

LCC Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Center
March 11, 2013
Minutes

Attending: Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman

Excused: Kevin Chang, Kay Kelly, Stan Sorscher, Leslie Wright

Guests: Alex Pedersen, Councilmember Tim Burgess's office, Randy Bannecker, Mark Holden

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. New MO for burglars: Neighbor Marissa Hermannsfeldt emailed on February 20 to alert LCC to a new tactic of burglars. Potential burglars break into parked cars in parking lots and steal the car registration papers; they get the owner's address, and since the car is parked at work or shopping mall, they then go to the address and burglarize the house. (It seems they now have tools that can bypass the car alarm system. But even if they don't any unlocked car can obviously be targeted.) The police have said that cars parked at or near Swedish, Seattle Children's, and Nordstrom's have been targeted.

The police suggestions for protection against this method are the following:

- if leaving the car registration in the obvious places (glove compartment, visor), black out the home address
 - put the car registration paperwork in less obvious places (e.g., next to the car jack, in the trunk, a back seat pocket, etc.; if the police happens to ask you for it, it's okay to tell them that the registration is in the special hiding place and you'll go get it or they can get it themselves).
2. Gun violence: On February 25, a representative from Grandmothers Against Gun Violence contacted LCC about setting up a mechanism to contact people interested in the issue. A Laurelhurst neighbor had suggested they contact LCC. Information was provided about LCC's Constant Contact network and copies of LCC's letters on two pending bills in the Legislature regarding background checks and safe gun storage were sent.
 3. Reckless driving: A neighbor in the vicinity of the 3100 block of East Laurelhurst emailed on February 25 to express concerns about careless drivers who do not follow the rules of the road in the neighborhood. Specifics were asked of the neighbor such as the time of day and the nature of the infractions.
 4. New mega-house: LCC has had inquiries in the last couple of weeks about a building permit to build a 4000 square foot home with another 500 square foot

detached garage at 5129 48th Avenue NE. It's possible that this development is allowed outright as no public notice and opportunity to comment has been included in DPD's land use information bulletin.

5. Talaris: On February 17, nearby Talaris neighbors emailed to recommend the following about redevelopment of the site:
 - Keep NE 41st street playfield as is.
 - Minimize additional traffic (obvious to all).
 - Save the best of the existing buildings.
 - Preserve the mature trees and other plantings.
 - Preserve the wetlands where the eagles reside in the black poplars. (Friends of Yesler Swamp, working across the street from Talaris on UW land, have thought about asking to extend their restoration work into the Talaris wetlands, which would be a hugely positive outcome for our natural environment.)

Linda Brill from King TV was in touch on February 28 and March 1 again asking if LCC has a position on the proposed Talaris redevelopment plan yet. She was advised that LCC is still hearing from neighbors and will soon host a community meeting and that we would let her know. In response to neighbor concerns about overcrowding at Laurelhurst School should 350 apartments be built on the Talaris site, George Thurtle told the Blog, that his research determined that there would be no overcrowding problem. He provided a school district link relating to school capacity. A district person told him that they have no models that predict enrollment impacts by future development. As for apartments, she indicated that the number of two-bedroom units might be a factor.

A family moving to Seattle from Atlanta considering buying a home on 37th and 43rd Avenue NE emailed several trustees asking about the impact of Talaris redevelopment. Basic information was provided as well as links to the Settlement Agreement. Neighbors emailed requesting copies of LCC's concept plan for the site. One neighbor suggested LCC contact *The Seattle Times* about the project.

6. Basketball court resurfacing: As a result of LCC's February 24 Constant Contact message to neighbors about DNR's refusal to allow the basketball court resurfacing project to move forward, dozens and dozens and dozens of neighbors have gotten involved. They have signed LCC's online petition and hard copy petition, emailed Commission of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, and emailed LCC and 46th District legislators. Neighbors are uniformly appalled that DNR would put a halt to the project after neighbors have raised the \$11,000 to resurface the court and after DNR previously approved the project. On March 6, Hale met with a DNR and a Parks representative to discuss a path for moving forward. The Parks Department is willing to take on liability issues, but must get confirmation from others in the Department. DNR is considering waiving any annual fee.
7. Door-to-door solicitations: On March 7, Jean Amick reminded LCC and neighbors that the solicitation season has begun. Her Block Watch group has been advised by the police to **not** open doors, speak through the door, and say something along the

lines of “no thank you, please don't come to this house.” If you have a window in your door or next to it, you should ask the solicitor to show you their city solicitor's license.

8. Spiger aesthetic issue: On March 9, Heather Newman emailed to let LCC know about another problem with the Spigers. Owners of the Spiger property decided that UW students were throwing lit cigarettes onto their property and starting fires in their beauty bark. They decided to close the entrance at that location. Instead of closing the entrance, they have installed a large sign (facing residential home) that says “This is a smoke free establishment. Thank you for not smoking.” Newman was hoping that they would connect the current wall with more of the same.
9. Absentee landlord: On March 9, Heather Newman sent photos of the rental property owned by Marvin Stenge. Once again, the landlord is failing to take care of the property and the overgrowth intrudes upon the sidewalk. LCC will follow up as it has many times before.
10. Work at Baskin & Robbins: Questions have surfaced about what is going on at Baskin & Robbins. It's likely sewer or electrical work.

ADMINISTRATION

Changes to the Agenda: The basketball court resurfacing was considered under “calls and concerns” so no separate agenda item is needed.

Minutes: Review of the February minutes was deferred until the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Dexter briefed the board on the monthly treasurer's report and the report on committed funds. Next month, she hopes to do a comparison of this and last year's dues returns.

Announcements:

1. NEDC announcement handout: Included in the agenda packets.
2. Children's Reception: Thursday, March 14, 6-9:30 p.m., Seattle Children's, Building Hope Tent, 4800 Sand Point Way NE. Join Seattle Children's as it celebrates the opening of the first phase of Building Hope: Cancer, Critical and Emergency Care Expansion. In this new state-of-the-art facility the hospital will provide convenient access to advanced, safe and compassionate healthcare to children and teens. Be one of the first to see the new building. Enjoy a short program and guided tours, and hear from experts in the areas of emergency, cancer and critical care. Reception and ongoing tours.
3. 46th District Town Hall with Senator David Frockt and Representatives Jessyn Farrell and Gerry Pollet: Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. – noon, North Seattle Community College, Concert Hall. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your legislators and find out what's going on in Olympia.

4. SR 520 to close completely March 15-18 between Seattle and Bellevue: Over the weekend of March 15-18, Eastside Corridor Constructors will close both directions of SR 520 between Montlake Boulevard in Seattle and I-405 from 11 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday. Both directions of SR 520 and all ramps between Montlake Boulevard and I-405. SR 520 will remain open between I-5 and Montlake Boulevard. This work is weather dependent and could be delayed in the event of heavy rain.
5. Children's Standing Advisory Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, Seattle Children's Hospital, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, Ocean Café (formerly known as Sound Café), 7th Floor. The agenda includes a project update on the Burke-Gilman Connection project and replacement housing and an opportunity for public comment.
6. Districts Now Debate: Thursday, March 21, 5:30-7 p.m., Bertha Landes Room, Seattle City Hall. Shall Seattle elect city councilmembers by district? Attend this debate cosponsored by Seattle Councilmember Tom Rasmussen and the Metropolitan Democratic Club to hear both sides. Pro speakers include John Fox, member of steering committee of Seattle Districts Now and coordinator of the Seattle Displacement Coalition Daniel Norton, former chair of King County Democrats and Cleve Stockmeyer, civil rights attorney. Con speakers include Phyllis Lamphere, former member of Seattle City Council, Jim Street, former member of Seattle City Council and coalition coordinator for WAMEND, and Steve Zemke, former chair of King County Democrats.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Luiten reported that the speaker at this month's North Precinct meeting was Councilmember Nick Lacata. He stated that homelessness is a public safety issue. There are 1700 homeless in Seattle. The City is still trying to get more police officers patrolling as well as find facilities for the homeless. The economy in Seattle is in relatively good shape. People are finding work.

It's been a busy month for crime in Seattle according to SPD Captain Robin Clark. The purse snatcher was caught. He is a known burglar. Current emphasis is on sexual assaults, burglary and car prowls. In 2012 the North Precinct reported 164 burglaries, which is a high number. So far this year 11 burglaries have been reported.

Save Union Bay Association Update: On February 26, SUBA held a public meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture to update the community about the aquatic weeds management program for Union Bay. Adam Kleven from Aquatechnex presented the first annual report.

He outlined the objectives of the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IVAMP). There were two goals approved for the treatment and to be applied by Aquatechnex in Union Bay. The suppression of the Eurasian Milfoil and Brazilian Elodia was the primary target and the entire Union Bay was treated with a product named Sonar in dilutions just enough to be effective. Four courses of Sonar treatment were applied on May 25, June 14, July 19 and July 29.

The second IVAMP target was the eradication of the invasive white water lilies. Spraying each plant with glyphosate, a surfactant, was done to 12% of the existing plants, according to recommended best practices for the health of the bay. Two applications were done on July 25 and August 16 to avoid any fish window impacts.

The secondary problem areas include the northeast and eastern half of Union Bay where there has been good milfoil control, but more intense growth of aquatic plants resistant to the Sonar treatment. The results created a thicker mix of noxious water weeds which interfered with swimming and boating. The treatment program for year two will be revised to accommodate this newly developed weed problem.

Regarding a treatment plan for 2013, SUBA asked Aquatechnex for a proposal to address continuing goals for 2013. The IVAMP was revised to include all of the noxious weeds that interfere with recreational use of Union Bay in addition to the prior targets. The cost for the proposed treatment plan in 2013 is \$32,750.00 from Aquatechnex. The plan includes continuing the white water lily surfactant, treating priority zone of eastern Union Bay with Clearcast and/or Diquat, mapping and monitoring results.

CUCAC Representation: Since Kristen Curry and Heather Newman retired from the LCC board, LCC has not had consistent representation at CUCAC—the City University Community Advisory Committee. The group meets seven or eight times a year on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is tomorrow, March 12, 7-8:30 p.m., Molecular Science and Engineering Building, UW Central Campus, First Floor Conference Room 115.

The correspondence packet includes a letter from the University Park Community Club expressing concern that CUCAC has lost its voice because representative organizations have not provided reps or the reps are not attending. In negotiating the City-University Agreement with the UW, LCC and other northeast Seattle groups worked hard to ensure representation on the committee. It is the city's only advisory committee where community groups are empowered to select its own representative. For other advisory committees, the city generally appoints the reps and those people are generally friendly to the institution. CUCAC has an incredible ability to influence University issues, but only if member organizations, such as LCC provide reps.

SR 520 Update: The current state of SR520 is similar to the scenario from February. WSDOT has proposed the WABN plan as a "temporary" west side landing from the floating bridge through to the Montlake Interchange, ending six lanes into four through to I-5 at Portage Bay.

LCC has attended City Council meetings and written letters detailing its concerns with this "temporary" plan for SR520:

- The WABN plan was not part of the SDEIS, and not publically vetted for its impacts.
- City Council has not challenged its design, nor required that it have a supplementary EIS which would evaluate the traffic and environmental impacts in Union Bay, the adjacent neighborhoods, and on transit, bikes and pedestrian movements.

- There continue to be negative discoveries about the current re-build including ill conceived pontoon designs and lack of quality control resulting in leaking pontoons. Taxpayers will pay for repair and re-builds since the project is self insured by the state.
- Current Secretary of Transportation, Paula Hammond, will be leaving and there is time to potentially re-work the west side design and make the corridor extend through to I-5 as required by state law. Hopefully, the new transportation secretary will have a fresh approach.
- WABN design offers no relief for residents, freight or transit movement in NE Seattle. LCC has written several letters of concern to City Council, the Mayor, and State legislators detailing the traffic impacts with current growth. Specifically, University Village is expanding by a 700 additional car parking garage, and Seattle Children's Hospital is opening a 200 additional bed facility in 30 days. This extra traffic has not been accommodated in the SR520 approach through Montlake Boulevard.
- Federal funding had not yet been allocated to allow the WABN to be built.

LCC continues to oppose it due for these reasons:

- Lack of transit mobility determined, no bike or pedestrian plan through to I-5,
- The cessation of the HOV lane dumping cars into Montlake
- Adding 2 more stoplights to the Settle exit at Montlake, adding traffic congestion
- Subjecting adjacent neighborhoods and Union Bay habitat to three rounds of construction: build a WABN, tearing parts of it down, and re-building the Preferred Alternative when fully funded.

Executive Session—Talaris: The board adjourned into executive session at 8:15 for purposes of discussing matters relating to redevelopment of the Talaris property. At the conclusion of the executive session, the meeting resumed. Motion by McAleer, seconded by Torrie, to authorize six additional hours of work by Peter Eglick and additional work by Eychaner totaling \$3500. *Motion passed unanimously.*

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9 p.m.