

Laurelhurst Community Club Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Center, Fireside Room
September 12, 2011

Attending: Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Elizabeth Graham, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Leslie Wright

Excused: Kristen Curry, Maggie Weissman

Guests: John Lane, Tim Croll and Susan Stoltzfus, Seattle Public Utilities; Karen Ko, Department of Neighborhoods

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – 2011 Revision: Tim Croll from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is visiting community councils around the city to brief them on the draft update of the city's 1998 solid waste management plan. A comprehensive plan for recycling is required every 5 years, by state law. SPU's goal for recycling has been 60% for a long time. The goal would increase to 70% in the next 5 years.

As of 2010, the single-family sector recycled 70.3% of its waste. The multi-family sector recycled 29.6%, and the self-haul sector recycled 13.7%. The commercial sector recycled 58.9%.

Transfer stations could recycle more than they do now, particularly building materials, but the transfer stations would need more space. Self-haul (people carrying things to the transfer station) could get up to 30% or so. Multi-family households don't get much yard waste, so their recycling looks low. Also, some multi-family households don't have recycling service.

Four municipal solid waste (MSW) sectors contribute to the total waste generated in Seattle. They are the single-family sector (30%), multi-family residential (10%), self-haul (12%), and commercial sectors (48%). In terms of total generated tons, the commercial sector is the largest, followed by the single-family sector.

SPU analyzed several potential new recycling programs. The recommendations that resulted include keeping existing programs, implementing new ones in a phased manner, and adjusting recycling goal years to align with projected achievement of 60% by 2015 and 70% by 2022. Each recommendation targets certain materials in the different sectors. Implementation is phased.

Disposable material goes to a landfill in Oregon. Glass is sorted by color, re-melted and re-used. Smaller pieces are used for gravel.

Tim spoke in detail about 5 recommendations:

1. Expanding capacity of transfer stations, and building new ones.
2. Collecting garbage every other week would save \$6 million. With two-week pick-ups, accumulations would be larger, which could be a problem for older residents and hilly neighborhoods. Also, vacation schedules could compound collection problems.
3. Ban on disposing recyclable materials. Paper and cardboard are banned for commercial users. In the future, bottles and cans could be banned, too, for garbage. Public place recycling - parks have fewer recycling cans.
4. Ban on disposing organic material. Enforcement might be notional rather than comprehensive.
5. Poop. About 20% of disposable waste is pet waste and diapers. What if, the city provided a separate can for poopy stuff. The collected material would go to anaerobic digesters. The digester makes methane and natural gas. This process does not break even on cost, but might offset costs of disposing of the waste directly.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Speeding car: On August 10, a neighbor report seeing a 1980's Honda Civic speeding by her home in excess of 45-50 mph. The car accelerates at the beginning of 43rd Avenue NE. She's seen the speeding car several times. Once, she yelled for the driver to slow down and received a very rude response. She followed the car one day and learned the location of the owner. She and her neighbors will borrow a radar gun from SDOT to clock the car.
2. Stolen car: On August 11, a neighbor reported that there has been an increasing number of car prowls, break-ins and thefts on the block from 48th Avenue NE and NE 50th Street. Most recently, a vehicle was stolen. A police report was filed.
3. Pet poisoning: Richard Ettinger emailed on August 28 to update LCC on the investigation into the poisoning of his dog. Professional exterminators have been consulted and reached the conclusion that the poison used would not be found in the location where the dog died unless placed there by a person. Ettinger reports that there is a suspect.
4. Helicopter noise: On August 29, a neighbor reported that there were five helicopters from 6:55 to 7:05 in the vicinity of Seattle Children's. The neighbor said the noise was deafening. Children's checked on this for LCC and reported that there was a fire at the hotel behind University Village and the Airlift NW had copters in the area.
5. Talaris: On August 30, a neighbor reported that Talaris is now operating a restaurant and hotel and are advertising on the internet. These uses are inconsistent with the zoning designation as an institute for advanced study and the Settlement Agreement governing the property.

6. Traffic accident: On Wednesday, August 31, there was a serious traffic accident on 48th Avenue NE next to the Playfield. A young girl was turning left onto 48th Avenue NE from NE 44th. There is a yield sign at that corner. Another car was driving on 48th towards NE 45th. Visibility is poor from the NE 44th corner. Police were on the scene and tow trucks arrived. The first tow truck driver swept up the glass on the street. It was extremely fortunately that the girl was not seriously injured. Her side airbag deployed.
7. Car prowls: On Labor Day, a neighbor's car was ransacked in the driveway and a few items stolen. There was no sign of forced entry, so the car may have been unlocked. The next day, a neighbor who lives in the vicinity of NE 45th and NE 51st reported that there were BB holes in the windows of their three cars and one window was shattered.
8. Stolen barber pole: Epic Barber Shop, located at 3517 NE 45th, reported that someone cut and forcefully removed the decades old barber pole Labor Day week. They are offering free haircuts for a year (12 a year, one a month) for any information on the recovery of the pole or leading to the arrest of the vandal, or thief(s).
9. Burglaries: On September 6, Betty Krouse reported that three or four houses on Nicklas Place NE were broken into - all nearer the north end of the block. Her house wasn't one of them. Nicklas Place is just one long block and neighbors look after each other. Krouse subscribes to the private security project. She said that this is the first stream of burglaries she's heard of and she's lived in the neighborhood since 1975.
10. Mega house in the Town of Yesler: The mega house at 4316 36th Avenue NE is now listed for sale or each of the eight bedrooms are for rent for \$500. Alan Hess contacted LCC about this on September 7 about the use of the structure as a rooming house. Brooks Romano emailed on August 23 stating that individuals have moved in and the "for rent" sign has been removed.
11. House break-in. Leslie Wright understands burglars entered a house through an unlocked kitchen window and stole a laptop and money.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Review of the August minutes was deferred until the October trustee meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Dexter briefed the board on the monthly financial report included in the agenda packets. Revenues are low at this time of year. Expenses are also low.

Changes to the Agenda: A discussion of the essential public facilities or a portion of it will be considered in executive session. Helicopter oversight committee report is also added to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Don Torrie won a tennis tournament, recently.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention/Emergency Preparedness: Brian McMullen went through some highlights of the month's crime activity.

Linda Luiten reported that Tom Rasmussen spoke about the new car tab fee. The City and County are each proposing new car tab fees. Linda passed out a breakdown of where the new fees would be spent.

Elizabeth Graham passed out materials in her neighborhood and will try to organize a local emergency preparedness network. We may be able to put a plan together and look for a matching grant.

Families and Education Levy: Graham briefed the board on the Families and Education Levy that will be on the November ballot. Seattle voters passed the first Families and Education Levy in November 1990. Voters renewed the levy in 1997 and again in 2004. LCC supported all of these measures.

As proposed, the Levy would collect \$231 million in Seattle property taxes over the next seven years, a cost of \$124 (about \$10 per month) to the homeowner of the average assessed residential value of \$462,045 in 2012. **Motion** by Elizabeth Graham, seconded by Stan Sorscher that LCC support renewing Families and Education Levy. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Roosevelt Rezone Issue: In February 2009, LCC addressed Roosevelt rezone issues and neighborhood planning. LCC has a long history of involvement with neighborhood planning and participated extensively in the University Community Urban Center Neighborhood Plan and its Ravenna Urban Village component.

In supporting the Ravenna and Roosevelt neighborhoods in 2009, one important factor was that many Laurelhurst neighbors were involved in the restoration of Roosevelt High School and support for its landmark status. At that time, LCC supported moderated heights of the property to be redeveloped near the high school.

Now, developers have successfully lobbied the mayor to increase the maximum height of some areas in the commercial core from six to eight stories and rezoned the three blocks directly south of Roosevelt High School to six stories, rather than four stories supported by the neighborhoods.

RBCA is asking that LCC support its efforts by writing a letter or testifying at an upcoming public hearing. **Motion** by Jeannie Hale, seconded by Emily Dexter that LCC reaffirm its position supporting the neighborhood planning process in Roosevelt and the height limits and zoning designations resulting from the neighborhoods in that process. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Helicopter oversight committee. Colleen McAleer attended the oversight meeting. The committee hears reports periodically about use of the helicopter landing pad, with summary information about each case, with diagnosis, and outcomes. In 2010, 80 landings occurred in the first half of the year. This year, we've had 42 in the first six months. That includes both the hospital and playfield landings. Nationally, safety regarding helicopter landings is being taken more seriously.

SR 520. Colleen McAleer explained that a record of decision was issued, approving the bridge design. The EIS failed to address visual impacts, and other matters that affect neighborhoods, the yacht club and tribes. The record of decision requires plans for environmental issues and financing. Tolling is late, and the traffic predictions are challenged by a new study. If the State uses the new, lower traffic projections, then state funding, backed by tolling, will be reduced. Work is on-going on the eastern approach. The other two segments are still in planning. A lawsuit was filed objecting to the omissions in the record. The plaintiffs are the Coalition for 520.

The SR 520 bridge could be the first instance of the new law regarding essential public facilities.

Essential Public Facilities: On August 18, DPD issued a notice of a text amendment that would allow the siting of "essential public facilities" throughout the city, waiving development regulations. Essential public facilities are defined as those that are difficult to site and include things like airports, state education facilities, transportation facilities, jails, in-patient facilities, substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, etc. The list of essential public facilities is not exhaustive and could be most anything. State regulations specifically say that highway projects (like SR 520) are included. What the text amendment basically means is that if a private developer or a governmental entity establishes that something is an essential public facility, then it could be sited anywhere, including in residential areas despite zoning restrictions and development regulations. This includes siting in shoreline areas within the conservancy and other zones.

DPD says that all the proposal does is make our code consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA). But, there are many questions. Cities can't preclude the siting of essential public facilities, but does that mean they can restrict where they site them like some cities do in limiting them to industrial and commercial zones? Some wonder if this came up to get the city off the hook in an ongoing lawsuit by a neighborhood group in Jackson Place opposed to the siting of a crisis center in a residential area with a nearby middle school and Japanese Cultural Center that has programs for kids. That crisis center would allow the police to drop off those on drugs and alcohol or with mental health issues instead of taking those people to jail.

One issue is the Hartmann facility (across from Children's). Our settlement agreement calls for setbacks, certain building heights, protection of the nearby large trees, etc., but it does not restrict use. At this point, the implications for the Talaris property (zoned as an institute for advanced study) are unclear despite the settlement agreements governing that 18-acre site.

LCC got right on this issue and spent many hours reviewing the proposal, the state law and regulations and code provisions from other cities.

The Federation and the Jackson Place Alliance for Equity jointly submitted comments on the Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the proposed text amendment on August 19. Those groups were concerned that there had been no public involvement in crafting the proposal or educating neighborhoods about the affects of the code change. LCC submitted preliminary comments on the DNS on August 22. Thereafter, on September 1, LCC's attorneys submitted lengthy additional comments about the process (or lack of a process) on the text amendment and the massive scope of the change in law and the need for an EIS. The Northeast District Council, the Federation, the Jackson Place Alliance and the North Windermere Community Association submitted letters endorsing LCC's September 1 comments.

On September 8, LCC and the Federation, jointly filed a notice of appeal of the DNS.

Executive Session at 8:50 PM.

Motion by Jeannie Hale, seconded by Colleen McAleer that LCC approve up to \$30,000 to appeal the decision on essential public facilities to a hearing examiner.

Motion failed 4-4-4. Elizabeth Graham, Leslie Wright, Don Torrie and Brian McMullen abstaining.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.
Minutes by Stan Sorscher