

Minutes Laurelhurst Community Club Trustees' Meeting  
Laurelhurst Community Club, Playfield  
10/13/2014

Attending: Robin Chalmers, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Leslie Wright

Excused: Maggie Weissman, Liz Ogden

Guests: Alex Pedersen, Taso Lagos, District 4 City Council candidate; Chris Landman, neighbor; Natalie and Graham Thompson, neighbors

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

Taso Lagos: Taso Lagos was born in a small village in Greece. Came to US when he was 8. He lives near Northgate in Maple Leaf. His family owns the Continental Greek Restaurant.

Lagos will be running for the District 4 spot on the city council against Jean Godden and possibly others. He teaches at the Jackson School. Former Councilmember George Benson encouraged him to run for office. He is concerned about development and high rise housing in the area, which brings traffic, and decreases livability. Development requires dialogue and impact fees to go towards upgrading infrastructure. Bellevue does that. Traffic problems have no easy solutions.

Neighbors prefer open space around the transit station at Brooklyn.

Seattle Proposition 1B, Alex Pedersen: Proposition 1A, an initiative submitted by voters, and Proposition 1B, an alternative proposed by the city council and the mayor, will be on the November ballot. Voters will be asked whether either of these measures should be enacted into law. Regardless of whether you vote yes or no on this question, voters will be asked which one they like better.

Informational materials from both the Proposition 1B and 1A campaigns are included in the agenda packets along with the background and pro and con material that appears in the official voters' guide.

Proposition 1B would adopt the city council and mayor's approach to city-supported preschool and impose a property tax increase to fund the program for four years. The program would provide free tuition to three and four-year-olds whose families are at or below 300% of the poverty level. Tuition would be on a sliding scale for other families. The four-year, \$58 million property tax levy translates to \$14.5 million per year, or about \$43 per year for a family living in a typical \$400,000 home.

Proposition 1A (Initiative 107) would establish a \$15 minimum wage for childcare workers (phased in over three years for employers with under 250 employees); seek to reduce childcare costs to 10% or less of family income; prohibit violent felons from

providing professional childcare; require enhanced training and certification through a training institute; create a workforce board and establish a fund to help providers meet standards; and hire an organization to facilitate communication between the City and childcare workers.

Alex Petersen, representing Council President Tim Burgess, said that one quarter of students do not graduate from high school. Low reading is a key indicator for not graduating. High-quality pre-school can improve reading levels well into high school. The mayor and Council want to invest in universal pre-school for Seattle, and drafted Proposition 1B. Proposition 1A was developed separately.

Proposition 1B would create a pilot program for 280 children. In year 4, the pilot will have expanded to 2000 children. About 8000 children would be eligible. The program costs about \$9000 per year per child.

Proposition 1B will train some teachers, and includes teaching standards. Teaching ratio should be 1 teacher for 10 children. The City will support programs that use an approved evidence-based curriculum. The school day will be about 6 hours of instruction.

Question: If low-income children are concentrated into the same class, with the educational experience suffer?

A: Going to the pre-school will be better than not going.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Car break-ins: On the evening of September 15, four or more cars on Harold Place NE and Ivanhoe were looted. One glovebox was broken, the rest rifled through. Locked cars were not bothered. Other car break-in occurred on September 29 about 2:45 a.m. when a dog barking alerted the owners of outside activity. The homeowners noticed the dome light of their car and the car across the street on. They saw two people walking north on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and later south on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at NE 42<sup>nd</sup>. This information was provided by the Laurelhurst Blog.
2. Proposed development at 3802 48th Avenue NE: LCC heard from neighbors in September again about proposed development on this vacant lot. The architect hosted two meetings with neighbors and Torrie attended one on behalf of LCC on September 22
3. Proposed bike hotel: The proposed bike hotel project has been abandoned and the owner now wants to do a "remodel." Under the plan, the existing buildings would be retained and altered for restaurant use. A number of improvements would be made to bring the buildings into conformance with current building codes. These include a new elevator to provide accessibility to the second floor, a new interior stair to provide code-compliant exiting, structural upgrades for improved seismic resistance, new windows, doors, insulation to improve energy efficiency, etc. There would be new siding, windows and doors, so the exterior appearance would be changed, but

the basic building massing (height, length, setback, etc) would be much the same as it is today. One new addition is a deck to be located over the parking area west of the current Bill the Butcher space. This would provide some outdoor seating adjacent to the Burke Gilman Trail, and provide access to the second floor from 36th Avenue NE.

The “remodel” seems very similar to what was initially proposed. The “remodel” approach allows the developer to avoid getting a MUP (master use permit). The MUP process would entail an opportunity for public comment and likely design review. Public comment is not required with a “remodel.” The biggest issue that remains is how the developer will deal with the lack of parking. There is limited parking on the site. Other questions include: Where will employees park? Where will patrons park? Will the developer provide any opportunity for public comment? Will the proposed plans be available on DPD’s website? Who is the DPD person handling the building permit and other permitting requirements? The Laurelhurst Blog contacted LCC about this and provided information from its research.

4. Fire in the neighborhood: On October 8, there was an early morning fire at a home located in the 4300 block of NE 45th Street. Six fire engines responded as well as support vehicles. Streets were closed. No one was hurt.
5. Speeding on NE 41<sup>st</sup>: A new neighbor moved in three doors up from Chalmers. The neighbor is deaf in one ear and cannot hear if vehicles are coming when he pulls out of his driveway. Several other neighbors have voiced their concerns over the ever increasing speeds and SDOT has implemented no changes to address the need for traffic calming. Chalmers “slow down” signs have been stolen.
6. Landscaping. Jean Amick emailed the board on the afternoon of October 13 commenting on neglected maintenance of certain traffic circles and landscaping on the Mary Gates/NE 41<sup>st</sup> planted medians. She also suggested that plantings at Waterway No. 1 be kept low and simple to retain the view and minimize maintenance. She also questioned the funding source for the project.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting.

**MOTION** by McAleer, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion passed** with Sorscher and Dexter abstaining.

Treasurer’s Report: Emily Dexter passed out financial statements and discussed key figures.

Announcements:

1. Magnuson Park Advisory Committee (MPAC): Gabrielle Gerhard from North Windermere has been nominated to be the northeast Seattle representative to MPAC and Emily Dexter from Laurelhurst has been nominated to be the alternate.
2. SUBA Annual Meeting: Save Union Bay Association (SUBA) will host its annual meeting on November 18, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture in the Isaacson Classroom. There will be a presentation reviewing the 2014 milfoil

management program in Union Bay, slides depicting changes in the amount of aquatic weeds before and after treatment, and information regarding plans for 2015 program.

3. Potholes at U Village: Chalmers reported that there are big potholes by Bartells at University Village, likely caused by construction vehicles. He will be meeting with U Village about this. It was suggested that some of the crosswalks need to be repainted.
4. QFC Roadways. Robin Chalmers spoke to QFC about the condition of the roadways in the parking lot, now that construction of the parking structure is more or less finished. Robin was referred to University Village and will speak to someone there tomorrow.

#### REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen reported that there has been one more car prowler other than the several listed in "calls and concerns." This one was east of the park at 50<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup>. That activity seems to be seasonal. We are looking for a volunteer to help Brian with the police patrols. Three or four neighbors reported suspicious people in the neighborhood.

Luiten said that a young man was found in someone's unlocked garage on Harold Place.

Luiten briefed the board on the last North Precinct Advisory Council meeting. Kathleen O'Tool, the new police chief, was the featured speaker. She is from Boston where crime trends are volatile. Luiten reported that Mayor Murray has recommended adding 100 new officers. Boston has 1,000 more officers than Seattle. O'Tool emphasized three things: crime prevention, intervention and enforcement. Luiten was impressed by the new chief.

Kelly reported that the sock drive is starting and posters are out.

Land Use Issue at 3802 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE: The vacant lot at this steep slope location is governed by two height limit ordinances (114981 and 58134) adopted decades ago by the city council. A neighbor across the street from the lot purchased it to preserve his view of the lake and height limits were thereafter enacted. That neighbor died and his daughter is seeking to develop the lot at heights greater than allowed. The architect has hosted two meetings with neighbors to explain the proposal. Torrie attended one of the meetings and briefed the board.

Gun Safety: Kelly led the discussion on the two initiatives that will be on the ballot. Initiative 594 would apply the background check requirements currently used for firearm sales by licensed dealers to all firearm sales and transfers where at least one party is in Washington. Background checks would thus be required not only for sales and transfers of firearms through firearms dealers, but also at gun shows, online, and between unlicensed private individuals. Background checks would be required for any sale or transfer of a firearm, whether for money or as a gift or loan, with specific exceptions

described below. Background checks would be required whether the firearm involved is a pistol or another type of firearm. Violations of these requirements would be crimes.

I-595 includes a number of exceptions. A background check would not be required to transfer a firearm by gift between family members. The background check requirement also would not apply to the sale or transfer of antique firearms. It also would not apply to certain temporary transfers of a firearm when needed to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm.

LCC has supported universal background checks in the past.

Initiative 591, proposed by NRA enthusiasts, would prohibit government agencies from confiscating guns or other firearms from citizens without due process, or from requiring background checks on firearm recipients unless a uniform national standard is required.

Background information and pro and con arguments from the official voters' pamphlet are included in the agenda packets.

**MOTION** by Kelly, seconded by McMullen, to endorse Initiative 594 and oppose Initiative 591. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Traffic Safety: Chalmers reported that a speeding white SUV has been seen on Surber around noon time three times. He said that SDOT continues to refuse to do anything about the speeding on NE 41<sup>st</sup> and traffic calming solutions. SDOT compares this area with Lake City and Northgate in terms of traffic accidents. Chalmers continues to pursue stop signs at the top of Suicide Hill. Torrie suggested that the police get involved in issuing tickets.

Talaris Update: The Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board met October 1 and heard two requests from the owners of the Talaris/Battelle property. One was to remove two trees declared dead by an approved arborist. The request was approved. The second was a request for a six-month extension to develop a plan under the "Controls and Incentives," the legal mechanism for an owner of an historically designated property to devise an acceptable plan for preservation and potential development for the owner's economic benefit. This request was also approved.

LCC requested information about the continuance request in advance, but it was not provided. Hale, McAleer, and counsel, Peter Eglick, attended for LCC. The owners stated that they were working with the staff members of the Landmark Board on a plan for a potential Planned Residential Community. They have hired the renowned architect team of Susan Jones and Bill Bain to develop a concept. LCC proposed a similar concept for a planned residential development two years ago. Talaris rejected that concept at the time as it would not generate the return sought by the owner.

LCC filed a motion for reconsideration of the grant of the three-month stay as well as replies to responses submitted by Talaris. The judge denied the motion on September. In her order, however, she did indicate that the court may set a date for a status conference with all the parties if Talaris seeks to renew the stay after November 25.

LCC continues to file public records requests regarding Talaris with DPD, the City Attorney's office and the Landmarks Board.

SR 520 Update: McAleer attended a WSDOT open house on October 2 for the new section of the SR520 bridge called WABN (West Approach Bridge North). There were a few positive improvements that will be integrated into the new design including:

- Fewer in-water columns with a relatively lower profile (new height is 20 feet vs. old height of 13 feet).
- The "ramps to nowhere" left from the RH Thompson proposal will be removed.
- Noise mitigation will include sound absorption barriers and quieter pavement on the bridge deck.

The negatives that will impact Laurelhurst residents include:

- Loud, invasive construction from pile driving, and the construction of "temporary work bridge" to the north (our side) of the existing bridge, lasting many years is to begin in October 2014.
- No relief from gridlocked congestion around the Montlake Interchange for local north/south traffic, nor access points on or off the SR520 bridge. Traffic may even get worse from the added stoplights, and shared off-ramps from WABN.
- Mitigation for environmental damage to Union Bay is not being rigorously applied as the Eastside had required due to lack of funding.

McAleer has invited WSDOT's WABN engineering team to attend the next LCC meeting in November to offer information, and a question and answer session for neighbors on how this new WABN will affect NE Seattle. Date is November 10th at 7:05pm at the Community Center.

Seattle Children's Hospital External Review Committee on Rotary Wing Transports (Helicopter Landings) for January 1-June 30, 2014: McAleer attended the Review Committee on September 23, 2014 and reported to LCC about the type and number of helicopter landing , both on top of the hospital, and at the U of WA parking lot (E-1) for the period of January 1-June 30th, 2014.

The Rotary Wing Transport review committee consists of Seattle Children's Hospital executive staff Suzanne Petersen-Tanneberg, Dr. Ben Sanders, Medical Director of King County Health Department, Chief of the Emergency Medicine at SCH, Dr. Tony Woodward, Brenda Nelson, RN, a member of Airlift Northwest, and Colleen McAleer, representing Laurelhurst Community Club. (In addition, Dr. David Dunning from Laurelhurst had been a member, and recently died.)

The meeting began with a tribute to the service of Dr. David Dunning, and his contributions and insights will be missed. Suzanne Peters had already mentioned that SCH is "looking" for a replacement for him, and would most likely contact Karen Ko for input. McAleer reminded the committee that Dr. Dunning was from Laurelhurst as well, and a replacement should be a similar profile.

The review of the helicopter landings proceeded. Dr Woodward reminded all present that each landing has to meet certain criteria for a hospital site landing. The statistics are as follows for each type of landing for the same period Jan-June:

	At U of WA site	% of total	At SCH site	% of total landings
2012	29	50.8%	28	49.1%
2013	36	55.4%	29	44.6%
2014	17	26.2%	48	73.8%

McAleer remarked that there was a very large landing increase directly at SCH in 2014 rather than at the U of WA field. Dr. Woodward indicated that the "children are coming to us sicker" and have to land at the hospital, and all but three cases met the criteria to land at SCH. McAleer noted that no one in Laurelhurst would deny that type of landing, but that big spike in 2014 to date is hopefully an unusual anomaly instead of setting a new pattern for landings which is of concern to neighbors, for safety reasons.

The attendees also discussed the addition of psychiatric beds made available to fulfill the state mandate for mental health care. Dr. Woodward stated that SCH is trying to dedicate at least 4-6 beds at either side of the ER Department to accommodate this need.

At the LCC meeting, McAleer asked that LCC be pro-active in finding a replacement for Dr. Dunning, and Stan Sorscher mentioned that his neighbor, Rob Waldman, who is an actuary, might be interested. In addition, LCC should be monitoring helicopter landings at the hospital as this was a very large increase in only six months.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:01 p.m.