

Minutes Laurelhurst Community Club  
Board of Trustees  
Laurelhurst Community Center  
September 8, 2014

Attending: Robin Chalmers, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Emily Dexter, Stan Sorscher

Guests: Ching-Pi Wang, Site Manager, Department of Ecology

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

Update on Magnuson Park Radioactive Contamination Clean-Up: Ching-Pi Wang, Site Manager, Department of Ecology (DOE), briefed the board. He stated that the EPA standards differ from the state toxic waste cleanup law and the Navy has chosen to follow the federal standards which could result in a higher level of fatal cancers. The Navy is the lead for cleanup and DOE and the health department provide technical review and public outreach assistance.

The cleanup has focused on Buildings 2, 12 and 27. There are risks with the storm drains doing out of Building 27, but the radiation is not going into the lake as it has been tested. Six hundred cubic yards of radium contaminated soils have been removed in the vicinity of Building 27. Clean soil is used for backfill excavations. Radium contaminated pipes, floor wall, ceiling materials and mercury droplets have been removed from this building. Concrete floors have or will be cleaned by scouring. Hotspot cleanup has taken place outside Building 12.

The same type of cleanup efforts have been undertaken in Building 2. In addition, asbestos pipe insulation and floor tiles have been removed as well as lead paint from walls. So far, no radiation was discovered in the soil surrounding the building.

Significant controversy remains over the Navy's cleanup efforts.

#### ADMINISTRATION

##### Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Height limit increase sought: In late July, neighbors contacted LCC, DPD and other public officials about the action of a developer in trying to raise the height ordinance (114981 and 58134) on a very steep sloped vacant lot at 3802 48th Avenue NE. The current height ordinance #114981 was modified in 1990 from the previous height ordinance #58134 when the street was vacated in 1929. A height restriction was imposed to protect the view and land stability of existing homes adjoining and across the street. The property owner wanting to sell to this developer acquired the property fully aware of the height limitation originally imposed, as they even petitioned and were granted height modification rights to a portion of the lot in 1990, hence Ordinance #114981. Neighbors say that to now further modify the height restrictions would NOT be supported by the Laurelhurst neighbor community near, adjacent and far from this vacant lot. It is unclear if this issue has been resolved.

2. Cars egged: On the morning of August 4, 11 cars along 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE were egged. A neighbor found an empty five dozen egg box on NE 38<sup>th</sup>. Some cars were skipped.
3. Truck break-in: On August 6 around 5 a.m., a truck on the corner of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE and Surber was broken into. The truck's owner was asleep in a trailer behind the truck and didn't hear anything until the trailer shook. The suspect was a Caucasian male in his late twenties driving a small, dark colored car. The suspect left his car running and got into the cab of the truck. Money and a Dakine duffel/backpack full of clothes were stolen.
4. Update on portables at Laurelhurst School: LCC has received many inquiries about the portables at Laurelhurst School after a new portable was delivered in June to the north playground. It turns out that the new portable put the school over the maximum lot coverage allowed by the city for a school and a code departure was needed, but not sought. The Blog reports that the school district will proceed with a departure request. The PTA is working on including much-needed building upgrades on the next capital improvement school levy expected in 2018.
5. Broken sprinkler heads: Since August 26, the City, CUH and LCC have been investigating the broken sprinkler heads on three segments of the planted median on Mary Gates and NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. The irrigation panel and controls have been located in the garage of a neighbor. CUH surveyed the sprinkler heads and the irrigation maintenance lead manually turned on each of the four valves and determined that none were operating correctly. There were broken, plugged and malfunctioning sprinklers. He turned down the valves so that no water will run for now. LCC will work with Heath Landscaping to get a bid and undertake the needed maintenance.
6. Lights at Five Corners: The Blog asked LCC about the timing of the lights at Five Corners as there is not enough time for pedestrians to cross the street. LCC is following up on this. SDOT installed new wiring in July, but problems persist at this very dangerous intersection. Chalmers pointed out that only eight cars can get through from the neighborhood on a green light.
7. Proposed bike hotel: After an inquiry from a neighbor, LCC contacted DPD about the proposed bike hotel. The proposed bike hotel that was to be located at 3600 NE 45<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled at the applicant's request on May 8.
8. Home break-ins: On August 27, there was a burglary on the 3600 block of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE. The burglars broke in the back door, took everything valuable, and left very quickly. The owner arrived home only a half hour later to find the house ransacked. Another break-in occurred in about the 3900 block of NE Surber. Valuables, including guns, were stolen.
9. Reports of erratic man: On August 29, the Blog reported about an erratic man seen in Laurelhurst and nearby neighborhoods. There have been multiple sightings of a male approaching people and cars screaming obscenities, yelling at people rudely, banging on car windows while people are stopped at lights, making inappropriate comments in front of children and much more. Recently it appears the same person

has been turning on water faucets in front of homes full force and walking away, leaving some houses with the potential of flooding if the residents are gone all day. Police have been contacted.

10. Runaway boat: On Thursday, September 4 at 8:55 a.m., a large boat on a trailer came careening down East Laurelhurst Drive NE out of control. There were several pedestrians walking abreast who had their backs to it, as well as several workers on the sidewalk, loading a truck and working in the garden. Just then, a car came up the street from NE 33rd Street, and saw the boat coming down the hill. The driver blasted the horn to warn nearby pedestrians and workers and then threw the car in reverse to get out of the way. The owner chased the boat down and managed to shove it onto an empty sidewalk until it stopped. No reason was given why it was unhitched, or not in control, but luckily no one was hurt.
11. Possible Children's overflow parking in the neighborhood: After a neighbor alerted LCC to possible Children's overflow parking in the Town of Yesler, LCC followed up with Children's as employees are not allowed to park in the neighborhood as a condition of employment. LCC provided a description of the car and the license plate number. Children's immediately followed up.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the July 14. MOTION by Wright, seconded by McAleer to approve the July 14, 2014 minutes. *Motion passed with Ogden and Weissman abstaining.* Corrected copies of the May 12 minutes were included in the agenda packets.

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the August treasurer's report.

Announcements:

1. SR 520 Meeting re Design Concepts and Improvements: Thursday, September 11, 4:30-7:00 p.m., Montlake Community Center, 1618 East Calhoun S. Limited free parking is available. Learn about the overall corridor vision and refined design features of the new Portage Bay bridge (such as bridge type and the option for a bicycle/pedestrian path), new Montlake lid (such as functionality and connectivity) and multimodal connections on and around the corridor in Seattle.
2. Laurelhurst Annual Salmon Bake: Thursday, September 11, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Laurelhurst Community Center, 4554 NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Wild salmon dinner prepared by local personal chef and caterer Chef Melissa Maxwell. Menu includes grilled wild salmon, tangy coleslaw, watermelon, fresh role and chocolate brownies. Adults \$15. Children (12 and under) \$10. Hot dog, polish dog or garden burger \$5. Live music by Larry Jones Trio. Don Torrie, Jeannie Hale and Maggie Weissman have volunteered to help out at the event.
3. Grand Cajun Yesler Swamp Ribbon-Cutting Celebration! Sunday, September 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Free. Music by the Folichon Cajun Band, Jambalya and Watermelon, Guided Swamp Walks. Everyone is invited--all ages welcome! There will be a short program to thank the many organizations and friends whose generosity has made the Yesler Swamp Trail possible. Donations will be accepted to help finish the Trail.

4. 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Flight around the World and NAS Sand Point Reunion:  
Sunday, September 28, 12:30 p.m., Warren G. Magnuson Park.

## REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen reported that the erratic man seen in the neighborhood was been committed for three days for observation. There have been a couple of break-ins.

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported that WSDOT (Washington State Dept of Transportation) is planning a community meeting for Roanoke Park/ Montlake and Portage Bay to view the refined design concepts for the Portage Bay Bridge. Lyle Bicknell arranged this meeting to be upcoming on September 9 at the Seattle Yacht Club. The second part of the process is the Public Open House, scheduled on Sept 11 at the Montlake Community Center. Jean Amick will attend for LCC and report her observations as McAleer has a conflict.

WSDOT will display two concepts for the new future Portage Bay Bridge replacement. One is a box girder style without much super structure to include detailing to link to the Montlake historic district and Olmsted legacy. The second, more expensive design is a cable stay design with visible spokes on the two sides of the bridge to give it a "gateway" or modern signature effect.

It has been the ongoing policy of LCC to defer to the neighborhood preferences that are adjacent and view the new bridge. In general, LCC has supported the concept of "less is more" on any new bridge structure. The goal is to minimize the conflict of nature and man-made structures, and to reduce visual conflict with existing older neighborhoods. The Seattle Design Commission will also give input to the design of the new Portage Bay Bridge. It will not be built until full funding for SR520 is accomplished through the State's legislative process in 2015-2018.

Traffic Safety: Chalmers reported that he disagrees with SDOT's determination that there is no speeding problem on Suicide Hill. The worst time of day is between 6 and 8 a.m. He estimates that 70% of the speeders are women. There have been six accidents at the top of the hill.

Talaris Update: LCC continues to file public records requests regarding Talaris with DPD, the City Attorney's office and the Landmarks Board. On September 2, Judge Spearman granted an additional three month stay on the Superior Court action by Talaris to invalidate the historic designation of the site and buildings. Although LCC has been granted intervener status, LCC did not receive notice or an opportunity to reply as the Talaris attorneys told the court that LCC's attorney was in Europe (he wasn't). LCC will file a reply to correct the record. Several Laurelhurst neighbors have sent in comments on their use of the Battelle/Talaris property over the years and their views about the illegal fencing.

Executive Session: Convened at 8:32 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:44 p.m.