

Minutes

LCC Meeting of December 9, 2013
Laurelhurst Community Center

Attending: Robin Chalmers, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, 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 7:07 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Talaris: Several neighbors have emailed confused about the notice of a proposed subdivision on the Talaris site. The Blog reports that their staff has also received numerous emails on this issue. LCC has responded to neighbors indicating that the comment period has been extended until December 29. LCC continues to receive complaints about the fencing that was installed on the site.
2. Fence damage at Talaris: On November 24 at about 2 a.m. a speeding car hit the median on NE 41st Street then damaged the fence at Talaris, knocking out about 15 feet of fencing. The car lost a wheel. Police investigated the incident. Jean Colley emailed to alert LCC about this. According to the police report, the driver was headed eastbound at a high rate of speed, spun around 180 degrees, took out the fence and the tires were ripped off the rims. Approximately 200 feet of skid marks were observed. The driver was a young man, barely 21, who was arrested on suspicion of DUI. Breathalyzer results show that the driver was likely nearly three times over the legal limit of .08 BAC. There were three other passengers in the vehicle at the time of the crash. No serious injuries occurred.
3. Illegal tree cutting at Talaris: Three cottonwoods were illegally cut down and removed on the Talaris property in mid-November in the buffer behind the homes on 42nd. On November 15, LCC wrote to Talaris about this and other Talaris actions that violate the Settlement Agreement. Copies of that letter were distributed. A neighbor notified the Landmarks Preservation Board. DPD got involved and issued a stop work order.
4. Leaves: LCC has heard from neighbors concerned about others who blow their leave into the street, rather than pick them up as required. The leaves are slippery and cause cars to skid. Another neighbor emailed to ask that neighbors keep their sidewalks free of leaves and debris. LCC included a reminder in the December newsletter about the Code provision that requires residents to keep sidewalks in front of their homes safe.

5. Proposed bike hotel: Kate Hokanson and others emailed with concerns that only five parking spaces would be provided for the proposed bike hotel and restaurant. LCC prepared written comments for the Design Guidance public meeting and McAleer and Hale spoke at the November 18 Design Review Early Guidance meeting. LCC's comment letter is included in the correspondence packet.
6. Car prowls: On December 6, the Blog reported a series car prowls in the neighborhood. An unlocked car on the 4300 block of NE 42nd Street was broken into on November 25 or 26 between 4 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Thieves made off with change from the ashtray, registration documents, a set of house keys and key fob and keys to the rooftop box of our car. Another neighbor who lives on the 3300 block of 46th Avenue NE had their car broken into. The car, parked in the driveway, was unlocked due to the lock being broken. These neighbors found another neighbor's empty wallet and a driver's license in their car. That neighbor was happy to get these back and reported a day earlier their debit card was found at a gas station. Another neighbor whose locked car, parked in front of his house, was broken into on the 4300 block of 43rd Avenue NE. A shopping bag containing several valuable items was stolen. An extra key was stolen from the glove box and the neighbor had to rekey his car. There were a couple of other car prowls in the last month.
7. Another accident on Suicide Hill: Barb Ragee reported that there was another accident on Suicide Hill around 5:30 on December 5. She said there were four emergency vehicles and glass everywhere.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the October 14 and November 14 meeting. Motion by McAleer, seconded by Luiten, to approve the October minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.* Motion by Dexter, seconded by Torrie, to approve the November minutes as presented. *Motion passed with all voting yes and Luiten, McMullen, Sorscher and Wright abstaining.*

Election of new Trustee: Robin Chalmers has followed pedestrian and traffic safety issues and attended many LCC trustee meetings. Motion by Wright, seconded by Torrie to elect Robin Chalmers to the board to fill a vacancy. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the monthly treasurer's report through November 30 and the committed funds report. Motion by Hale, seconded by Torrie, to release the \$30,000 reserved for Essential Public Facilities to fund legal fees and other fees related to Battelle/Talaris. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Announcements:

1. Marijuana Producer behind U Village: There is an application to set up a producer marijuana business at 4616 Union Bay Place NE. The Ravenna Bryant Community Association is following this issue and opposing the site location because of its proximity to a daycare center.

2. Basketball Court Project: The concrete has been poured and the new basketball hoop installed at Waterway No. 1. The lines are the court will be painted in the next few days. The co-chairs will insure that the contractor removes the leftover debris on the site.
3. NEDC on Talaris: At its December 5 meeting, NEDC passed the following motion: That NEDC reaffirm its support for the historic status of the 18-acre Battelle/Talaris property preserving the landscape and architectural integrity of the buildings on the site, and comment on the subdivision proposal, opposing demolition of the buildings and grading of the site and requesting preparation of an EIS and public hearings.
4. Save Union Bay Annual Meeting: Hale and McAleer attended SUBA's annual meeting on November 19. LCC's letter in support of SUBA's great work is included in the correspondence packet.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Luiten reported that speakers from the state Liquor Control Board were featured at the North Precinct meeting. The new rules governing the recreational use of marijuana allow possession of one gram, but people are not allowed to smoke it in public. There will be 334 retail outlets statewide. The number of outlets is limited.

There was an increase in police shifts by nine over the holidays in the north precinct area.

Luiten delivered 340 pairs of socks to the North Precinct for the sock drive. One hundred pairs were knitted by two Laurelhurst neighbors.

Transportation Funding: McAleer reported on transportation funding proposals in the state legislature. A 12.7 cent per gallon gas tax increase is proposed. There is a difference as to where the money would go—specifically for transportation projects or into the general fund. Full funding for SR 520 replacement remains an issue. KOMO news has been running stories on the pile driving on the bridge and the health and noise impacts.

Battelle/Talaris: On Wednesday, November 6, the Landmarks Preservation Board unanimously voted to designate the Talaris property as historic. The designation report is included in the agenda packets. On November 12, the Landmarks Board wrote to Talaris asking that they participate in the “controls and incentives” process. The Board will meet on Wednesday, January 15 at 3:30 p.m. to consider controls and incentives. It does not appear that Talaris is interested in participating in this process.

Instead, Talaris filed a Land Use Petition Act lawsuit against the City and the Landmarks Preservation Board on November 25. The City must respond within 20 days of that date. Talaris is requesting that the court reverse the decision of the Landmarks Board. Talaris did not oppose the nomination even though they were provided an opportunity to speak at the nomination meeting. At the designation meeting, Talaris decided to oppose the designation.

Talaris claims that the Landmark's Board process was unlawful, that the Board erroneously interpreted the law, that the designation was not supported by substantial evidence, that the decision was a clearly erroneous application of the law to the facts, and that it violates the constitutional rights of Talaris.

On December 2, DPD issued a notice of a Talaris proposal to subdivide the site into 82 parcels and seven tracts of land in this environmentally critical area. Parcels would range in size from 5,019 square feet to 9,356 square feet. All existing structures would be demolished and substantial grading required. Per LCC's request, the December 15 deadline to comment on the project was extended to December 29.

Executive Session: An executive session with Peter Eglick was convened at 8 p.m.

Reconvene the regular meeting: Motion by Hale, seconded by Dexter, to approve funds for a real estate economist, legal work to file a motion to intervene in the Talaris LUPA appeal, and legal assistance on the Talaris single-family proposal. *Motion passed unanimously.*

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:10 p.m.