

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes
February 10, 2014

Attending: Robin Chalmers, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie

Guests: Peter Eglick

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

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Break-ins: There were four calls to police last Saturday between 6 and 10 p.m. Two involved break-ins. In one incident, the break-in occurred through the back bedroom window. Costume jewelry was taken. The other incident, on 47th Avenue NE, was through the basement door. Alcohol was taken. On 42nd below the boulevard, a person driving a silver gray SUV was scared off.
2. Talaris: Jim Rupp emailed on January 22 for clarification on whether Talaris actually wants to pursue a single-family development. LCC responded that Talaris has not withdrawn that application and that LCC will keep neighbors informed. Other neighbors have been in touch with LCC about various issues relating to Talaris redevelopment. One neighbor raised concerns about opening up the unimproved right of way adjacent to the site.
3. Pedestrian safety around Laurelhurst School: On January 23, Steve Clark from the Laurelhurst Elementary School PTA contacted LCC for its support of a grant application for safety improvement near the school. Clark suggested additional and improved signage (including flashing yellow lights during school hours and speed feedback signs) along NE 45th on the west and east side of the school. He also suggested a crosswalk in the north/south direction on NE 45th and 45th Avenue NE, additional and improved signage north of the school, flashing yellow lights triggered by pedestrians at the east/west crosswalk at NE 47th Street and 47th Avenue NE, and removal of the small maple tree of the traffic chocker at the crosswalk to improve visibility.

SDOT did an assessment of the area. The SDOT study showed that the area is not high priority since the SDOT criteria were not met; regular speeding was not found as measured speed of about 28 MPH in what SDOT states is a 30 MPH zone. LCC is waiting to hear back from Clark about this.

4. Suicide Hill: On the morning of January 23, the police department monitored speeds on Suicide Hill. At least one neighbor received a speeding ticket. LCC emailed Sergeant Newsom to thank her for providing police officers to monitor

speeding on the hill pointing out the many serious accidents along that stretch of roadway and how the speeding scares neighbors.

On January 25, Jim Schnitzius emailed to raise issues about the blind intersection at the top of the hill on 43rd Avenue NE and NE 41st Street. He suggested installation of electronic signs to warn drivers that there is a pedestrian or car at or in the intersection. Likewise, he added, that an electronic sign could be installed at the stop line for both north and southbound drivers on 43rd Avenue that would light up and say "vehicle approaching" (or something like that) when a car on 41st Street was approaching that intersection. Chalmers responded and updated Schnitzius on LCC efforts to address the issues with SDOT.

On the same day, Susan Holliday emailed concerned about the negative connotation of calling the big hill Suicide Hill. LCC explained this history of the name. "Suicide Hill" got its name because UW athletic teams have used Laurelhurst as its running course for many years. They (usually 50 or 60 at a time) congregate at CUH and start their lengthy run along NE 41st and then up those steep hills. It seems like forever, the students called the hill "Suicide Hill" because it's a very hard run going up. The joggers have often conversed with neighbors and mentioned the name. LCC didn't name it, the joggers did and it caught on with neighbors and the City. In the meantime, over the years there have been many, many very serious accidents at the bottom of the hill. LCC has worked for many years to address speeding on the hill and along 41st.

5. Illegal tree cutting at Talaris: On January 29, Jean Colley emailed about the tree cutting at Talaris. LCC sent her the arborist report that Talaris had submitted to the Landmarks Board basically concluding that the trees were dead or diseased. Talaris failed to get the required Certificate of Approval prior to the tree cutting. Colley suggested that an arborist do a tree exam and then a different company the tree removal if needed to avoid conflicts of interest. Her arborist said that it is difficult to determine if a tree is diseased until after it is cut. Talaris subsequently applied for a retroactive Certificate of Approval for the tree cutting.
6. Thank you to Linda Luiten: On January 31, Sergeant Newsom sent a sincere thank you card to Linda Luiten for her service on the North Precinct Advisory Council. In her note, Sergeant Newsom said, "You give back every day and collect more socks and knitted items than I ever believed possible I love you all." Thanks Linda for your great work on behalf of LCC.
7. Seahawks: Children's emailed on January 29 to let LCC know that the Seahawks band, Blue Thunder, is interested in bringing about 18 band members to the hospital the following Saturday to play music in the outdoor play area at the hospital to get patients and their families excited about the big game. Children's asked if the noise would be a problem, and if not, could LCC help spread the word. LCC enthusiastically responded and notified the Blog to get the word out.
8. Backyard and Side yard houses: House Bill 2311 did not make it out of committee by the February 5 cutoff date. This means that the bill is dead for this session.

Representative Pollet has been in touch with Councilmember Mike O'Brien who chairs the council's land use committee. Representative Pollet will organize a meeting with O'Brien after the session that includes representatives from Laurelhurst. O'Brien is willing to work on the issue. At a mini-town hall meeting on Saturday at the Burgermaster, Representative Pollet reported that he received over a hundred messages from neighbors—all except for two supporting the bill. McAleer and Hale attended the Burgermaster meeting. Many neighbors "cc"ed LCC on their messages to legislators supporting the bill.

9. Children's shuttles: LCC received dozens and dozens of messages regarding Children's shuttles. Those messages and responses are included in the agenda packet. Most neighbors are in favor of the proposed change. It was suggested that there be a change in the timing of the light to move traffic along more efficiently.
10. Transit cuts: The Blog shared a message of February 4 from Lynette Damir about Metro cuts in service. Damir pointed out that route 25 is used by Roosevelt High School students in the neighborhood. She pointed out that students living in the school boundaries and more than 2.5 miles from the school receive a Metro Orca card. She added that bus stops are supposed to be .75 or less walking distance from high school students' home under the transportation plan and that many neighborhood homes are farther away than that for route 75 and 65 stops. She said that removing route 25 entirely will impact Laurelhurst Roosevelt High School students. She asked whether Metro would revise route 65 or 75 buses to come into the neighborhood.

ADMINISTRATION

Changes to the Agenda: Add CNC/NEDC process issue.

Minutes: Trustees reviewed the minutes of the December 2013 and January 2014 meetings. Motion by McAleer, seconded by Kelly, to approve the December 9 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.* Motion by Wright, seconded by Ogden, to approve the January 13 minutes with the addition of Nathan Rimmer in attendance. *Motion passed with all voting yes and Luiten and Weissman abstaining.*

Treasurer's Report: Consideration of the January treasurer's report was deferred until the March meeting.

1. Little League: Little League again has asked LCC if it would like to sponsor a team as LCC has done for decades. Motion by Weissman, seconded by Ogden to sponsor a Little League team for \$250. *Motion passed unanimously.* Torrie recommends sponsorship of a co-ed farm team.
2. Waterway No. 1: There were not enough funds donated for the basketball court resurfacing project to pay for the plaque that will be embedded in the court recognizing donors. Donors were told they would receive recognition for their contribution. The cost of the plaque is \$749.94 and the project co-chair has said that she will pay that cost because of the commitment she made to donors. Hale offered to pay half (\$374.97). Motion by Weissman, seconded by Kelly to contribute \$350 to pay for the basketball court plaque. *Motion passed unanimously.* This will leave a

balance of \$399.94 that could be split between Lawlor and Hale who would each contribute \$199.97.

Announcements:

1. Public Meeting on Redevelopment of Battelle/Talaris Property Project # 3015404 : Thursday, February 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Laurelhurst Community Center, 4554 NE 41st Street. This meeting will serve dual purposes. First, the meeting will be an opportunity to comment on the proposal to subdivide the 18-acre parcel into 82 single family homes. Almost 400 people signed a petition requesting a public meeting for this purpose. Second, the meeting will be an environmental scoping meeting as DPD issued a Determination of Significance thus requiring preparation of an EIS. This means that people are encouraged to comment on various environmental issues that should be addressed in the EIS—such as the presence of wetlands in this critical habitat area, the nesting eagles, traffic and transportation issues, etc. Interested neighbors are encouraged to request that the EIS also include study of less intrusive alternatives, such as a clustered single-family development with fewer homes to preserve the wetlands and open space and to protect the eagles. Written comments may be submitted through February 27 to PRC@seattle.gov or to DPD, Attention: Lindsay King, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, P.O. Box 34019, Seattle, WA 98124-4019. Please include the project number.

The Determination of Significance, preliminary plat and other materials are part of the project file. The project file is available for public review on the DPD website at <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>.

2. Reserve your SNAP Time NOW for a FREE Program in March, April or May: The Seattle Office of Emergency Management is taking reservations to have the SNAP (Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare) program presented right in your living room! Invite a dozen or more of your closest neighbors together and reserve your time for an evening or weekend class, beginning in March. All emergency essentials will be covered, from safe actions to coordinating with others. Classes last about an hour and are taught by trained volunteers. To schedule a program, email SNAP@seattle.gov. Dexter has suggested that LCC sponsor a community meeting on the program.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Luiten reported that 5,573 pairs of socks were donated for the annual sock drive. There were 241 knitted items. Items were donated to Solid Ground and Roots (so far). Target donated a \$1,000 gift certificate. At the North Precinct meeting, the captain talked about a policy that takes hours away from shifts. Hiring for new officers is not going well. There is not enough training at the academy.

Robberies are down 48% and auto thefts are up 38% in the U District. Domestic violence is down. There is still no crime prevention coordinator. The captain wants to know our fears—home burglaries, car prowls or whatever.

McMullen said that he received an email from near Ronald McDonald House with an interest in subscribing to our private security project.

Ogden said that there was a break-in on her block on 48th on Saturday. The burglars pried open the kitchen window and stole cash and a laptop.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety: Chalmers reported on his recent tour of areas in the neighborhood with pedestrian and traffic safety issues with SDOT staff Jim Curtin in an electric car. Curtin didn't know that there were no speed signs on NE 41st. A speed sign on NE 41st would cost about \$10,000.

Pedestrian Zone Mapping Project: DPD's new Pedestrian Areas Mapping Project would create new pedestrian zones and among other things allow waiver of parking requirements. The map distributed indicates four areas in or near Laurelhurst:

- 21 40th Avenue NE at NE 55th Street
- 29 Sand Point Way NE at 36th Avenue NE
- 30 Sand Point Way NE at 50th Avenue NE
- 31 Sand Point Way NE at NE 63rd Street

CNC/NEDC Issue: After the January CNC meeting, there was a verbal altercation between two of the representatives to that group, Catherine Weatbrook and Chris Leman, in the nearby parking garage. Catherine was very upset and filed a police report alleging harassment. She also filed a petition for a temporary order of protection in the district court. Thereafter, a temporary order of protection was granted and a hearing to address the issues was scheduled on February 14.

In the meantime, CNC scheduled an emergency meeting to address the issues the Friday after the regular CNC Monday meeting. At that meeting, Chris apologized to Catherine that he had upset her. Nonetheless, the group considered a resolution and voted to expel Chris from CNC. The CNC co-chair refused to share the resolution adopted by the group. The NEDC representative to CNC did not seek direction from NEDC, voted to expel Chris from CNC, and refused to provide any details about the emergency meeting at the February NEDC meeting.

There are issues as to whether CNC followed CNC bylaws and Roberts Rules in handling the matter. There are also issues of accountability and transparency. Motion by Hale, seconded by Ogden that LCC encourage transparency and accountability from the City Neighborhood Council (CNC) and the NEDC representative to that group as well as strict adherence to CNC bylaws and fairness to all representatives. *Motion passed unanimously.*

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported that the latest information from WSDOT is that the WABN (West Approach Bridge North) will be put out for contractor bid in April of 2014, and use the federal TIFIA loan to finance it. With that interim design, much of the mitigation promised with the Preferred Alternative would be delayed until the third phase, which violates the MOU with the City of Seattle, and lacks compliance with the EIS.

Stakeholders met with WSDOT representatives on the WABN phase on January 30th, including LCC's Colleen McAleer.

She reported that some of the sound mitigation requests are now part of the design, but local traffic, access to SR520, and the bottleneck of the 6 lanes on the floating bridge squeezing to 4 in Union Bay will create environmental damage and result in poor air quality from excess vehicle emissions.

LCC will follow up with the neighborhood's coalition and the City and State governmental officials to require mitigation to be an integral part of any part of the SR520 bridge, in any phase.

Neighborhood Parks and Street Fund: Five applications were submitted by northeast Seattle neighborhoods for parks and street fund grants. \$90,000 will be allotted to the Northeast District Council in this highly competitive process. LCC submitted two applications. One is for implementation of a landscape plan at Waterway No. 1 at a cost of \$20,000. Landscape architect and owner of Colvos Creek Nursery, Michael C. Lee, prepared the plan. The plan addresses the safety and access needs of visitors, soil erosion concerns, vegetation that both helps wildlife and beautifies the site and includes design of an ADA pathway.

The other LCC application is for a radar speed sign on NE 41st Street between roughly 43rd Avenue NE and 45th Avenue NE. Chalmers has worked with SDOT on this solution.

Another application is for a mid-block ADA pedestrian underpass tunnel south of 24th and Boyer Avenue East. This would be a very expensive project at a cost that far exceeds the total funds allocated to NEDC. It is possible that the project could be transferred to a district council south of NEDC because Montlake has joined the district council closer to Capitol Hill. Karen Ko, NEDC coordinator from the Department of Neighborhood confirmed that this application will be transferred to another district council due to jurisdiction.

There is an application for a traffic circle at NE 79th Street and 8th Avenue NE and some kind of signal enhancement at the intersection of 35th Avenue NE and NE 68th by the library.

Laurelhurst & Windermere Living: Laurelhurst neighbors recently received a glossy magazine in the mail called *Laurelhurst & Windermere Living*. The Publisher's Note indicates that the intent of the magazine is to reflect social activities within Laurelhurst and Windermere.

Children's Shuttles: Comments from neighbors regarding redirecting Children's shuttles are included in the packets.

Battelle/Talaris: At the February 6, Northeast District Council meeting, the following motion was passed: That NEDC submit comments on the environmental scoping for Project #3015404, redevelopment of the 18-acre Battelle/Talaris site, recommending that a separate single-family proposal be studied in the EIS that would preserve the maximum amount of open space, protect and enhance the wetlands, protect the nesting eagles, mitigate impacts on this critical habitat area and consider daylighting of Yesler

Creek as mitigation for the development. (Note: one possibility noted is a planned residential development (PRD) that would scatter the single family housing on the site.)

On February 11, LCC representatives are scheduled to meet with representatives of Talaris, Historic Seattle, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Battelle/Talaris to discuss future use, development and preservation of the site. It is expected that owner representatives will provide details of building placement under an expanded conference center/hotel proposal.

Executive Session

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 p.m.