

LCC Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Center
April 8, 2013

Attending: Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Liz Ogden, Stan Sorscher, Leslie Wright

Excused: Emily Dexter, Brian McMullen, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman

Guests: Story Swett, Eugenia Woo, Peter Eglick, Jeff Davies, Nathan Zimmer

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

Potential guest speaker on SR520. Colleen McAleer exchanged emails with Steve Peer from Kiewit, about Steve coming to tonight's LCC meeting. Steve deferred until later in the Spring. Colleen was in touch with a group named PRK in Kenmore about pollution in Lake Washington, related to the SR 502 construction.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Stolen car: On March 18, LCC was notified that a car was reported stolen the previous evening. The car had been parked in front of the owners' home in the 3000 block of East Laurelhurst. LCC learned that this is the time of year when unlicensed solicitors seem to appear. According to Seattle Police, some solicitors may be using that cover to scout possible targets. Neighbors are encouraged to call 911 to report any suspicious activity.
2. Potential traffic hazard at the crest of NE 50th and 45th Avenue NE: On March 27, the Laurelhurst Blog forwarded a message from neighbors concerned about this location and possible collisions that might occur due to parking on both sides of the street. LCC contacted SDOT and learned that there have been no reported collisions in this area. The neighbor suggested removing parking on either side of NE 50th at the crest of the hill at 45th NE. The problem with this approach, according to SDOT is that it would increase speeds and this is something that LCC has learned from other locations. This is a non-arterial and the SDOT contact person is Christina Legazpi. She is on family leave until mid-May. LCC provided contact information for the SDOT person and neighbors may contact her after her return as she has no replacement in her absence.
3. Mary Gates/NE 41st Boulevard: On April 3, LCC responded to neighbor Jim Bassingwaite who has concerns about bicycle safety along this stretch of roadway. LCC pointed out that a few years ago, SDOT widened the street where Mary Gates and NE 41st going out of the neighborhood meet to allow more room for bicyclists. LCC added that the planted medians were intended to slow speeds to make it safer.

LCC recognizes that speeding remains a problem on this stretch and continues to work on solutions.

4. Incompatible houses on single-family lots: One Home Per Lot emailed LCC on April 4 thanking it for the comments submitted on DPD's preliminary recommendations to address the problem. Karmann Kaplan and Shirley Cummings forwarded LCC's letter to neighbors in south Laurelhurst. On April 6, Mary Abrums and Tim Hess emailed LCC about the issue and sent a copy of the letter they submitted to the City. That letter is included in the correspondence packet.
5. Hazardous tree: On April 7, LCC was notified that the dead tulip tree at Waterway No. 1 had become uprooted and fallen towards the adjacent neighbor's home damaging an abutting fence. If the tree becomes even more uprooted, it could crash into the neighbors' windows. LCC and the neighbor have been in touch with DNR to get the tree removed. DNR is working on options. LCC visited the site.
6. Talaris redevelopment: LCC continues to hear from neighbors about this matter.
7. Basketball court resurfacing: LCC has received a few calls in the past couple of weeks asking about the status of this project. Information, although still in the developmental stage, has been provided.
8. Waterway #1: A tulip tree died, and fell over in the Waterway area. Jeannie is looking for an arborist or contractor to remove the tree.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Minutes: **Motion** by Colleen McAleer, seconded by Liz Ogden to accept the March minutes as submitted. **Motion passed** without objection. Abstaining: Kay Kelly, Leslie Wright and Stan Sorscher.

Treasurer's Report: Dexter reported that we have \$116,562 in the bank account, plus another \$12,000 in undeposited checks. This means total cash is approx \$129,000. Of this amount approx \$76,000 is committed funds. This leaves approx \$53,000 in uncommitted funds.

The monthly report was deferred until May.

Announcements:

1. NEDC announcement handout: Included in the agenda packets.
2. Thank you: Special thanks to Don and Myrna Torrie and Jeannie Hale for volunteering at this year's Easter Egg Roll at the community center.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention:

North Precinct Report: Linda Luiten reported on a couple of robberies in the North Seattle area. As the weather warms up, we tend to have more police activity in the parks. Police Chief Diaz announced his retirement today.

Peace Garden: Laurelhurst Elementary School is planning a “Peace Garden” renovation and is applying for a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant. The existing garden was originally dedicated in 1997, in honor of Laurelhurst teacher and peace activist Aki Kurose. The Peace Garden is located on the south playground, near the school entrance and next to the covered play court. It is well-loved and well-used and shows signs of that use. The goal is to rejuvenate the garden and to fulfill the intent to promote peace and celebrate nature’s beauty. Among the proposals being considered are: fresh landscaping with new hardy and child-friendly plants, remedying some existing drainage issues, embellishing the garden with additional child art that symbolizes “peace”, and providing seating within the garden for the enjoyment of the school community and the entire Laurelhurst neighborhood. A community meeting was held tonight.

Project proponents are in the process of going to our neighboring businesses in the community to ask for donations of materials and time. The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods is considering a matching funding grant based on our success with community-wide participation. Specifically they are looking for materials for this Peace Garden rejuvenation, including planting materials and also food and beverage donations for community meetings and the volunteer work day scheduled for May 18th and the re-dedication ceremony scheduled for June 7th, 2013.

Historic Preservation: Storey Swett and Eugenia Woo described progress to date in nominating the Talaris site for historic preservation by the Seattle City Landmark Preservation Board. The site is eligible for designation at the City and National level. A nomination package, intended for the Seattle Historic Preservation process, was included in the LCC Trustee packets. Eugenia explained that it is unusual to nominate a site as large as Talaris, but she believes the package is very strong, and the site is well qualified for preservation.

A site can be nominated without the consent or participation of the owner. However, Storey and the others involved have had discussions with George Thurttle and other’s connected with the proposed development.

The Seattle Preservation Board will examine the nomination and then decides whether to nominate the site. The Board may ask for changes. When the package is finalized, a hearing will be called with 30 days notice. Depending on the workload at the Preservation Board, this could be during the summer. At a second hearing, the Board will decide whether to designate the property historic.

Some discussion of other properties, which were designated in this process.

If the site is designated, then the board staff will negotiate with the developers over controls and incentives consistent with the designation. For instance, improvements to the structures could be spared tax increases for 10 years.

Nathan Rimmer said the owners have a copy of the nomination packet and Nathan expects the owners to send a letter in the next week or two, explaining their position on the historic designation process.

Eugenia and Storey said they don't intend to stop the development. Rather, they hope that the owners will recognize this process as an opportunity to capitalize on the historic character of the property and improve the proposed development to maximize the potential of the development. We understand the developers brought in a consultant familiar with other historic sites in the City, which could be a positive sign that the development could be revised in light of the nomination for historic status.

Further discussion about options and process, and timeline.

Executive Session started at 8:37 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Notes by Stan Sorscher