

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes
July 13, 2015
Laurelhurst Community Center

Attending: Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Linda Luiten, Connie Sidles, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Robin Chalmers, Kay Kelly, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie

Guests: Abel Pacheco (candidate for City Council District 4)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Portables at Laurelhurst School: After DPD's decision today to allow one more portable at Laurelhurst School, LCC heard from three concerned neighbors. One concern was that DPD issued a correction notice to the school and the advisory committee was not consulted based upon the new information. DPD's decision allows a departure from the 35 percent lot coverage restriction. There is a meeting tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at Kaylene Anderson's house to discuss moving forward. In the meantime, plans are underway to divide the library in half to create another classroom. Today, the Laurelhurst Blog posted on the news. Copies of DPD's decision were distributed.
2. Gun legislation: Pat and Fred Wright emailed on July 10 to tell LCC they support the gun legislation proposed by Councilmember Burgess--a firearms and ammunition tax to pay for gun safety research and prevention programs and mandatory reporting of stolen and lost firearms.
3. Car prowl: On July 7, someone broke into a neighbor's car located on 33rd and 43rd Avenue NE. The culprit stole a Swiss army knife and aux cord and rifled through the glove box and left the contents on the passenger's seat.
4. Elimination of single-family zoning: A neighbor emailed on July 7 concerned about the draft proposal to eliminate single-family zoning that was mentioned in The Seattle Times. He relayed his concerns to the Mayor's office. A copy of the Times article was distributed.
5. Talaris: Dozens of neighbors contacted LCC about the lack of mowing at Talaris. Finally, Talaris mowed, likely fearful that the tall grass might be a fire hazard on the 4th of July as neighbors warned. The workers did a dreadful job mowing and didn't mow one corner of the property.
6. Overbuilding in the Town of Yesler: Heather Newman expressed concern over yet another mega house that will be built in this area. She is working with other neighbors in the area on this problem as well as expanding the current RPZ which is just limited to football days. She will follow up with LCC.

Minutes: The board was unable to approve the May 11 minutes due to a lack of a quorum. Consideration of those minutes was deferred to until the next regular meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the June financial report.

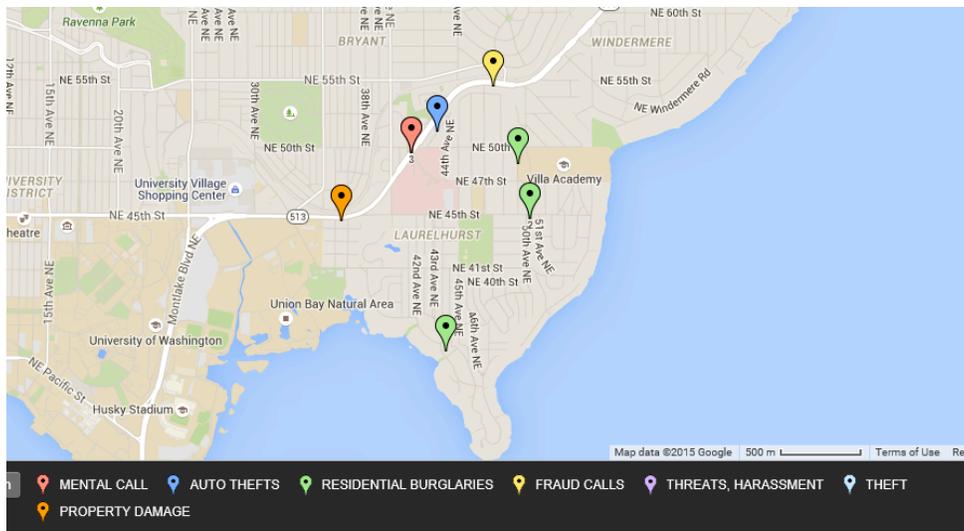
Announcements: The board reviewed the monthly NEDC announcement handout that was included in the agenda packets.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen provided an update on crime stats as of July 7:

June Crime Log, Tuesday, July 7, 2015, 6:45 AM

Date	Description of Patrol Activities
6/5	Secured packages found at home while owners on vacation
6/7	Moved group of teens out the park late at night
6/10	Checked all lake access areas by foot
6/13	Moved two people out of the park
6/14	Broke up two groups of teens with beer at the park
6/15	Moved teens out the community center parking lot
6/19	Moved group of teens w/ bonfire out of the park
6/20	Moved two groups of kids out of the park
6/23	Dispersed three groups of teens at the park having parties
6/24	Moved group of teens out of park
6/25	Cleared a party at the park
6/27	Removed small group of kids from the park
6/29	Removed teens from park and turned others away
7/3	Responded to residential alarm (false)
7/4	Moved along groups of kids from the park. Earlier potential arson being investigated by SFD for fire at storage pod at the park.



Incident Location	Initial Type Description	Hundred Block Location	At Scene Time
(47.664582314, -122.283154853)	MENTAL CALL	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	6/16/2015 8:21
(47.665708707, -122.281093501)	AUTO THEFTS	50XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT PL NE	7/5/2015 13:44
(47.663990793, -122.274704677)	RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES	47XX BLOCK OF 49 AV NE	7/4/2015 22:36
(47.661281542, -122.273498984)	RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES	50XX BLOCK OF NE 45 ST	6/17/2015 15:59
(47.653931382, -122.280759127)	RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES	35XX BLOCK OF 43 AV NE	6/5/2015 21:56
(47.668345866, -122.276588739)	FRAUD CALLS	54XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	6/23/2015 11:50
(47.664582314, -122.283154853)	THREATS, HARASSMENT	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	6/13/2015 20:30
(47.661281542, -122.273498984)	THEFT	50XX BLOCK OF NE 45 ST	6/5/2015 13:16
(47.661143638, -122.288711634)	PROPERTY DAMAGE	36XX BLOCK OF NE 45 ST	6/24/2015 10:11
(47.664582314, -122.283154853)	THEFT	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	7/6/2015 19:40

Wright reported on the recent fire in Laurelhurst Park. On July 4, the storage POD being used to house Northeast Seattle Little League (NESLL) and District 8 equipment and supplies for the 10-11 Baseball Tournament was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. Thousands of dollars worth of equipment were destroyed, and trees surrounding the unit were damaged. Initial reports indicate that the fire was intentionally set, and criminal investigations are underway. Anybody with information regarding this incident, please contact the Seattle Fire Department or Seattle Police. Fortunately, reports an NESLL representative, thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the equipment was resupplied in time to allow the tournament to proceed without interruption.

Shorebird Mitigation Update: Sidles reported that Rep. Gerry Pollet was trying to put together a meeting of decision-makers from the UW, WSDOT, US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Ecology to pursue the restoration of shorebird habitat at Union Bay Natural Area. LCC would hopefully be included in such a meeting as well.

Proposed Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines: Sidles briefed the

board on this proposal. Background materials and a draft letter were included in the agenda packets.

According to the Park Board, the Supplemental Use Guidelines are aimed at serving as a transparent tool to evaluate use proposals in Parks' classified Natural Areas and Greenbelts. This draft tool includes a check list of criteria that will allow for low-intensity, passive and active recreation activities while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment. It will provide criteria to determine the compatibility of activities in these areas, their design character and level of use; while providing access, opportunity and sustainability.

The intent of this effort according to the Parks Department is to develop values-based guidelines for the appropriate use of Seattle's natural areas and greenbelts. This process will result in a vision for natural areas and greenbelts that will maintain the native forest ecosystem protect public safety and enhance positive uses over the long-term. Others see the guidelines as a step towards destroying natural areas. The deadline to comment is July 16.

Sidles recommends that LCC oppose the draft proposal which is consistent with LCC positions in the past on protection of open space and shorebirds. Specifically, the draft letter states:

* The City Council's Resolution 28653, adopted in February 1993, makes a distinction between "open spaces" and "greenspaces." The natural areas and greenbelts in the proposed Use Guidelines conflate these two definitions, to the detriment of the original natural areas and greenbelts set aside in 1993.

* These original areas were deemed essential to preserve natural landscape and habitat for wildlife; provide natural buffers between land uses; mitigate noise and air pollution; reduce the need for constructed storm water systems; and preserve the quality of natural drainage systems and enhance the stability of the land.

* Every one of these purposes would be significantly changed and probably harmed by the proposed Use Guidelines.

* Seattle is going to experience significant population growth. We will have even more need of our greenspaces than we do now, and for the same purposes: low- or no-impact activities to connect people to quiet oases of nature; enhancement of natural processes to improve water and air quality and prevent erosion and landslides in these very sensitive areas.

* LCC does recognize the importance of creating more opportunities for people of all ages to engage in outdoor, active recreation. In fact, we pledge our support to help further such efforts. But active recreation in natural areas and greenbelts simply does not fit the needs of our citizens, our wildlife, or the sensitive landscape preserved in greenspaces.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the draft letter will be emailed to trustees, who will be asked to vote to approve it so that it can be sent to the appropriate recipients.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety: Chalmers asked Hale to report that SDOT delivered the SLOW DOWN signs he has been requesting for ages. All it took was for him to ask Scott Kubly, the SDOT director. He planted them in his parking strip but cars continue to fly past them at break-neck speeds.

Azalea Lace Bug Problem Update: Dexter updated the board on her efforts on the azalea

bug problem on the planted median on Mary Gates and NE 41st.

Boundary Lot Adjustment Notice Issue: Lot Boundary Adjustments (LBAs) are changes to the boundaries between one or more lots, which do not create any additional lot, tract, parcel, site or division. LBAs are sometimes used by developers or property owners to make existing undersized lots more developable. Development on sites created through LBAs has sometimes surprised neighbors who were unaware that a potential development site existed. In 2014, the city received 126 applications for LBAs, 75 percent in single-family neighborhoods (94). LBAs are Type I decisions for the purposes of the Land Use Code. Type I decisions are non-discretionary, administrative decisions made by the Director of the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and are not subject to appeal to the City Hearing Examiner.

On July 3, LCC wrote to the Planning, Land Use and Sustainability Committee urging that notice should be provided to neighbors and the community and that the same review process and opportunity to comment and appeal to the hearing examiner be provided as for side yard and backyard houses. LCC's letter is included in the agenda packets.

Thanks to an amendment from Councilmember Nick Licata during the side yard / backyard process, Ordinance 124475 stated the Council's intent to consider alternative or additional notice requirements for boundary lot adjustment applications due to concerns raised at that time and the similar impacts on surrounding neighbors.

46th District State Representative Gerry Pollet also wrote a lengthy and compelling letter on July 6 supporting notice and urging that notice by bulldozer end. He pointed out that the problem has arisen because DPD changed its interpretation - varying from the interpretation of other cities barring use of a boundary lot adjustment to create a new buildable lot which does not meet minimum lot size and building requirements. He added that the City Council Central staff's memo is seriously flawed in failing to discuss that the boundary lot adjustment statute, RCW 58.17.040 does not allow for boundary lot adjustment (BLA) to result in a new buildable lot, and other jurisdictions do not allow such use.

Laurelhurst Blood Drive: Hale reported that Bloodworks Northwest (formerly Puget Sound Blood Center) would have a truck stationed at the Laurelhurst Community Center on July 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. She said that neighbor Thomas Mallick was organizing the blood drive and needed 36 donors to qualify for a \$400 scholarship. She urged all the trustees to both donate blood and spread the word.

Talaris Update: McAleer attended the Seattle Landmark Board on June 17, 2015. Nathan Rimmer addressed the Landmark's Board with a request for a six month extension for developing detailed options. Several LM members inquired why the extension, and how many times an extension had been granted. Rimmer replied that the "staff" also concurred that it will take more time to answer their questions and continue to develop a suitable plan for the site and the owner, and the Landmark's designation requirements.

Board members also requested that a new tour be given as there were many new board members, and it will be a significant decision. The staff answered that they would be coordinating with the Talaris group, and it would be soon (for the tour).

Colleen spoke during the public comment period after the owner's representative. She asked that the Landmark's Board become aware (for the record) of the deteriorating conditions of

the designated site. McAleer showed six (8 X 10) inch photos of the current site showing the burnt out grasses over 12 inches in length surrounding many of the landmarked buildings, and growing wild in the midst of the landmarked landscape. LM Board members expressed concern, but the board chair and staff noted that they have no jurisdiction over maintenance issues on designated sites. One LM board member stated that the Seattle Fire Department be contacted for assessing potential fire hazard conditions.

The LM board granted a 3 month extension, wanting another update sooner than requested on their progress with the LM Board and owners.

The Friends of Battelle were in attendance, but did not comment.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:27 p.m.
Minutes by Connie Sidles