

Laurelhurst Community Club Trustees Meeting  
Laurelhurst Community Center, Fireside Room  
October 10, 2011

Attending: Emily Dexter, Elizabeth Graham, Jeannie Hale, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Kevin Chang, Kristen Curry, Kay Kelly

Guests: Katie Gray, Recreation Manager, North Recreation Division, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department; Bill Keller, Associated Recreation Council; Lorrelle Shearer

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

Cuts to Community Center Hours: Katie Gray briefed LCC about further budget cuts to community center hours. She passed out a pamphlet Parks Guide. Community Centers are collected into geographic groups. Laurelhurst is managed in a group with Meadowbrook, Northgate, Magnusson, Ravenna-Eckstein, and Lake City. The proposal would reduce hours at the Laurelhurst Community Center from 35 hours per week to 25.

Within our geographic group, both Laurelhurst and Magnusson have been classified as "Tier 2b" level of service with reduced hours open to the public. The proposal not only classifies each community center's level of service and ranking against each other, but also divides all the city community centers into five geographically based service areas, each staffed with a team led by a senior recreation coordinator.

At Laurelhurst Community Center, we will share three workers with other centers, and we will have a custodian. With the proposed reduction in hours, it is unclear if the Magnusson staff, which have managed the Laurelhurst Community Center classes, programs and administrative duties for the last year will be able to continue to oversee the classes (such as nerf soccer, pottery, adult softball, adult fitness, and some other programming) and the popular special events, such as the Egg Hunt and Salmon Bake, they were able to offer for the neighborhood this year.

Swimming pools, gyms, and other activities are budgeted separately. Each geographic group has at least one "tier 1" location – Meadowbrook, in our group. Service levels depend scores relative to 9 criteria developed by the City Council.

Katie prepared a list of frequently asked questions, and she went through some of them. ... Discussion of fees, waivers of fees, and funding available to the senior coordinators. ...

Residents near Magnusson Park sent a letter to City Council members. Bill Keller said he would get us a copy of the letter. Katie expects that this new budget model may be adjusted as we gain experience with the different service levels. In the past, the City tried to operate all centers for about the same number of hours. Katie says one principle for the new budget is that funding should follow actual levels of usage.

Laurelhurst scored lowest of any of the Community Centers in the City. We have 5.28 points. The next lowest center had 7.38 points. The threshold between level 2a and level 2b is about 13.0. We scored 0's in many of the criteria. Some criteria are physical properties, such as square feet.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Graffiti: Nathan Every emailed on September 23 to suggest that LCC include graffiti cleanup in the funds collected for the private security project. He spoke with Graffiti Busters who are part of Corry's Dry Cleaning. They do maintenance work on graffiti and are glad to work with LCC. They also work with Children's. LCC contacted Children's who stated that graffiti is a big, annoying problem and that removing it promptly is an important part of a crime prevention effort. They added that lingering graffiti signals that no one is paying attention and begets more graffiti and other bad behavior. They are out daily to remove the graffiti around their campus.
2. Airplane noise: On September 24, Ann Slutsky emailed to report that since 9 a.m. that morning two planes had been circling near her home and on Surber dragging banners advertising insurance about every five minutes. LCC filed an inquiry with the FAA due to the excessive noise.
3. Laurelhurst rooming house: On October 4, Mark Trumbauer emailed to let LCC know that at least three tenants have moved into the rooming house. Heather Newman also emailed about this on September 23.
4. Planted median at bottom of Suicide Hill: A neighbor on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue called in early October to inquire about the status of the maintenance of the planted median at the bottom of the big hill. LCC will follow up as it looks terrible.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Colleen McAleer drafted minutes from the August meeting. We are still looking for comments to complete those minutes. Review of the August and September minutes was deferred until the November trustee meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Emily Dexter reported that revenues are down to a trickle. Leslie Wright has collected ad revenue for the newsletter. A neighbor suggested to Jeannie Hale that we allocate any leftover funds to graffiti removal. Emily and Brian McMullen estimate that expenses will be very close to revenues for the year. The Spring Clean includes resources for graffiti.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The City Council Budget hearing will be October 26. We could make our case about Community Center funding at that meeting.

#### REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention/Emergency Preparedness: Brian said paddleboards are becoming popular targets for thieves. An investor is buying property in the neighborhood, but not taking care of the houses. A neighbor wrote to the police, complaining that the houses

will attract robbers, and that they are a nuisance. Brian would like to send out our security patrol fund requests before Thanksgiving, so we can get a head start on the holiday season. The dues appeal would go out in early 2012.

North Precinct report. Arrests for burglary were announced at the meeting. Seattle is in the top ten for most bank robberies(!) The police remind us to pay attention to anyone who seems to be watching the neighborhood to see when residents come and go.

Sock Drive: Linda Luiten and Elizabeth Graham have agreed to coordinate this year's drive to collect socks, hats and gloves for homeless families in the North Precinct area. Kay Kelley will help. The goal this year is to collect 6,000 pairs of socks. Luiten will be in touch with Myrna Torrie to see if her knitting circle would like to participate.

Proposition No. 1: Both the city and the county have increased vehicle license tabs \$20 per vehicle. Seattle's Transportation Benefit District, a separate entity comprised of the Seattle City Council, would now like to increase tabs \$60 more per vehicle for a ten-year period.

About 29 percent of the funds collected would be used for transportation system repair, maintenance and safety; 49 percent for implementing transit speed, reliability and access improvements and project; and 22 percent would be allocated for pedestrian, bicycle and freight mobility projects. Of the \$204,000,000 collected, \$18M would go to connect the First Hill street car to South Lake Union and \$20M for electric trolley bus expansion projects.

Those supporting the ballot measure point out the critical need for infrastructure improvements. Those opposed point out that less than 30 percent goes for street repairs and there's no money in the package for bridge repairs (despite the fact that 58 percent of our bridges are in poor or obsolete condition and a backlog of bridge and road needs exceeding \$1.5B. They worry because the Families and Education Levy is doubling in cost and the increased taxes for the car tabs are just too much in these difficult economic times.

Supporting groups include several labor groups such as International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO District 751; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46 and 77, the Bicycle Alliance of Washington, the Cascade Bicycle Club and several business organizations. Those opposed include the 46th District Democrats and the Central Puget Sound Carpenters Local 30. The 11<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats voted "no endorsement."

**Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Colleen McAleer to take no position on Proposition 1. **Motion passed** 8-2.

SR 520 Update:

Colleen McAleer reported that the Coalition for a Sustainable SR520 has executed a lawsuit with lead attorney, David Bricklin, to address the deficiencies in the EIS, and the blatant change of design to include a semi-permanent "partial bridge" on the Westside.

She also reported attending 4 meetings in 2 weeks to decipher and comment on the State Department of Transportation's plans for the Shoreline permitting process for the City of Seattle. The heads of the City's permitting agencies had a special meeting with Coalition members at 8:00 AM on Sept 30th at the Mayor's office to discuss community concerns and suggestions for "close to site" mitigation plans from WSDOT. McAleer also asked why the City was pursuing changing its text amendment of the Essential Public Facilities, which was answered that "they want the City of Seattle's rules to line up with state regulations"

Public presentations were then held at MOHAI again with all of the state agencies present working on the plans for the Westside mitigation of the shoreline impacts.

McAleer spoke on the record at the DPD meeting on October 5th to ask specifically for improvement of "in water" recreation mitigation in Union Bay to compensate for the double sized footprint of the bridge. Suggestions included improved water quality by treating the invasive water lilies, milfoil and noxious weeds, and permanently increasing the width of the navigation lane which will increase navigable waters since invasive weeds and milfoil cannot grow in its depth. Other items were to have WSDOT work with Friends of Yesler Swamp for better water access, improve the brackish water outside Belvoir Park and work with DNR to improve water access for recreational use of Waterways #1 and #2.

In addition, McAleer testified at the October 10th City Council meeting, asking that the city not grant the SR520 permits without having more specific engineering plans completed. She noted the Eastsiders were caught with changes due to a "design build" contract, and shoreline permits should not be granted until DPDS can view the exact plan for SR520 on the Westside.

Lastly, McAleer attended the Citizen's Design Committee, "public" forum on Saturday, October 1, 2011. She once again asked for lowest bridge heights, no shift in alignment, smaller width, maximum sound mitigation and shoreline mitigation directly in Union and Portage Bays, and an improved local travel time for north/south traffic along and through Montlake Blvd and its bridge.

She also made note of the NE neighborhoods' concern for the shared off ramps planned for east/west SR 520 with both vehicles from the north and south of the Montlake Cut.

A Seattle Design Community Group will be formed to discuss some of the construction details. The group should be about 20 people. Colleen applied to be on the Design Group. However, because she is involved in a lawsuit against WSDOT and the Federal highway department, she was denied a place in the group. Rob Berman, one of the project leaders at the City, told Jeannie could look for a substitute. Stan Sorscher volunteered for the group and was accepted by the City.

Essential Public Facilities. Voting by email, the Board approved a motion that LCC should move forward with the proposal, outlined by Peter Eglick to appeal the City's new interpretation regarding essential public facilities, by a vote of 7-4-2.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.  
Minutes by Stan Sorscher