

LCC Trustees Meeting  
Laurelhurst Community Center  
February 11, 2013

Attending: Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman

Excused: Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Leslie Wright

Guests: Jim Rupp, Claudia Ware, Keep Washington Beautiful

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

### CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Talaris: LCC has received dozens of messages from neighbors who have attended the Talaris open houses. Comments were generally negative about the options and the manner in which information was provided. At least two neighbors were upset about the bad mouthing of LCC by Talaris representatives. One neighbor indicated he preferred the low impact option. Concerns were expressed about the impacts on our local schools due to the current overcrowding problem, lack of attention to the wetlands, conflicting information on how the development affects the eagles' nest, traffic, creation of rental housing in a single-family zone, etc. Jim Rupp lives on the southeast corner of the Talaris property. His neighbors will be meeting on Sunday. Carol Arnold and Jim Compton are concerned about drainage issues into Yesler Swamp. LCC and neighbors discussed the issues. MOTION by Dexter, seconded by Torrie to authorize an additional \$1,000 for legal expenses. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Stolen car: On January 17, a neighbor reported that their 1997 Honda Accord was stolen from the front of their home.
3. Stolen truck: On February 6, a neighbor's 1992 Mazda pickup truck was stolen in front of his house near the intersection of NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE.
4. Concerns about auto and home break-ins: At the end of January, Luiten heard from a nearby neighbor concerned about car prowls and home break-ins. She responded that the SPD North Precinct is not adequately staffed to patrol each neighborhood. She stated that neighbors are our best eyes and ears and should take pictures, get license plate numbers and descriptions of anyone suspicious. LCC will continue to look into ways to better protect its neighbors. Kathryn Kelly's house was broken into. Burglars chopped out a wall and got through one door, but couldn't get through the other one. It was suggested that LCC further expand the security patrol.
5. Digital billboards: Claudia Ware who is with Keep Washington Beautiful wants to limit digital billboards. There is a bill in the house of representatives now. The same bill was defeated last year. There are nine sponsors of the bill in the senate. She needs help from LCC on this issue. It was pointed out that LCC was very active on

this issue a few years ago at the local level. As a result, many limits were placed on digital billboard. LCC will look into the current issue.

6. Apodments coming? The building where Bill the Butcher, the drying cleaning place and Coffee Crew was sold. It was reported that 300 square foot apodments would be built in a multi-story building. Weissman will check on this.

## ADMINISTRATION

Changes to the Agenda: Add universal background checks legislation.

Minutes: The board reviewed the January minutes. MOTION by Weissman, seconded by Dexter to approve the January minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

### Treasurer's Report:

1. Financial update: Dexter briefed the board on the monthly treasurer's report and the report on committed funds.
2. Dues: There was some confusion about LCC dues this year. In the past, dues were \$50 and neighbors were given the opportunity to pay an extra \$15 for maintenance of the Mary Gates/NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street median. Of course, additional contributions have always been welcome. The website reflects dues at \$65 and includes the maintenance fee. The newsletter indicated that dues are \$65 and neighbors have the opportunity to contribute an extra \$25 for median maintenance expenses. The question is how this should be handled when the hard copy dues statements are mailed. Median expenses have substantially increased because the UW has reneged on its commitment to maintain one third of the expenses. MOTION by Dexter, seconded by Ogden to set dues at \$75 with \$55 for regular dues and \$20 for the Mary Gates/NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street maintenance expense. *Motion passed unanimously with McMillan abstaining.*
3. D&O liability insurance: LCC's insurance broker is in the process of obtaining a renewal quote for insurance coverage. A letter from McDonald McGarry and a draft short form renewal application is included in the packets. Emily has filled out the renewal application.

### Announcements:

1. NEDC announcement handout: Included in the agenda packets.
2. Save Union Bay Meeting: February 26, 7-8 p.m. in the Isaacson Classroom at the Center for Urban Horticulture. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about the aquatic weeds management program for Union Bay. They will review the results of the 2012 aquatic weed management program and will describe plans for 2013. Everyone is invited to attend.
3. School Levies: The Schools First Committee delivered yard signs for the upcoming February school levies. The signs were installed on the Mary Gates/NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street planted medians. LCC is listed as an endorser of the levies on the campaign website.

4. Laurelhurst Playground Project: Updated drawings of the playground project are posted at the Community Center. Wendy Kelly states that we are getting a new large play structure with lots of slides and climbing stuff, and a custom piece which is a replica of the first ferry that went across Lake Washington in the late 1800's. The Play It Safe Committee is still in the final stages of fundraising, trying to raise its final \$1,000, so if the Board, or any individual member is interested in supporting the project, it's not too late. The Committee was required to raise \$19,000 to meet the neighborhood matching requirement for its grant. Mail check to City of Seattle, Play It Safe Committee, 4545 NE 41st Street, 98105. The timeline is to break ground the week after Easter and the goal is to be complete by mid to late June. In addition to the new equipment, there will be other changes to the play area, (new path around play structures, addition of a sand box, etc.) all of which are roughly outlined in the drawing at the Community Center.
5. Basketball Court Resurfacing Project: LCC wrote to donors of the basketball resurfacing project at Waterway No. 1 to update them on the project. On January 18, LCC's waterway committee had a conference call with several people from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that lasted over an hour. LCC now seems to be at a stalemate with DNR due to proposed substantial annual lease fees. LCC followed up again with 46<sup>th</sup> District state legislators asking them contact the Commissioner of Public Lands for assistance in moving forward with the basketball court project.
6. Thanks: Special thanks to Leslie Wright for the excellent article in the newsletter about the proposed redevelopment of the 18-acre Talaris property.

## REPORTS/ACTION

Little League Sponsorship: Northeast Seattle Little has again contacted LCC for sponsorship of a Little League team. There are choices for baseball and softball divisions ranging from \$250 to \$500. Don Torrie recommends that LCC contribute \$500 to sponsor a team. Motion by Torrie, seconded by Weissman to sponsor a Little League team and to allow Torrie to select the team based upon Little League needs. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Crime Prevention: The board reviewed a "general occurrence hardcopy" report from the police department listing traffic crimes. The private security officers are now patrolling four-five days a week. This could increase with more subscribers. It was suggested that McMullen find someone to help him coordinate the program.

SR 520 Update: LCC wrote to the City Council asking that the Council reject the WABN plan proposed by WSDOT. The plan is to build part of the bridge, even if it is temporary, not in the EIS, not seen by the Citizens' Design Committee and apparently not needed. LCC has stated, yet again, that WSDOT should not build anything until there is full funding for the project.

LCC wrote a separate letter to the Council commenting on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the City and WSDOT suggesting several amendments.

LCC letters are included in the correspondence packet.

Talaris Update: Talaris has held a series of small open houses to unveil its plans for redevelopment of the 18-acre Talaris property. McAleer and Hale attended the first one on Monday, January 21 and distributed two handouts—a series of questions received by neighbors about the proposed developed and the alternative concept plan developed by Laurelhurst architects. After the open house, Talaris contacted LCC and stated that trustees are not to distribute any materials and the other open houses. Talaris seems unwilling to compromise on its preferred plan for development. Just about all trustees attended the open houses.

Trustees inquired about whatever happened to the single-family option that Talaris proposed at a committee meeting and then refused to provide in their other materials. Talaris has not responded to LCC's request for the initial plan.

One trustee spoke with George Thurtle and asked him what the 'end game' was for the development. He freely shared that the long range plan was to sell the development to a pension fund like CALPERS (the California state pension fund which buys developments like what is being proposed) or a national property real estate fund (a REIT). So there isn't at all a long term plan to keep the ownership local. LCC needs a cohesive position that is clear to neighbors. It doesn't do any good to say we want to work with the owner when they don't seem interested in working with LCC.

McAleer suggested that LCC redirect funds approved for Carol Eychaner's land use services to LCC attorney Peter Eglick for legal advice. This was approved by general agreement.

LCC and Battelle Neighbors plan to conduct a work session with the community to gather feedback from neighbors. It has been suggested that the charrette be scheduled on March 11, in lieu of the regularly scheduled trustee meeting. Other alternatives suggested are Thursday, February 28, or Tuesday, March 5, or Wednesday, March 7.

Universal Background Checks: Two bills have been introduced in the Legislature that would broaden the requirement for a background check to apply to all firearms sales in the state. Currently, checks are required only when buying a gun from a federally licensed dealer. Gun show transactions and private sales are exempt.

House Bill 1588 includes many sponsors, including 46<sup>th</sup> District Representative Gerry Pollett. It is scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, February 13 at 8 a.m. Senate Bill 5625 also includes many sponsors. 46<sup>th</sup> District Senator David Frockt is among the sponsors.

MOTION by Ogden, seconded by Weissman to support the bills governing background checks. *Motion passed unanimously.*

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:50 p.m.