

Minutes from SHABOG

Welcome to public participants. Read Land Acknowledgement.

The agenda item on kiosks and other structures in the Arboretum was removed from the agenda due to there not being any new information to report, according to Steve J.

Earth Day Work Party:

Bellingham Parks Volunteer Coordinator Ryan Robie announced plans for an Earth Day work party at a small property immediately adjacent to the Northwest border of the Arboretum near Billy Frank, Jr. Street. The work party has been designed to accommodate up to 200 volunteers and was planned in collaboration with LEAD, Whatcom Million Trees Project and the City's Washington Conservation Corps work crew. The work party will remove invasives and apply the Miyawake method of reforestation, which utilizes unusually dense plantings and compost amendments to the soil in order to stimulate competition and intensive regrowth of native vegetation.

Janet O. asked whether there were plans to also remove Ivy at an adjacent, very steep slope just inside the Arboretum along the trail that runs between the Jersey St. entrance and the Old Main building on campus. She pointed out that the Ivy is exceptionally dense in these areas and ascending multiple trees, including some large ones. Ryan indicated that there were no plans for work parties at that site, but that he would be happy to consider organizing them in the future if that area is a priority for the Arboretum. However there may be challenges to holding work parties there due to the notable steepness of the slope. John T. also clarified that the steep slope identified by Janet has been mapped as one of the largest areas of Ivy infestation within the Arboretum when Dylan Quinn undertook the project to map invasive plant populations across the entire Arboretum.

John T. also sought to clarify the location and ownership of the small property that is the focus of the work party. Wayne G. replied that the property is owned by WWU and will be maintained by the University grounds crew following the work party. Ryan R. clarified that the triangle-shaped property is bordered on two sides by streets and connected to the Arboretum on one side.

John T. also asked whether native plants would be replanted at the site. Ryan confirmed that native plants would indeed be planted by volunteers, and listed over a dozen species of native trees and shrubs that were part of the planting stock.

John T. asked whether additional work parties were planned for the Arboretum during Spring and Summer. Ryan relayed that a work party is currently planned for June 4th to remediate the

damage caused by the illegal mountain bike trail building. After Earth Day, Ryan will be planning in detail for additional work parties for the next 6 months.

ANNUAL REPORT:

John T. reported that he circulated a draft version of the Annual Report for review and approval by the Board that included Steve J's edits. He asked whether the Board had additional feedback. Kendra B., Steve J., and Grace W. pointed out additional minor corrections, and John T. agreed he would make those corrections prior to distributing the report. Janet made a motion to accept the Annual Report, seconded by Kendra B. The Board voted unanimously to accept.

MINUTES:

The draft March meeting minutes were approved by the Board as presented, without edits.

ARBORETUM WEBSITE:

John T. clarified with David E. that the website domain name could be "arboretum.wwu.edu." and pointed out that the Board still needed to take up a formal motion to have WWU move forward with developing and hosting an informational website for the Arboretum. Kendra B. asked if the Board would have time to work on reviewing and editing the website content and format before the site goes live. David E. confirmed that would be the case, and that he viewed the Board's input as an important part of the process of developing the website.

John T. suggested that David E. could update the Board in detail on the website's content in May, and the Board could divide up review of the website content between Board members over the summer break and share desired changes at the September Board meeting. David agreed with this plan and offered to make changes to the website on an ongoing basis as they are identified as necessary by Board members.

After additional discussion, the Board entertained a motion proposed by Kendra B. and seconded by Steve J. to formally approve a website domain name as "arboretum.wwu.edu". The motion passed unanimously.