

LCC Trustees Meeting  
Laurelhurst Community Center  
September 9, 2013

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

Excused: Emily Dexter, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher

Guests: Peter Eglick, Nathan Rimmer, Karen Ko, Eugenia Woo, Roberta Cation, Story Swett

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, followed by introductions.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Car break-in: On Friday night/ Saturday morning, July 25<sup>th</sup> in the vicinity of NE 45<sup>th</sup>, an unlocked car parked in a driveway was broken into. Neighbors lost an old style flip phone and charger, a pair of sunglasses, a purse/bag and about \$30 cash.
2. Suspicious men: On July 25, a neighbor's two sons answered the door to two 20-something white men that claimed they were "here to fix the shower." One man was at the door while the second one waited by the gate at the sidewalk. They were mostly non-descript, but not dressed for work (i.e. super baggy jeans), and they had no visible tools or paperwork. The boys didn't see a car, but later in the day they thought they saw the same men in a silver BMW sedan with a dented front bumper in the neighborhood, but they couldn't be sure.
3. Burglaries: On July 27 around 4 a.m., three young white males tried to break into the lower level of a home on the 4100 block of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, through an open window in sight of a sleeping guest. As they took out the screen, the guest started yelling at them and they ran toward the alley. The police came and suggested a motion sensing outdoor light. This may have been the same group who were successful on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE and NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street on July 26. The residents were burglarized during the night while sleeping in their home. The burglars came in through the garage, into the house and computers, wallets, liquor and more were taken. A device which opened the garage was used. Several neighbors inquired asking for advice on how to protect their homes. Information from SPD was provided.
4. Stolen packages: For the past two months, several neighbors reported stolen packages off their doorsteps. On August 9, a package was stolen on the 3600 block of NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. On August 14, a package delivered around 11:30 a.m. was stolen by a man caught on a security camera around 1:30 p.m. This was on the porch at 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and NE 41<sup>st</sup>. Another neighbor reported that after seeing the photo on the Laurelhurst Blog his Redmond friend said that the photo looked like a person

painting house numbers on the curb and using that as a cover to steal packages. In that case, the culprit was caught.

On August 15, a package delivered on the porch at 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE down from the park was stolen while the homeowner was gone on a quick errand. On August 16, two UPS packages were stolen around noon on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE and NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. In this case, the company was gracious enough to re-send the items to the neighbor's work address. On August 19 around 2:30 p.m., a package was stolen from a porch on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE and NE 35<sup>th</sup>.

Another incident on September 3 was in the vicinity of NE 41<sup>st</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. In this case, there was a man and woman team. The man was the driver of a black Prius and the woman snatched the package while the homeowner noticed from the window. The police arrived within minutes.

5. No dogs signs: Several neighbors inquired in July about "no dog" signs on the Talaris property. Talaris reported that the signs were installed to keep dogs away from the eagles and the eaglets learning to fly.
6. Talaris proposed comp plan amendment: Several neighbors emailed after the July 26 notices to neighbors from Talaris. The mean-spirited blog posting criticized LCC for its efforts to oppose the comp plan amendment which would have laid the groundwork to upzone the 18-acre property from single-family to multi-family. Talaris stated that a few LCC activists were pursuing personal agendas, despite the fact that 430 neighbors signed the i-Petition supporting the LCC position. Many neighbors shared messages they sent to the City Council opposing the proposed comp plan amendment.
7. Attempted break-in: On August 12 at around 3 a.m. in the block of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE and NE 42<sup>nd</sup> a neighbor awoke to his barking dog. He got up to investigate and saw a hooded individual run off. His kitchen window was pulled open and a box was placed under the windowsill to assist the person in climbing through the window.
8. Crow update: Robin Chalmers who follows issues associated with the abundance of crows in the neighborhood emailed on August 21 to report that the 200 dead crows recently found in Boston did not die as a result of Avian Flu. Most were hit by trucks while eating road kill.
9. Attempted child abduction: On August 28, it was reported that a woman who appeared to be around 21 years old tried to grab a child near the 4800 block of Sand Point Way near Seattle Children's. According to police, a boy was walking with his grandfather when a woman approached them and tried to grab the child. The woman then left the scene. Police are looking for the woman who is described as black, 5 feet 10 inches, 150 pounds, wearing a gray beanie, windbreaker, blue jeans and running shoes. Seattle Children's is cooperating in the investigation.

Following this incident, on September 2, a neighbor reported a person matching the description selling magazines subscriptions on Nicklas Place. The woman was

aggressive when the neighbor did not purchase any subscriptions. Police were called. All neighbors in the area were alerted.

10. UW noise and traffic: On August 31, Heather Newman emailed to report new and excessive noise and traffic at the new stadium and asked what could be done. She also reported that SDOT has not updated the RPZ signs in the Town of Yesler. She is hoping that LCC will take the lead on these issues.
11. Vehicle and pedestrian safety: On September 1, Robin Chalmers submitted a safe streets project request for installation of stop signs on NE 41<sup>st</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE in the east/west direction. He pointed out that there have been numerous accidents at this location due to vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed and lack of visibility. LCC will follow up yet again on this dangerous intersection.
12. Ventilation at Children's: McAleer and Lassen heard from neighbors about possible ventilation problems at Children's. Fumes went into one child's room and the child had to change rooms twice because of the problems.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the April 8, May 13, and July 8, 2013 minutes. Motion by Luiten, seconded by Kelly to approve the July 8 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously with Wright, McAleer and Wright abstaining.* Motion by McAleer, seconded by Kelly to approve the May minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously with Wright and Weissman abstaining.* Motion by Wright, seconded by Kelly to approve the April 8 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously with Torrie and Weissman abstaining.* Review of the February minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

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

Election of Officers: Sorscher is unable to continue as secretary due to his work schedule, but has agreed to take minutes when he is at the meetings. Motion by Weissman, seconded by Wright that LCC's current officers other than secretary be re-elected. *Motion passed unanimously.* LCC is in need of a permanent secretary.

#### Announcements:

1. Salmon Bake: This event and the celebration of the renovated play area have been rescheduled from September 5 due to predicted rain. The Salmon Bake is a community tradition that features delicious food and great entertainment. The menu includes grilled wild salmon, minted watermelon-feta salad, tangy coleslaw, Mediterranean Cous Cous, fresh rolls and organic chocolate brownies. An adult salmon dinner is \$15 and child salmon dinner (12 and younger) is \$10. Hot dog or garden burger is \$5 and steamed clams or mussels are \$4. Volunteers are needed. McAleer, Luiten, Hale, the Torries and Weissman volunteered to help at the event.
2. Children's Hospital Standing Advisory Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 6-8 p.m., Seattle Children's Hospital, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, Ocean Café

(formerly Sound Café). The agenda includes the street vacation final report, an update on the Burke-Gilman Trail connection, an update on the inpatient psych unit renovations, an introduction of the roof garden concept and master use permit considerations and other possible upcoming projects.

3. Basketball Court Resurfacing Project: On September 6, the project co-chairs met with the contractor for the project which is not set to commence at the beginning of October. About \$1,000 in additional funds must be raised. Neighbor Ray Shannahan who has a new painting company has agreed to contribute the painting of the basketball court lines. LCC will feature his contribution in a future newsletter article. *Motion by McAleer, seconded by Kelly for LCC to contribute \$500 to the project. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Extension of moratorium on small lot development in SF zones: LCC submitted comments today supporting Council Bill 117898, a measure that would extend the current moratorium on oversized development on small lots in single family neighborhoods. In its letter, LCC noted that building height, minimum lot size, application of the 75/80 rule, height, bulk and scale issues, and appropriate notice to affected property owners remain critical issues. At today's full council meeting, the council unanimously adopted the extension on the moratorium.

## REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Linda Luiten reported on the following:

1. Crime: There has been a reduction in car prowls and non-residential burglaries. Residential burglaries are up 50% this year and auto thefts are up 17%. Homicides year to date are down (3 versus 6). Laurelhurst and Lake City had the highest increase in residential burglary in the last 90 days. The priority city wide is to reduce burglary and auto thefts. The start of the school year typically brings a spike in crime. Another day shift was added until year's end in Lake City with overtime funding.
  - In the last 90 days distribution of crime over 24 hours is as follows:
  - 31% between 3 a.m. and noon
  - 43% between noon and 8 p.m.
  - 25% between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Six people were arrested recently, each of them were responsible for approximately 125 auto thefts a piece and three of them responsible for respectively 117, 80 and 100 plus burglaries. Linda urged trustees and others at the meeting to please call 911 even if you think it is a non-emergency. Give the police a complete description of what you saw. Do not be afraid to report suspicious behavior.

2. Special NPAC Speaker: Dongho Chang, SDOT Traffic Engineer, briefed the group on the 2007 Bicycle Master Plan, characterized as an attempt to build as much bike infrastructure as possible with low cost Bridging The Gap money. The project is half way along. For more information, go to [www.seattle.gov/transportation/bikemaster.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/bikemaster.htm).

Elements Being Used To Create Bike Safety:

- Reduce speed to 20 mph
- Flashing crosswalks and speed bumps
- Cycle tracks—bike lanes physically separated from motor traffic and sidewalks

Robin Chalmers pointed out the problems with the four-way stop at the top of Suicide Hill. Cars speed and there are visibility issues. Cars living on the hill have difficulty backing out of driveways. This has been an ongoing problem for the community for many years. SDOT installed a yellow flashing light and a slow down sign and these measures have made little difference. LCC will follow up on this again.

3. Sock Drive: It is time to start collecting socks for the holiday sock drive. Last year the North Precinct collected about 4000 pairs. Two thousand went to the UW Foot Clinic for the homeless and low-income clients. The rest went to transitional housing and the North Precinct Community Police Team keeps a few pairs to give out to individuals in need of clean socks.

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported that the SR520 Coalition continues to work for a better solution for the design of the new bridge. She reported that funding is still missing for WSDOT to complete the western side of the bridge, and have substituted a plan called WBAN (West Bridge Approach North) to bring 6 lanes into 4 at Montlake. The Coalition will be led by McAleer as the other leader has health challenges. She will report more details at the next trustee meeting after WSDOT reveals its new plans.

Battelle/Talaris Historic Nomination: Friends of Battelle/Talaris discussed the upcoming meeting of the Landmarks Board to consider the nomination of the Battelle/Talaris property for historic status. Representatives from the Friends group pointed out the historical significance of the original design and the integration of the site design with the buildings. The representative for the property owner said they have no position on the nomination; they just want to preserve their development rights.

Story Swett asked why LCC wanted to intervene in the process. Eglick responded that LCC has a legally protected interest by virtue of the succession of settlement agreements that run with the land. He added that LCC would like a place at the table when controls and incentives are developed.

LCC asked Nathan for a copy of the historic inventory prepared by Michael Sullivan. Nathan refused, responding that the report is proprietary. It was pointed out that the owner is trying to control the data and analysis. LCC would like to see independent review. Nathan responded that he thinks they are being reasonable. He said the George spoke out of turn when he offered to share reports and studies.

Eugenia Woo said she'd never known of a group intervening in the process. Eglick responded that it is rare. He pointed out that the Code and ordinance are unclear and no procedural rules have been adopted in 30 years.

Woo asked about the difference between an interested person of record and a party of record. Eglick responded that LCC wants both. LCC wants a place at the table throughout the process, including if the matter goes to the hearing examiner.

Roberta asked why LCC didn't officially support the nomination to begin with and what happens if the board does not allow the intervention. Eglick responded that the latter would render the process defective. But, it means that LCC has reserved its right to question the outcome. LCC is not seeking to take ownership of all of the work the Friends group has done in the last year—LCC just wants a place at the table because of its legal interest in the property. Story asked about the difference between a request for support and intervening. Eglick responded. Story said he wants to protect the independence of his group despite the support and common interests of the community club.

Jan Sutter pointed out that they will not have a seat at the table during development of controls and incentives. Eglick suggested that her group should not give up so easily on this. He said they should not assume they have no right to participate.

Nathan said that the property owner wants a viable business plan. Eglick pointed out that LCC has a much broader perspective.

Begin Executive Session at 8:15 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.