

LCC Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Center
September 10, 2012

Attending: Kevin Chang, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAlleer, Liz Ogden, Brian McMullen

Excused: Emily Dexter, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Waterway No. 1: On July 27, Judith Thornton "cc"ed LCC on an email message she sent to DNR about restoration of Waterway No. 1. LCC differs on certain facts stated in her letter and responded. Both letters are included in the correspondence packet. Once again, LCC encouraged Judith and the Friends group to work with LCC on the project. Subsequently, five or six people from Judith's group emailed requesting that non-natives not be planted. Some of those neighbors had misinformation about the concept plan adopted by neighbors and endorsed by LCC.
2. Urban chickens: On August 17, a South Laurelhurst neighbor emailed to ask advice on what to do about the chickens a nearby neighbor is keeping that escape routinely into her garden. LCC responded that the city amended the law to increase the number of chickens allow in residential areas from three to eight. Eventually, Animal Control responded and it took two weeks to net the wandering chickens. Should the problem resurface, the chicken owners will receive a citation.
3. Laurel Village overflow parking: On September 4, Heather Newman reported that an increasing number of residents from Laurel Village are parking on Laurelhurst residential streets. She said that two Laurel Village residents told her that they were told by University employees to park overflow vehicles in the neighborhood, specifically NE 44th. The letter LCC wrote to the University is included in the correspondence packet.
4. Acupuncture School: Cecilia from the acupuncture school on the Talaris site called on September 7 to invite LCC to host meetings at their school again. She also mentioned an upcoming domestic violence seminar on self defense coming up in October with four follow up classes on self defense. They are interested in putting something in the next newsletter about this.
5. Yield sign: On September 7, Addie Riley called to report that drivers are not yielding as required near where she lives. Going towards 48th and NE 34th and 48th, there is a yield sign that is often ignored by drivers. She said there are a lot of new neighbors in the area that might be at fault. She suggested a newsletter article reminding people to yield as she's had several near misses, especially in the mornings.

6. Speed humps on the Boulevard: Today, Phyllis Dukes emailed to oppose speed humps on 43rd Avenue NE. She prefers other methods to slow down drivers such as signage to encourage people to drive slower.
7. Council Bill 117572—closing loopholes to prevent substandard development in single-family neighborhoods: LCC has received a number of emails on Councilmember Conlin’s emergency legislation that would close loopholes for housing development in side and backyards. At least one Block Watch emailed its neighbors encouraging them to sign a petition that has been circulating supporting the legislation. Trustees also received a link to the petition to sign. Directly impacted Laurelhurst neighbors and the Laurelhurst Blog have also been active on the issue. A letter from neighbors John and Virginia Wilson is included in the correspondence packet. LCC’s comment letter of September 8 supporting the proposal will be in next month’s packet.
8. Children’s development: Lassen raised a concern that the new wall at Children’s may be partially in the setback area. She will take measures and LCC will be in touch with Carol Eychaner about this.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Review of the June and July minutes was deferred to the October meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: There is no financial report this month as the Treasurer is on vacation.

Announcements: The September NEDC announcement handout is in the packets.

1. “Waiting for the Interurban” letter: Special thanks to Kay Kelly for drafting the letter to the Mayor thanking his staff for restoring this Fremont sculpture.
2. Road Safety Action Plan and Traffic Safety meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 6:30 p.m., Lake City Library, 12501 28th Avenue NE. The Mayor has joined community leaders to launch a new effort to improve road safety in Seattle. The Road Safety Action Plan, the outcome of the mayor’s Road Safety Summit, seeks to achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Seattle’s roads. The Action Plan includes a public awareness campaign, Be Super Safe, which will help encourage everyone using the roads to make safe choices. The meeting is an opportunity to learn all about the options available to help you and your neighbors tame the traffic on your street.
3. Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting: September 12, 6-7:30 p.m., Building 30 Lower Conference Room, Warren G. Magnuson Park. The agenda includes briefings from staff on the non-motorized connection between the Burke Gilman Trail and NE 65th Street park entrance, the SPU combined sewage outflow project, an update on the final strategic development plan and an update on the Tennis project.
4. CUCAC meeting: The next CUCAC meeting is tomorrow from 7-8:30 p.m. at the UW Tower, 4333 Brooklyn Avenue, 22nd Floor. The agenda includes a discussion of

process for revision of CUCAC's work program and identification of work items for 2012/13 and a round robin discussion of issues of interest to members. LCC still needs a permanent representative to that group.

5. Magnuson Park Open House: This important meeting is on Monday, September 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Garden Room at the Brig, 6344 NE 74th Street. SDOT will lay out proposed new bicycle and pedestrian improvement to connect Magnuson Park and the Burke-Gilman Trail and other projects taking place in and around the Park. There will be updates on the Headwaters, Off-Leash area wetlands, Lakeshore Drive parking, central wetland and shoreline improvements and the combined sewer overflow project. The open house is sponsored by SDOT and Parks.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen reported that crime has been down in the last month. There were two car prowls in the Town of Yesler and one north of Talaris. There has been a suspicious man, no shirt, about 40-60 years old, walking through people's backyards.

Luiten reported that there was a homicide in Maple Leaf in the vicinity of 75th and 35th. Police are looking for information on silver BMW that may be involved or have information to provide. The projected city budget shortfall of \$30M is now only \$20M. Additional funding may be available for public safety. There were 760 block parties during the annual Night Out Event.

Helicopter Landings Committee Report: The External Medical Review Committee met on Friday, September 7 from 8-9 a.m. McAleer reported on the meeting. The Committee reviewed a report which said that there were many landings in 2010, less in 2011 and in 2012, landings are increasing. The new wing will be open on April 21, 2013. There are 60 beds in the ER on only 38 were used so it appears the facility has been overbuilt. Helicopter landings will be on the ground, slightly elevated. The helicopters will go straight down Sand Point Way, but there are two routes to take into weather issues.

SR 520 Update: McAleer and Jean Amick attended today's Council meeting of the SR 520 Special Committee where there was a briefing on establishment of triggers and the second Montlake bridge. LCC submitted written comments on September 8 raising concerns.

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund: In 2008, Seattle voters approved the Parks and Green Spaces Levy to improve the City's parks and green spaces as well as acquire new parks for those communities identified as deficient in such places. Eight million dollars is available in 2012/2013 for community projects.

1. Magnuson Park Building 18 Project: Friends of Naval Air Station Sand Point Historic District have submitted an application for \$750K of Opportunity Funds to begin the restoration of Building 18, the historic old fire station, at Warren G. Magnuson Park. Preservation of Building 18 is a top priority in the recent strategic planning process undertaken by Seattle Parks and Recreation. NEDC wrote a letter of support for the

project and that letter is included in the correspondence packet. Motion by Odgen, seconded by Kelly, that LCC endorse the NEDC position on the issue. *Motion passed with all voting yes, except McMullen abstaining.*

2. Inverness Ravine Trail Project: The Wedgwood Community Council has submitted an Opportunity Fund application for a trail project. The project is located on 45th Avenue NE between approximately NE 84th and NE 88th Streets. The project is consistent with Wedgwood's Vision Plan that calls for development of park space in natural settings and for creek-side trails.

The proposed trail would be approximately 2,000 feet long, have four access points, and benches and signage. Benefits of this trail, apart from creating more usable park space in an area identified as deficient in park space and providing opportunities for recreation, education and fitness, include the following:

- Connect the Wedgwood and Inverness neighborhoods;
- Provide a more accessible pedestrian access from Wedgwood to the Burke-Gilman Trail and Matthews Beach;
- Provide the opportunity for walkable, day-time expeditions to a tributary of Thornton Creek for students at nearby schools; and
- And promotes environmental awareness of Thornton Creek and its ecosystem.

NEDC's letter of support of the project is included in the correspondence packet. Motion by Ogden, seconded by McAleer, that LCC endorse the project. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Proposed Cycle Track on NE 65th between Sand Point Way and the Burke Gilman Trail: SDOT is proposing a project to create a more family-friendly connection between the Burke-Gilman Trail and Magnuson Park on NE 65th Street—a bike lane on NE 65th. To make this connection today, people on bicycles must either ride in the street, which is not comfortable for all types of riders, or on the sidewalk, which affects pedestrians.

The proposed cycle track would be on the south side of NE 65th Street between the trail and Sand Point Way. SDOT is also proposing a number of pedestrian improvements at the intersection of NE 65th Street and Sand Point Way to provide more waiting areas, new pedestrian curb ramps, and shorter crossing distances of NE 65th Street. Informational material is included in the agenda packets.

Bob Lucas from the View Ridge Community Council has proposed an alternative—a bike trail on NE 70th Street. He states that NE 70th offers the same access as NE 65th and has advantages such as the distance from the Burke Gilman Trail is shorter from 70th and there would be easier access to the athletic fields.

Council Bill 117572—Closing Loopholes to Prevent Substandard Development in Single-Family Neighborhoods: Today, the City Council voted on Councilmember's emergency ordinance to close a loophole in the City's Land Use Code that allows developers to build large houses on very small lots – in at least one case, a three-story house on a lot of only 1050 square feet. The emergency ordinance is a rarely-used procedure in which the Council can act quickly to provide a short term fix (stopping

problem activities) while it considers legislation for a long-term solution. LCC submitted written comments supporting the proposal on Saturday, September 8.

The emergency ordinance does not prevent all further development in these small lots, but sets up new criteria that:

- End the use of historic property tax records as a basis for qualifying for minimum lot area exceptions; and
- Allows development of lots with an area up to 75 percent of the general minimum lot area of the zone (i.e. lots up to 3,750 square feet in an SF 5000 zone), but only up to a limit of 22 feet in height (2 stories), which will significantly reduce the impact.

At this morning's Council briefings meeting, Councilmember Conlin said there have been amendments to the proposal. The most important is that they eliminated the square footage requirement for the houses on small lots. It was the same as a DADU—800 square feet. Instead, there would just be a 22 foot height limit—same as for DADUs. Conlin says that the 35% limit on lot coverage would still apply and he adds that this would be a limit on square footage. Conlin said they met with developers to on the amendments. The developers still are not happy with the watered down proposal.

At the full council meeting this afternoon, the bill passed as amended. There were several neighbors at the meeting testifying.

Talaris Update: LCC will continue to monitor redevelopment of the property. Talaris representatives will be invited to address the full board.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:45 p.m.