

LCC Trustees Meeting  
Laurelhurst Community Center  
5/12/2014

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

Excused: Linda Luiten, Don Torrie

Guests: Cary Lassen, Catherine Hennings, Dorothy Lennard

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

Bicycle Master Plan Update: Cary Lassen passed out copies of a map showing the proposed bicycle route running between Sand Point Way, past Laurelhurst playfield, toward Webster Point, then back toward the Town of Yesler along Surber Way. The route would follow painted markings on the street. Bicycles and cars would share the roadway. The route would run along the west edge of the park, where the substation is now. That would require coordination between SDOT and the Parks Department.

Robin Chalmers has a copy of a traffic survey from February 2014. It show about 2500 vehicles per day on NE 41<sup>st</sup> St during the week, and about 1500 per day on the weekend. Peak traffic is around 250 per hour in the morning and slightly less in the afternoon.

Cary and Catherine Hennings talked about the different levels of design and traffic control for different segment of the route. Discussion about bicycle routes through Center for Urban Horticulture, along one of the trails, toward the stadium, and coming back to surface streets at the Montlake Bridge. Catherine described options for funding these improvements. We should also think about which elements of the plan would go first.

Cary and Catherine will speak to UW about routes from Mary Gates Way to the Light Rail station. They may check with Friends of Yesler Swamp and Jean Amick about coming to those meetings. UW is looking for a TIGER grant which may affect plans in that area.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Illegal "campers" on the lake: On April 14, LCC was notified of "campers" or "squatters" behind the Laurel hedge next to the Beach Club on the lake. Two men were observed. There were several large pieces of cardboard and a make-shift metal stove. Despite checking several different times of the day, the campers could not be found. The state Department of Natural Resources has said that camping on public land is not allowed. Chalmers reported that he saw the police carting away

someone over by the driving range. It is suspected that the Laurelhurst "campers" may have moved over by the slough.

2. Speed cushions on Surber: On April 25, in response to inquiries from LCC about the effectiveness of the speed cushions on Surber, SDOT responded. John Marek, the new head of neighborhood traffic operations, said that the speed cushions that were installed on Surber Drive NE were designed in accordance with federal guidelines outlined by the Institute for Traffic Engineers and the National Association of City Transportation Officials. These guidelines provide jurisdictions the ability to modify the design in accordance with street design and city policies. SDOT uses a design intended to maximize the traffic calming effects while minimizing the risk of property damage to vehicles and the impact to emergency service access to the neighborhood. While the installation of any traffic calming device on a roadway is intended to encourage slower traffic speeds, they are not able to make all motorists responsible drivers. He added that SDOT will be conducting traffic studies on Surber Drive NE to help determine the effectiveness of the existing devices in June. In the meantime, LCC will try to get an idea of the times of day that there are the most speeders and alert the police department.
3. Attempted break-in: On April 25, at approximately 8:45 a.m., two men entered a neighbor's backyard through a closed and latched gate. This was on NE 47<sup>th</sup> near SUN Park. The men were described as two white males, both wearing jeans, one about 6 feet tall, with brown hair and wearing a long-sleeved, red shirt. The other man was a couple inches shorter (guessing about 5'10"), with white hair, white stubble/beard and wearing a long-sleeved, light-purple shirt or sweatshirt. The men entered through a side gate to the backyard as soon as the wife left in her car for work. They left in a hurry after discovering there were other people at home.
4. Sad news: On April 27, LCC was notified of the sad death of long time neighbor Kathy Gehrt on April 22. Kathy was a former member of the LCC board of trustees and involved in many community (Crisis Clinic and Girl Scouts just to name a couple) and philanthropic activities. She will be missed by the community.
5. Daytime break-in: On April 29, there was daytime break-in on Surber Drive between 2 and 4 p.m. The stickers warning of an alarm system did not deter the culprit(s). Unfortunately, the alarm system had not been armed as the residents were only gone for a short while. The culprits came well prepared with several garbage bags, a crow bar and screw driver. An aluminum window was jimmed open for entry. Jewelry, watches, silver flatware and guns were stolen. The secure fire safe was opened with a crowbar. All contents (passports, birth certificates, social security cards, credit cards and cash were stolen.
6. Car prowls: Two young men, wearing hoodies, were seen "checking out vehicles" on NE 43rd Street off of 48th Avenue NE the last week of April. It was reported that they are looking every night, somewhere, in the neighborhood. On April 30, a neighbor's Acura was broken into on the 3300 block of 46th Avenue NE. The rear window was broken and a black Coach bag containing an iPad and while notebook was stolen. On May 9, on 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE north of NE 45<sup>th</sup>, the rear window of a neighbor's car parked on the street was smashed in. The perpetrator reached in

through the broken window and grabbed a North Face vest that was on the back seat not even bothering to unlock and open the car door. The police officer who answered the report said the same thing happened to a truck parked near St. Stephens Church on the same night. The truck window was broken and a jacket grabbed through the broken window. Dorothy Lennard asked about police investigation of car prowls. Emily Dexter said many of the robberies take place during the day.

7. Garage break-in: Late on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, a neighbor's garage on Belvoir Place across from the Talaris site was broken into using a hefty wire cutter to cut the heavy lock. The contents in the garage were stolen, including contractor's tools and machinery, table saw, tool box, etc. The garage door was discovered open the following morning.
8. Burke Museum: The community outreach coordinator for the Burke Museum contacted Jean Amick, LCC's CUCAC rep, on May 1 to offer assistance in letting neighbors know about programs offered by the museum. LCC responded and will follow up in the future.
9. Illegal parking tickets: On May 2, LCC and other neighbors were notified that parking tickets have been given out on West and East Laurelhurst and likely nearby streets for parking on the curb. The fee is \$47. It was explained this has likely happened due to the many large trucks in the neighborhood associated with construction projects and gardening and that neighbors may have been trying to allow more room for the trucks to pass.
10. Inquiry about the LCC bylaws: On May 8, an anonymous person emailed concerned that LCC did not provide the required notice under the bylaws for the 2012 annual neighbors meeting and election of officers. He or she also noted that LCC is behind in posting minutes on the website. LCC responded that LCC publishes details about the annual meeting in its monthly newsletter and through the Constant Contact network, as well as putting out reader boards. LCC sent the person who emailed a copy of the flyer that was widely distributed for the 2012 annual meeting.

The person subsequently emailed to state that LCC doesn't have the required number of 13 trustees on the board under the bylaws. He or she also said that procedures were not followed for the re-appointment of one of LCC's trustees. He also said that bylaw procedures were not followed in electing trustees at the 2012 annual meeting. LCC responded that the procedures were in fact followed for electing trustees at the annual neighbors meeting in 2012. While LCC believes it followed its procedures in reappointing a trustee in 2012, a clarification of the bylaws will be pursued.

The messages from this neighbor were a good reminder that it's time for LCC to review and update its bylaws. The LCC bylaws require that in even-number years, a committee must be appointed to review the bylaws. This has been done and proposed bylaw changes will be discussed at tonight's meeting. In addition, LCC's webmaster has updated the website in posting of past minutes.

11. Noise complaint: On May 10, a neighbor on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue called to ask advice on a new neighbor who moved in who is very noisy. When the house was a rental, police have only given warning to whomever lives in that house—no tickets. She would like to coordinate with LCC’s private security project. Information was passed along to McMullen who deals directly with the off duty police officers.
12. Talaris: Neighbors on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE emailed today for an update on the Battelle/Talaris property. An update was provided. The neighbors were very complimentary on LCC’s efforts to protect the neighborhood.
13. Green space damage on 38<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. The house at 3717 NE 44<sup>th</sup> St borders the west edge of Talaris. While the house was renovated over the winter, a truck gouged deep tracks in the undeveloped street at 38<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Stan Sorscher was told the damage would be repaired, “when the rain stopped.” Stan showed cell phone pictures of a very unprofessional attempt to fill in the deep ruts. The house is not occupied and landscaping is not being maintained.
14. Robin Chalmers spoke about a neighbor whose age is becoming an issue with crossing the street.
15. Street sign replacements. The City is gradually replacing street signs.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the March 10 and April 14 meetings. MOTION by Kelly, seconded by Chalmers, to approve the March 10 minutes. *Motioned passed with all voting yes, and McAleer and Sorscher abstaining.* MOTION by McAleer, seconded by Kelly, to approve the April 14 minutes. *Motion passed with all voting yes and Wright, Sorscher and McMullen abstaining.*

Treasurer’s Report: Emily briefed the board on the treasurer’s report included in the agenda packets. The LCC Foundation 501(c)(3) application has been approved. Jeannie Hale has a publication that describes conditions for web communications consistent with the 501(c)(3) status. At its next meeting, the Board of the Foundation can decide on the exact details for setting up a web presence.

Announcements:

1. Side Yard/Backyard Houses on Undersized Lots in SF Zone: The City Council’s Planning, Land Use and Sustainability Committee passed a substitute measure on small lot development. At that time Councilmembers Burgess and Licata expressed interested in an amendment that would delete the so-called “100% Rule”—a loophole that allows development on very small lots. The full council vote is scheduled for May 19.
2. New Software for Webmaster: The executive committee approved the purchase of Adobe Contribute software at a cost of \$99 plus tax for our webmaster to update the website. LCC bylaws allow the executive committee to approve expenditures up to \$500 between trustee meetings.

3. Laurelhurst Substation: In response to information received from Plant Amnesty and TreePac about surplus City Light substations being sold off to developers for low income housing and other purposes, LCC contacted City Light about the substation next to the Playfield. That substation was slated to be acquired by the Parks and Recreation Department to provide additional space for the community center and the playfield. The Parks Department responded that the substation is still “energized” and is in “holding” for now. LCC will continue to follow up.
4. Traffic Circle on NE 52: Thanks to the efforts of Kay Kelly, the traffic circle on NE 52<sup>nd</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> has been replanted with beautiful flowers. Thank you, Kay!

Proposed Bylaw Changes: The LCC Bylaws require that in even-number years, a committee must be appointed to review the bylaws. Hale, McAleer and Dexter have served on this committee and their recommended bylaw changes were included in the agenda packets. As required by the bylaws, the proposed changes must be circulated prior to the meeting where they will be addressed. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt bylaw changes.

Proposed bylaw amendments address changes and or clarifications regarding LCC’s membership list, the number of trustees on the board, LCC meetings and the annual neighbors meeting, how LCC communicates with neighbors, timing on distribution of agenda packets, procedures for board filling of vacancies on the board and the role of the secretary.

The board reviewed and discussed the proposed bylaw changes included in the agenda packet. MOTION by Weissman, seconded by Kelly, to accept the proposed changes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

## REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen reported on the two incidents that occurred on April 25 and the car prowling and burglary on April 30.

### Annual Meeting Planning:

1. Program planning: The board discussed possible speakers and topics for the meeting. Suggestions include: an update on the small house legislation with a speaker from OneHomePerLot or DPD, a speaker on district election of councilmembers, a summary of recent activities relating to Battelle/Talaris, an update from Save Union Bay Association, and someone from the University District Food Bank on their capital campaign.
2. Nominating Committee: LCC is always actively recruiting new trustees. The goal is to find neighbors who have been active in the community volunteering for various projects and/or who have attended at least one trustee to understand how LCC does its business. Those contacted are reminded of LCC’s handout on the website outlining trustee responsibilities. Dexter is again coordinating nominations. LCC needs someone interested in coordinating the annual traffic circle clean up and someone interested in assisting with the private security project.
3. Refreshments: Sorscher agreed to make cookies or pastry. Weissman will bring a table cover. Hale will bring napkins and bottled water.

4. Date: The board agreed to cancel the June meeting and have the Annual Neighbors Meeting on that date—Monday, June 9.
5. Community awards: By general agreement, the board allocated funds for some kind of presents for outstanding neighbors, including Claudine Lawlor and Kristin Luttinen for their great work in coordinating replacement of the basketball court at Waterway No. 1, Representative Gerry Pollet for his role with DNR to allow the project to move forward and possibly for another neighbor. It was suggested that some recognition be provided to the two neighbors who did so much work on the annual sock drive.

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported that the Coalition named Respect Seattle has met with Councilmembers Jean Godden and Tom Rasmussen as well as Andrew Glass Hastings, and Lionel Bicknell from the Mayor's office. The group asked on behalf of Seattle users that the SR520 Bridge building of the WABN be stopped because it creates an incomplete transportation corridor. It will require a construction process three times over for Seattle residents, and the design dumps the excess vehicles from the squeeze of 6 lanes into 4 in Union Bay into the Montlake Interchange. In addition, full funding and design is not available, and the WABN goes out to bid on April 28, 2014 and an urgent response from the City is needed.

The response from both city councilmembers and the Mayor's office is sympathetic listening, but the continued belief that they are doing all they can, and that Seattle "does not have a plan yet for the rest of the bridge, and WSDOT does not have the money to fund it to I-5. That said, both governing offices are inclined to let the WABN be built despite its shortcomings, and allow the WABN to clog Seattle's access along the already congested Montlake Boulevard.

Specifically, the Coalition asked that a Special Committee from both branches of the Mayor's Office and City Council form a Seattle solution. Another suggestion was to work with all stakeholders to find better connectivity for northeast Seattle residents to the new Light Rail Station at the University of Washington Stadium. This area of Seattle is experiencing tremendous growth without improvements in transit options to accommodate transportation needs.

Seattle Children's Hospital Helicopter Landings Committee: McAleer attended the Helicopter Landing Standing Committee on April 22. Airlift NW and Children's compiled the statistics of children it transports in four modes. The general three-year trend represented a significant increase in landings at the hospital itself.

In 2011, there were 44 landings, in 2012, there were 50, and in 2013, there were 68. UW Field landings were fairly constant at a range of 54-59, but the Boeing Field landings dropped from 195 in 2011 to 169 in 2013.

Dr Tony Woodward noted that the reason for the increase in Children's roof landings was that the children are arriving "sicker" than in the past, needing landing directly at the hospital.

McAleer asked if the build out of the new Children's wing was complete. He mentioned that as the head of the ER, there are still occasions that children have to be sent elsewhere because there are not enough ICU type beds and stack up availability for

further care. McAleer mentioned that this is a big concern for neighbors who were told that this new 200 beds would accommodate these dire ER needs. Dr. Woodward said they were trying to solve this problem as they build out the empty floors of the new wing. The next meeting is September 23, 2014.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Update: Chalmers updated the board on traffic calming and signage issues and walked through a handout documenting street signs that need attention due to lack of visibility. Some signs are so faded they need to be replaced. He is continuing his work with SDOT.

Talaris Update: McMullen briefed the board. He recently spoke before the University Area Rotary on the topic at the invitation of neighbor Russ Amick.

A person named Robin DuBrin contacted LCC today. She called about a month ago about the interest of her clients in the Battelle/Talaris property in creating something for seniors. At that time, she was provided with contact information for Bruce McCaw's representatives. She stated that she has been in touch with those folks who have indicated that they are interested in selling a portion (1/4) or all of the site. She said the owner is quite frustrated in dealing with the Talaris matter. She has also met with DPD. For what they want to do, DPD said they would need a rezone—something about a “special use” designation. During her meeting(s?) with DPD, DPD did not mention anything about the historic designation. When I brought it up, she didn't know much about the Talaris historic process.

Her clients, a NJ firm called Flagship that has built developments in New York, New Jersey and Dubai, want to build something for memory care and assistance. She said they anticipated some cottages for the older people that want to downsize and stay in the neighborhood and then two or three story buildings for the assisted memory care. She said her client would not move forward without community support.

A copy of an article entitled “Battelle/Talaris: Preserving a Modern Landmark,” in the May 2014 *Preservation News* was distributed.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:06 p.m.