

Minutes Laurelhurst Community Club Trustees' Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Club, Playfield
7/14/2014

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

Excused: Liz Ogden, Maggie Weissman

Guests: Peter Eglick

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

ADMINISTRATION

Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Overgrown sidewalks: On June 5, Heather Newman emailed about overgrown sidewalks in the Town of Yesler in the area of the homes owned by absentee landlords. LCC will follow up about the Code violations.
2. Talaris: Several neighbors emailed for an update on the Battelle/Talaris matter.
3. Noise complaint: On June 10, the new neighbors who live next door to the mega house in the Town of Yesler contacted LCC about loud noises coming from electrical equipment in the back yard of the mega house. The neighbors had borrowed DPD's noise meter and kept a log of the noises at various times of day. On June 11, Hale, the neighbors and David George from DPD went to the site to assess the situation. DPD will follow up due to violations.
4. Vicious dog at Metro Market: On Wednesday afternoon, June 11, a neighbor at the Metro Market walked by a very large brown dog tied to the fence. Looked like a mix between a Great Dane and a lab. As the neighbor walked by, the dog lunged at her. He bit her wrist and broke the skin on both sides and ripped the sleeve of her sweatshirt. It scared her very badly as she did nothing to antagonize the dog—just walking by. The incident was reported to store management. Two people from the store came out to see the dog. While they were standing there, a bicyclist rode right by the dog and the dog lunged at him, too. By this time, the dog's owner came out. He yelled at his dog who barked loudly when another customer walked by. The store has banned the dog from their property. The Blog reported this incident to alert neighbors to the potential danger.
5. Backyard prowlers: On Friday evening June 13 around 8:30 p.m., in south Laurelhurst, many officers and canine patrols could be seen walking about several blocks in the area. LCC received many emails about this. SPD responded that officers were present due to a situation that involved a homeowner who found two people in his backyard. The homeowner made contact with the two people and told them that 911 had been called. SPD units conducted an area which with negative results.

6. Suspicious man: On June 16, a neighbor reported that she and her husband were walking over by the Center for Urban Horticulture in the evening. A man and two dogs came up behind them talking loudly and using inappropriate language and rambling. Another neighbor was nearby and the man threatened her. The man continued yelling obscenities and approached them as they reached their car. They gave the other neighbor a ride home. The man was scary and threatening. Police were called.
7. Private security project: On June 24, McMullen responded to inquiries about the private security project.
8. Out of control sprinklers: In late June, neighbors and the Blog inquired about the out of control sprinklers on Mary Gates/NE 41st. Kids enjoyed the fun, but drivers passing by those out for an evening walk were sprayed. Much water wasted. The UW was contacted and the sprinklers brought under control.
9. Insurance issues: On July 1, SUBA (Save Union Bay Association) contacted LCC for recommendations on someone to prepare their annual Form 990 and insurance issues. Hale responded that LCC's treasurer prepares our Form 990 and that Emily could provide information about our insurance broker.
10. Large rock blocking sidewalk: On July 9, the Blog contacted LCC to see what a reader could do about a large rock blocking the sidewalk. LCC responded that SDOT is responsible for the safety of sidewalks. Because SDOT doesn't have a contact form on its website, LCC suggested using DPD's online complaint form asserting a Code violation. DPD will forward it on to the appropriate SDOT person.
11. Future tall, skinny house: On July 11, a neighbor called and emailed about an empty lot on 48th Avenue NE, specifically at 3802 48th Avenue NE. Tom and BJo Allen purchased the lot across from their house years ago to project their view and the views of other neighbors. There was a street vacation process involving city council consideration and a public hearing. According to the neighbor, the ordinance put in place would prevent anyone from building above seven feet on the left hand side of the lot so as to project views. The property is in the name of Tom's Allen's daughter who now wants to sell the property. A sale is pending with Michael Tutmarc of Tutmarc Architects. They are seeking to raise the height limit apparently established by ordinance. One neighbor has an easement that would mean that the builder could construct a house 12 feet from another neighbor's fence. Neighbors in the area are concerned that the house would be tall and skinny. The lot is over 5,000 square feet and is long and skinny. McAleer responded to outline the Code requirements for SF 5000 zones. LCC is continuing to review the ordinances adopted and the street vacation policies.
12. Laurelhurst School portable. Leslie Wright heard from a neighbor who asked if the new portable at the school meant the school was overenrolled.

13. Crows. Robin Chalmers reckons the crow population is unusually large, lately. John Marzluff at UW says this can be a sign that a large dumpster is unsecured or other sources of garbage are not being maintained.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the May 12 meeting. Robin Chalmers has data on traffic patterns on NE 41st St. The minutes will be amended to reflect that discussion. **Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Kay Kelley to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion passed** without objection, with Linda Luiten and Don Torrie abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of LCC's balance sheet as of June 30, 2014 and a profit and loss comparison were distributed. Dexter responded to questions. We would like to accept online contributions to the Foundation. We can set up a separate page for the Foundation, open a separate account with Click 'n' Pledge and direct donations to the Foundation directly to the Foundation's checking account.

LCC received an application to pay dues to Friends of Sand Point Magnuson Park. Because of LCC's commitment to Magnuson Park, LCC has paid dues in the past. By general consensus, LCC will continue to pay the \$30 annual membership fee.

Announcements:

1. Seattle Proposition 1: This measure which would create a metropolitan park district will be on the August 5 primary election ballot. Voters would have no say in dissolving the new taxing authority which could tax up to 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. With little oversight, the increased taxes could be used to build a sports arena, commercialize and privatize parks and fund other mega projects with no citizen vote. LCC voted to oppose the measure early on. Since then, the League of Women Voters and *The Seattle Times* also oppose the measure. LCC prefers continued parks levies as a responsible way to fund our parks.
2. Night Out Event—Save the Date: Tuesday, August 5. The 30th Annual Night Out Against Crime is approaching. The registration link for Night Out, 2014 is now active at <http://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout/default.htm>. Night Out is a national Crime Prevention event. It is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, increase neighborhood support in anti-crime efforts, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. You do not need to be in an active Block Watch to hold a Night Out event.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: A house break-in occurred over a weekend. Car thefts and prowls are up 50% in the North precinct. Criminal use some of the stolen cars in other crimes.

Neighborhood Connections: Stan Sorscher said he has heard from 3 neighbors that they have had difficult experiences with the Laurelhurst Blog. They recommended we make it clear that we are not the Laurelhurst Blog. Leslie mentions the Laurelhurst Blog in the Newsletter and on the web site. She will add a disclaimer, that LCC is not the Blog.

SR 520 Update: Colleen gave a brief update. The 5-neighborhood coalition, Respect Seattle, is still meeting and will get together in the next few days. They are looking at noise mitigation features that may be left out of the current design.

For instance, the roadbed can include quieter materials, sound-absorbing materials can be included in the side walls, and the expansion joints can be sound-proofed.

They are also asking about monitoring noise and environmental conditions, and “haul routes” for materials.

Neighborhood Projects Fund Update: The department evaluation of the three projects submitted by NEDC are included in the agenda packets. The top project is a pedestrian/bicycle safety improvement at the library crossing at 35th Avenue NE. That project initially came in at \$79,000. The second priority project was a radar sign on Suicide Hill. SDOT bumped that project because according to its speed studies did not warrant a radar sign. The third project was funding for the landscape plan at Waterway No. 1 at a cost of \$20,000. The Parks Department recommended adding a 15% for design review and project administration and a 10% contingency. NEDC is allotted about \$90,000 for the program.

Hale contacted SDOT to inquire whether it would be possible to reduce the cost of the library project so that both that project and the landscaping project could be funded. LCC explained to SDOT that LCC supports the library project, but wanted to see if the cost could be reduced. SDOT reevaluated the project and reduced the cost by \$9,000 to \$70,000. The Bicycle Master Plan offered to contribute \$5,000 to pay the remaining cost of the project.

Executive Session at 8 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Meeting notes by Stan Sorscher and Jeannie Hale.