

LCC Trustees Meeting
November 14, 2013

Attending: Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Colleen McAleer, Liz Ogden, Don Torrie

Excused: Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Guests: Peter Eglick, Robin Chalmers, Susan Avery

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. due to change in meeting location and was followed by introductions.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Car prowl: On October 21, LCC was notified that a resident in the 3800 block of 44th Avenue NE has his car broken into. This occurred on Wednesday, October 16 sometime between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Work related and personal items were taken. The owner thought it was young adults as some of the items were found dumped a short distance away.
2. Correction to minutes: On October 25, Judith Thornton emailed requesting a correction to the September 2012 minutes. Those minutes and a proposed correction are included in the agenda packet.
3. Vehicle and pedestrian safety: Robin Chalmers has continued to work with SDOT on safety issues on Suicide Hill. He reported that on Saturday around noon, a U.S. mail van was involved in an accident on the hill. It appeared that the driver lost his front left wheel as he was pulling out of one of the two hidden driveways. The van was stuck across the road and neighbors were stopping traffic to alert them of the danger. It took police 45 minutes to arrive. There were no injuries.
4. City Light power outage issues: On October 29, Margaret Ernest email to tell LCC about an electrical problem and difficulties working with Seattle City Light. On September 13th, her family experienced a failure in the electrical line which comes into their residence. Voltages as high as 170 volts surged into the house causing a power outage and about \$3000 damage to several items in our home, including the electrical panel. Fortunately, they did not have a fire. City Light came and gave them a temporary feed to restore electrical service. At that time, they were advised that a permanent repair would be done at a later date by a different City Light crew. Well, City Light later said they will not do the repair. The homeowners were told they had 30 days to fix the problem and that these problems were occurring all over the area due to downed power lines.
5. Bike hotel proposal: Jean Amick emailed twice about the "Country Inn" bike hotel proposal. Information and links to the plan were provided to her. LCC has also been in touch with the Ravenna Bryant Community Association, the Hawthorne Hills

Community Council and the North Windermere Community Council about the project.

6. Rooming houses: On November 1, *Seattle Times* reporter Nancy Bartley called and emailed for a status report on how the Laurelhurst rooming houses are working out and inquiring whether the issues had been resolved. Heather Newman and Hale responded that street parking remains a problem and that DPD has been unable to enforce the owner occupancy requirement for the accessory dwelling unit.
7. Talaris: Many neighbors emailed about the historic nomination of the Battelle/Talaris property. Copies of comments submitted by neighbors supporting the designation are included in the correspondence packet. On November 6, Rachel Howard Hines emailed to inquire about the new signage at the site providing notice of a single-family development.
8. Transit Service: Jean Amick sent LCC a copy of the October 24 letter she wrote to Sound Transit about gridlock on Montlake and inaccessibility of the new station. She pointed out that the congestion is caused by the many traffic lights and arterial funnel situation coming from the north. She added that the situation would worsen with SR 520 replacement because three more four-way traffic lights will be added. She suggested leasing some of the unused UW parking for transit riders and bicyclists. She also suggested a shuttle back and forth to the stadium on the interior roadway—something LCC has and continues to support.
9. Homeless woman: On November 8, LCC was notified that a homeless woman went up to the side door of a house in the vicinity of 44th and 48th and asked for a blanket. The neighbor gave her a spare blanket. She wasn't sure if it was a scam to see if anyone was home. The woman appeared to be by herself.
10. Suicide Hill issue: Robin Chalmers reported that SDOT said no to a four-way stop at NE 41st and 43rd Avenue NE. A postal truck driver who backs into one of the driveways had to turn very hard due to a speeding driver going down the hill. Chalmers will continue to work on the issue.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the proposed corrections to the September 2012 minutes. By general agreement, the board approved the proposed changes to those minutes. Consideration of the October minutes was deferred until December.

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the monthly treasurer's report through October 31.

Announcements:

1. The 18-acre Battelle/Talaris Site and Buildings Designated as Historic: On Wednesday, November 6, the Landmarks Preservation Board unanimously voted to designate the Talaris property as historic. The designation was based upon satisfaction of the following designation standards of SMC 25.12.350:

- *C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, City, state, or nation.*
- *D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or a method of construction.*
- *E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.*
- *F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City.*

The next step is development of controls and incentives to guide future development of the property. Usually, the process involves the owner and the Landmarks Board, but the rules governing the process are decades old and vague. LCC, and others, have written to the Board urging that the process be inclusive of the public, including particularly, all legal stakeholders. LCC has a legally recorded interest in the Battelle/Talaris property as evidenced by several successive binding settlement agreements that run with the land and decades of cooperative efforts with owner representatives in mutually agreeing upon changes to the property.

2. Save Union Bay Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will take place on November 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture. It's an opportunity to hear what has been accomplished and plans for the future.

REPORTS/ACTION

Proposed bike hotel: As noted in the material from DPD in the packet, a three story hotel containing 26 rooms and a restaurant on two stories is planned at 3600 NE 45th. Bill the Butcher, the bakery, the cleaners and other small businesses in the complex will be displaced. The project involves departures from the rear setback requirement and the parking requirements. Five parking spaces will be provided. An early guidance design review meeting is scheduled for November 18 at the University Heights Community Center. One trustee commented about the lack of parking and said it was absurd to think that people would arrive by bike. Concerns were raised about view protection and:

- There is a barrier in the road which makes it impossible to cross over and access for the west bound users. Where would they turn around? (The Laurelhurst Condominium high rise could have unwanted U turns in its driveway for motel users.)
- The long span of NE 45th Street lanes also makes it difficult to cross safely for bikes and pedestrians, and it can only be accessed coming west on NE 45th St, not East, or exclusively from the Burke Gilman Trail.
- Continuous sidewalks to crosswalks may be needed to ensure pedestrian safety- a design element not included in the initial drawings.
- Many additional stoplights have been added to Sandpoint Way NE with the massive development of Seattle Children's Hospital, and adding another stoplight

would really impede any transit or vehicular flow even further along this key NE Seattle corridor.

- Parking facility design seems inadequate as many spaces are needed just for staffing the retail and hotel needs. This IS a design issue, not just an issue for environmental review.
- The sightlines should be low enough, and set back should stay within the current set back and height codes to ensure that all users can be seen around curves, and that pedestrians, bikers and vehicle users have safe visibility in exiting and entering from this narrow site.

Metro bus cuts: On November 7, Metro released a proposal that details major cuts to transit service. About 17 percent of service will be cut unless the agency finds a sustainable source of revenue. Over the past five years, Metro has cut costs, raised fares four times, and become more efficient to preserve most service. Temporary funding authority from the state expires in June. High school students will be impacted with the cuts in services as no passes are allowed if a student lives beyond 2.5 miles from the school. LCC agreed to write a letter to preserve Laurelhurst bus service.

The proposed cuts will affect over 80% of Metro routes at a time when the agency should be growing service by 15% just to reduce crowding and keep up with demand. Route 25 in Laurelhurst would be eliminated.

Right now, the legislature is holding a special session to address transportation needs. One possibility is to authorize a local, long-term funding source for transit. This would be local taxing authority. It is likely that there will be a ballot measure to save Metro.

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported that Senator David Frocht is taking over Ed Murray's position on transportation issues. She is currently reviewing the transportation budget. A 11.8% gas tax is proposed instead of 10%. Tolling on I-90 is under consideration, but there are issues because it is a freight and commerce corridor.

Begin Executive Session at 8:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.