

LCC Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Center
April 9, 2012

Attending: Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Linda Luiten, Stan Sorscher

Excused: Kevin Chang, Kristen Curry (leave of absence), Elizabeth Graham, Liz Ogden, Leslie Wright

Guests: Story Swett, Eugenia Woo, Kate Hokanson, John Brunzell, Carol Arnold, Janice Sutter, Linn Blakeney

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM, followed by introductions.

Eugenia Woo spoke about the process for naming historic landmarks. Eugenia is Director of Historic Services, at Historic Seattle, which is a non-profit organization that helps groups go through with the formal determination process.

Story Swett explained that the Talaris site is being evaluated for nomination as an historic site. Eugenia raised the example of Volunteer Park, which was named Historic last year. Talaris is one contiguous site, developed in one coherent plan with a shared story. That is favorable for the process. Story described the Historic Preservation program, the Landmarks Preservation Board, and the process for nomination then designation. The Board meets twice per month. We have about 450 individual landmarks, already. Typically, a nomination is reviewed and completed in a month or two.

LCC participated in the nomination and designation of the Community Center. Laurel Terrace was nominated by Children's Hospital, but the Board chose not to designate it. A third local site was the Sand Point Naval Air Station, which was nominated and designated. Some sites are subject to a "negative nomination," meaning those nominating the site intend for the outcome to be denial of designation.

Eugenia mentioned 6 standards or criteria for designation. One is age – a site should have been in place for at least 20 years. Another is integrity, meaning the structures retain their significance. Designation requires meeting at least one criterion. Eugenia is confident that the Talaris site would qualify.

The nomination process includes a "Statement of Significance." Another part is the physical description – roads, paths, buildings, any waterways. Owner consent is not required. If the owner objects, the owner can attend the hearing and present an argument why the site should not be given landmark status.

Suppose a property is nominated and designated. Then the City and the owner negotiate an agreement about what is controlled on the site – the boundaries, the type of future development, for example. The City can grant code advantages. The State

may grant property tax relief as an incentive to retain the landmark status. Federal tax credits are available for national designation. When the Community Center was expanded, its landmark status meant the new design was required to be consistent with the original design.

If the City and owner cannot come to terms, both sides take the issue to a Hearing Examiner.

Once the designation has been granted, the owner can claim of hardship and ask to be relieved of the controls, but that requires the owner to disclose financial records.

Yesler Creek runs through the Talaris site. LCC has an interest in the land through our Settlement Agreement. We should research the possibility that landmark status might pre-empt our Agreement.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Compliments: On March 15, Evan and Sheri Johnson emailed to thank LCC for its great work on land use issues. They sent in an extra contribution in paying their dues. Several people from Friends of Yesler Swamp emailed to thank LCC for its letter to DPD supporting granting permits to allow the trail project to move forward.
2. Waterway No. 1: On March 18, Judith Thornton emailed with the misunderstanding that she and a group she works with have a "Right of Entry Agreement" with DNR to undertake work at the waterway without LCC oversight. This is incorrect and LCC will respond. LCC and DNR entered into a Right of Entry Agreement a few years ago and the Agreement was recently updated to include the area where the large hedge slated for removal is located. This agreement means that LCC has responsibility for maintenance, restoration and enhancement of the site and supervision of volunteers. In cooperation with DNR, LCC developed safety rules for the site and have strongly encouraged Judith and her husband to report any activities undertaken on the site. They are authorized to mow the weedy grass and pull weeds, but to date have never reported any work they have done. For any other work that needs to be done, LCC has told Judith that LCC will schedule work parties.
3. SR 520 sentinels: Several neighbors and individuals outside the neighborhood emailed in response to WSDOT's new design for SR 520 replacement. The art deco, lighted sentinels were not previously a part of the plan, nor have they been subject to public review. LCC immediately wrote a letter about this. The letter is included in the correspondence packet.
4. Absentee landlord: Heather Newman emailed twice in the last couple of weeks about a rental home located on NE 44th and 36th NE as the landlord has let vegetation overgrow onto the sidewalk and the yard is ill-kempt. LCC will follow up.
5. Easter egg hunt: Huda Gibbens called two weeks ago to inquire whether her friends who live outside the neighborhood are welcome to bring their small children to the Easter egg hunt. Wright responded yes.

6. Children's MUP application: Members of Children's SAC have forwarded materials from the SAC regarding comments on Children's MUP application to lease space in the Springbrook Building, outside the major institution boundaries. All Laurelhurst residents on the SAC, except Catherine Hennings voted to take no position on the MUP application. Hennings voted to approve the MUP application. In the email exchanges, the representative from View Ridge expressed hostility towards LCC and its position outlined in the comment letter it submitted. The SAC's final letter taking no position is included in the agenda packets.
7. Hazardous steep slope area: On Thursday, April 5, a neighbor on West Laurelhurst Drive NE called to report that a home located at 3371 46th Avenue NE had many concrete pieces on the hillside on the back of the property. One large chunk fell off the hillside and caused \$1800 in damage to their car. Other smaller pieces of concrete continue to fall off the hillside onto the sidewalk where people walk their dogs and kids skateboard. Today, LCC spoke with DPD and SDOT's street use department and filed a complaint. This is extremely hazardous to neighbors. SDOT will send an inspector out and will contact the property owners.
8. Flooring sign: Bob's Bike and Board has been replaced with a store selling flooring. A very bright LED sign was installed, facing west. The City reportedly approved the new sign.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the March 12, 2012 minutes. Liz Ogden was listed as a guest, but since she was elected to the Board, she should be shown as attending with the other Trustees. **Motion**, by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Emily Dexter to approve the minutes, with the change of moving Liz to the attendees. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the monthly treasurer's report. Dexter briefed the board about the report and the profit/loss comparison between this year's returns and financial position and last year's. Dues income is running ahead year-to-year, but the dues statement went out later, last year. Expenses are accumulating on the Essential Public Facilities issue. Income is good for the security project.

No update on the 501c(3) situation.

Changes to the Agenda: Add helicopter landings committee report (March 23rd meeting) and city's proposal to further loosen restrictions on accessory dwelling units

Announcements:

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Linda Luiten reported a big increase in residential burglaries. Several burglars have been arrested. Most burglaries involved entry through unlocked doors and windows. One person was arrested for smashing store windows and stealing flat

screen TVs. The Mayor spoke at the meeting, and stressed trust and confidence between the community and the police. The City will need more money for training.

The City is looking for a larger facility at a different location for the North Precinct office.

Essential Public Facilities Update: The City replied to LCC's response to the motion to dismiss on March 15. In its 27-page reply, the City raised many new issues, something that is inappropriate to do at this state of the appeal. LCC responded the same day, even though our attorney was home recovering from surgery to ask the Hearing Examiner to not issue an order until LCC has an opportunity to address the new issues. The Hearing Examiner agreed and gave LCC until March 23rd to file objections to new arguments raised in DPD's reply and March 30 for DPD to respond to LCC's response. LCC submitted objections and a reply in support of a cross-motion for summary judgment. Despite countervailing evidence, DPD responded that it did nothing improper. The Hearing Examiner should issue an order soon resolving the case.

SR 520 Update: Stan Sorscher attends advisory committee meetings for the west end of the bridge. Colleen McAleer and Jean Amick have been following developments. Colleen attended a meeting March 28, where drawings were shown of the sentinels intended for the east end of the bridge. We expect the same architectural features at the west end, later on, probably opposite Webster Point, in front of Madison Park.

Colleen talked to Larry Kyle, Chief Engineer for the bridge. Kiewit came up with some extra money and designed the sentinels. The Seattle Design Commission looked at Kiewit's concepts. Thursday, neighbors will go to the public open house at MOHAI to express concerns about the sentinels.

Helicopter Landings Committee: Colleen attended the helicopter landings meeting. Last year, fewer landings took place at the hospital. The eagles are still nesting on NE 41st St, and the helicopters approach from Sand Point Way. Helicopter pilots try to avoid hospital buildings and the eagles. They will come in over Ravenna Bryant, rather than Laurelhurst.

ADUs: Jeannie expects the City Council to approve the new regulations for ADUs.

Executive Session: Executive Session started at 8:45 PM. **Motion** by Jeannie Hale, seconded by Maggie Weissman, to authorize \$1000 to pay an architect consultant. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.
Minutes by Stan Sorscher