation of the Seattle Botanic Garden
 - 1934 legislation was not amended multiple times; it was only done once but did not change the roles and structures
 - Section 3
 - Needing to find an Ordinance sponsor
 - Section 4
 - Ex-officio definition
 - a role that doesn't need the same appointment requirements
 - meaning a non-voting member but can participate
 - requires clarity if ex-officio is a voting or non-voting member
 - Determine how many people needed for quorum
 - Interest in a Tribal appointee
 - Removing mayoral appointees?
 - Term lengths
 - Currently it is 7 years
 - Suggestion to have a 6 year term limit, 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 Roles
 - Schedules and chairs meetings
 - Christina has hired an Executive assistant to help with note taking
 - Annual reports designated as a SBG function
 - SPR (Kim) will track down who should maintain records for public access

- Project Review committee
 - Doesn't need to be in the agreement but to the discretion of ABGC
- New written charter
 - ABGC makes sure SPR is involved
 - Continue public access to what's going on with the arboretum
 - About the north end of the peninsula, the public will be more interested soon
 - Referencing what was outlined in 1934, cooperative agreement, adjusting the two existing agreements
 - Conflict resolution to go through ABGC

10:00AM Adjourn