



## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**Mike McGinn**  
Mayor

**Diane Sugimura**  
Director, DPD

**Marshall Foster**  
Planning Director, DPD

**Julie Bassuk**  
Chair

**Mary Fialko**

**Laurel Kunkler**

**Shannon Loew**

**Tom Nelson**

**Julie Parrett**

**Osama Quotah**

**Norie Sato**

**Donald Vehige**

**Debbie Wick-Harris**

**Valerie Kinast**  
Coordinator

**Tom Iurino**  
Senior Staff

**May 3, 2012**

Convened 8:30pm  
Adjourned 5:00pm

### Projects Reviewed

Arboretum North Entry and Multi-use Trail  
Duwamish River Habitat Restoration  
SR 520 I5 to Medina

### Commissioners Present

Julie Bassuk, Chair  
Julie Parrett  
Shannon Loew  
Osama Quotah (excused from 11:00am-4:30pm)  
Don Vehige (excused from 8:30am-9:00am)  
Debbie Wick-Harris  
Norie Sato  
Laurel Kunkler  
Mary Fialko (excused from 8:30am-9:00am)  
Tom Nelson (excused from 8:30am-1:00pm)

### Staff Present

Valerie Kinast  
Tom Iurino



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May 3, 2012

**Project:** Arboretum North Entry and Multi-use Trail

**Phase:** Concept Design

**Last Reviewed:** N/A

**Presenters:** Andy Sheffer, Parks and Recreation  
Jason Henry, Berger Partnership  
Andy Mitton, Berger Partnership

**Attendees:** April Prey, UW  
Evie Kruse, UW  
Magda Celinska, Berger Partnership  
Peter Cromwell, UW  
Stephanie Roman, UW

**Time:** 9:00am-11:00am

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### Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented its concept design for the Arboretum North Entry and Multi-use Trail. The project will redevelop the north entry of the Washington Park Arboretum and develop a multi-use trail from the intersection of East Madison to the North Entry and beyond to the Montlake and University neighborhoods. The design of the north entry will be enhanced by the demolition of the SR 520 ramps and will be complemented by the design of the Montlake lid, an associated WSDOT project undertaken as mitigation for the SR 520 project.

The team presented the project's highlights: a more graceful arboretum entry; the return of the WSDOT peninsula to the arboretum, which will include wetlands, a meadow, an overlook, a kayak launch, and an observation deck; a new roundabout at Lake Washington Boulevard and East Foster Island Drive to safely accommodate the flow of car, pedestrian and bicycling traffic; new trail connections to the Montlake lid; the daylighting of Arboretum Creek and a new bridge over the creek with an arched culvert and details to match other stone structures elsewhere in the arboretum; pond restoration; development of a 10'-12' multi-use trail enabling travel through the arboretum and options to loop within it; and trail connections to adjoining neighborhoods, which included an option for a more gentle grade.

### ACTION (by Sato)

The Design Commission thanked the team for its presentation of the concept design of the Arboretum North Entry and Multi-use Trail. The commission appreciated the use of the roundabout, the looping trail system, the blending of the native plants, the new collections, and the landforms. By a vote of 9-0, the commission approved the design, and made the following recommendations:

#### Overall

- Develop and present better drawings to show labels, background, context, and overlays of existing and proposed conditions.

- Study the potential conflicts of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. Study the differences among all modes for commuting and recreation, including bike lanes on Lake Washington Boulevard. Use these studies to develop the best design possible for the area as a whole, one that works better than the present condition.
- Return for two more reviews.

#### North entry

- Work with WSDOT designers to integrate the design of the Montlake lid with the design of the north entry; the design should appear seamless. Consider bringing WSDOT designers to the next commission presentation.
- Develop the sequence of spaces, make clearer the foyer idea, detail the mixing bowl, and define the actual threshold for the entry to the arboretum. Provide more drawings and details for these spaces.
- Finesse the design of the roundabout. Consider adding a right turn bypass lane; study how cars enter from north to south. Consider making more dynamic the design of the center; it could be a focal point and a special place, but it should not attract people. Consider using art to enhance it.

#### Trail

- Study and design how the trails are marked, treated, and work together and are made distinct from one another, such as the loop trail and trail to the overlook. Develop vignettes to show the proposed character and experience of the trails.
- Create and show special details for trails, such as resting places, shelters, views, habitat viewing areas, and other trail-related amenities.
- Explore ways to layout the trails to gain access to the water. Design the bridge structures not just as overpasses but as opportunities to access creeks for education.
- Work closely with stormwater engineers to study and design the trail to function well near water and on and near slopes. Consider incorporating interceptors to catch sloughing material, even though it will widen the area needed for the trail.
- Further study where the trail can be widened to separate bicyclists and pedestrians; consider separating them where ground conditions allow.
- Develop and show a signage plan.
- Consider future connections to the Madison Valley stormwater project.