

LCC Trustees Meeting  
Laurelhurst Community Center  
June 11, 2012

Attending: Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Elizabeth Graham, Jeannie Hale, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAlleer, Liz Ogden, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Kristen Curry (leave of absence), Kay Kelly

Guests: Donna Breske, Lisa Harbert, Robert King

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

Seattle Rainwise Program: Lisa Harbert and Donna Breske briefed the board about the City's Rainwise Program. They took a training course on the program and are certified to provide instruction to community groups. The City has implemented this program in four areas of the city including Laurelhurst to address issues associated with rain that falls on our roofs, driveways and other hard surfaces and carry pollutants to our creeks, Lake Washington and the Puget Sound. The storm water also can flood homes, cause sewer overflows and erode hillsides and stream banks in heavy rains.

The program was prompted by EPA standards. If the runoff issue is not addressed, the City will incur fines and penalties.

The services offered include rain gardens/cisterns, design, construction, infiltration testing, plant determination and warranted installation. Participating neighbors will receive a discount on utility bills. Informational materials were provided and also included in the agenda packets.

Laurelhurst Playground Project: On May 30, Robert King, Co-Chair of the Laurelhurst Elementary Playground Committee, contacted LCC about a possible \$500 contribution for the cement foundations for the new sides of the north playground. They are set to resurface and add an additional structure to the existing playground equipment. King is at the meeting tonight to address the board. It turns out that the school has sufficient funds for the project. King briefed the board on the project.

The North Playground renovation at Laurelhurst School will include expansion of the existing playground by 455 square feet, an ADA accessible ramp, new wood chips, and a new play structure with slides that allow access by preschool LASER children. The new ADA curb will cost \$5,000; the playground equipment will cost \$23,000 and the paving will cost \$43,000 (which includes a ten percent contingency as required for public bidding by the school district).

Sources of funding include a Department of Neighborhoods neighborhood matching fund grant, Seattle Children's Hospital, Laurelhurst PTA, Laurelhurst Elementary

Foundation, Windermere Foundation, surplus funds from the previous south playground renovation project, the annual golf tournament, annual fundraisers and individual parents and neighbors.

Construction begins the third week of July.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Belvoir Place Park: Dexter followed up on the May 12 complaint from a neighbor about lack of maintenance at Belvoir Park Place. She contacted the Parks Department and they indicated that they would prioritize the cleanup of this site.
2. Floating billboards: On May 18, Jean Amick forwarded information about a plan to allow floating advertizing on barges on the lake. The City Council does not seem to be inclined to allow this activity but the developer is relentless.
3. WSDOT worker misconduct: Jean Amick and other neighbors emailed on May 22 to report concerns about workers on the SR 520 project caught on camera drinking beer during the work day. This was reported on KOMO TV news.
4. Ivanhoe short plat: Ogden did substantial research on the short plat issue on Ivanhoe brought to the board by Robert Kling last month, researching sewer maps and combined sewer overflow plans. LCC's letter is included in the correspondence packet.
5. Thank you: Flooring American posted a notice on their sign about the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor's Town Hall. The added publicity made a difference as 90 neighbors attended the meeting.
6. Waterway No. 1: In the last month, Judith Thornton contacted LCC to report soil erosion where the big laurel hedge was removed. She also indicated that she was getting a bid to plant grass in the area where the hedge was and said that the Friends group was willing to pay the cost of getting the grassy area extended. Regarding the erosion issue, LCC contacted Doug Armintrout and he said that his landscape crew removing the hedge had mistakenly removed the silt fence that had been installed near the shoreline and that they would be reinstalling it soon to address possible erosion. In visiting the site, LCC noted that the erosion due to the recent rain had been minimal. LCC has been in touch with its horticultural expert and consultant to inquire about procedures to replace and plant grass.

On May 26, Thornton emailed DNR and LCC to inquire about the concrete and rocks "stored" in the area where the hedge was removed. LCC responded that the rocks are not being "stored" and will be used as a part of the project.

On June 1, Thornton emailed the mayor's office prior to his tour of the neighborhood with misinformation about the Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project. The mayor's office forwarded this message to LCC. Thornton incorrectly stated that her group's plan is substantially different than LCC's approved plan. The plans are actually similar and LCC hopes to incorporate some elements of their plan in the future. She

incorrectly stated that LCC's plan violates the Shoreline Management Act—it does not. She states that LCC took over the site last month, when actually LCC began work on the waterway in 2005 and entered into a contractual agreement with DNR to enhance, restore and maintain the site in 2008. She states that there has been substantial erosion of soil into the Lake as a result of the hedge removal. There has been minor erosion and a silt fence that was mistakenly removed will be reinstalled to address this issue. She finally states that her group is not authorized to participate in planning for revegetation of the site. This again, is not true. LCC continues to invite her group's participation in the process. LCC responded to the mayor's office about these issues.

On June 8, a neighbor inquired about the flyer from the Friends group. She was confused about what the plan is for the waterway because the flyer had different information than what has appeared in the *Laurelhurst Letter*. LCC sent the neighbor the letter LCC had sent to the Friends group about their flyer. On June 11, neighbor Louise Louthy emailed with questions about the waterway and the plan for moving forward. Information was provided and she was invited to participate in future work parties.

On June 10, LCC noticed that vandals had moved the piles of most of the one and two-man rocks to the shoreline edge. LCC will be in touch with SDOT about this and will explore putting the chain and lock back on the metal poles to prevent trucks and heavy equipment from entering without authorization.

Today, DNR emailed LCC thanking it for its excellent report of the recent work parties and the Mayor's visit to the waterway. LCC's letter will be in next month's correspondence packet.

7. Parking requirements for major institutions: On June 6, Heather Newman emailed after receiving the agenda for CUCAC's meeting tomorrow. The agenda listed the provisions of the current "regulatory reform" proposal that would eliminate minimum parking requirements for major institutions (colleges and hospitals). The UW wanted to cancel the meeting stating that it is a non-issue. The meeting will move forward tomorrow. LCC's letter opposing eliminating minimum parking requirements for major institutions is included in the correspondence packet. Today, Councilmember Nick Licata indicated that he is proposing an amendment that would exempt hospitals from the proposal.
8. Boarding houses: On June 6, LCC learned of a proposed DPD rule governing boarding houses in neighborhoods. LCC requested and received the draft rule and is in the process of reviewing it. Heather Newman who follows issues relating to the two "boarding houses" in the Town of Yesler was "cc"ed on LCC emails to DPD on the topic and has had several exchanges with DPD regarding the proposed rule. She has shared her message exchanges with LCC.
9. Utility Project: In the last week, Mike Eagan from SPU has been in touch in response to LCC's inquiry that some neighbors on NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street did not receive notice about the upcoming utility project. Eagan responded that two notices came

back as “undeliverable” and that they have responded the required notice area. He added that the house numbers affected are 3718, 3710, 3706, 3540 and 3500 on NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. 4102, 4109 on 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 4100 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The side sewer to 3718 will be re-routed within the public right of way on 38th Ave NE. SPU will notify neighbors in advance of water shutoffs.

10. Little League: On June 10, Dan Bernard, coach of 12 seven and eight-year-old boys this season on an NESLL coach-pitch team called the Tigers, emailed to thank LCC for sponsoring his team. They made it to the semi-final round for the playoffs and sadly lost an exciting game to the Yankees.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the May 14, 2012 minutes. On page 1, item 4, add “and removed the 30 MPH sign” at the end of the section and on page 2, item 8, change “Claude” to “Claudine.” Motion by Weissman, seconded by Ogden to approve the minutes as corrected. *Motion passed with all voting yes, and three abstentions (Sorscher, Luiten and Wright).*

Treasurer’s Report: The board reviewed the monthly treasurer’s report that was included in the agenda packets. Dexter answered questions. She has included a separate document on committed funds.

Election of Officers: Motion by Weissman, seconded by Ogden to reelect Hale as president, McAleer as vice president and Dexter as treasurer. *Motion passed unanimously.* Sorscher will be stepping down as secretary. He has agreed to continue this work until a replacement can be found. There are currently vacancies on the board. LCC especially needs someone to help with emergency preparedness and the annual traffic circle cleanup.

Announcements: The July trustee meeting will be cancelled due to vacation schedules unless something pressing arises.

#### REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen distributed an updated map of crimes in the neighborhood. There was a suspicious man on June 1, stolen items were found on May 30, a van was stolen on April 29 and a car stolen on May 23. There were no car prowls last month.

Luiten updated the board on last month’s NPAC meeting. There were eight homicides in the North Precinct so far this year. The speaker was Lisa Mulligan, King County Metro Chief. They provide staff 24 hours a day including 12 bike officers and eight detectives riding in plain clothes on buses in high crime areas. The ride free zone will end on September 29.

#### Primary Ballot Measures:

1. Library Levy: The library levy would authorize a levy lift on property taxes of up to \$122,530,099 over a seven-year period to support library hours and services and to update technology and maintain library facilities. In 2013, total City taxes collected would not exceed \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value and the levy amount could

not grow by more than one percent per year. Funding would be provided in four categories: hours and access, collections, technology and maintenance.

With the economic downturn and cuts to the city budget, continued library funding is in jeopardy.

In 1998, voters overwhelmingly passed a measure that funded construction of the new Downtown Main Library, four new branches, and renovated all existing Library branches. LCC supported this measure.

Motion by Weissman, seconded by Sorscher to support the library levy with the caveat that existing funds not be cut. *Motion passed will McAleer, Ogden and McMullen abstaining.*

2. Children and Family Justice Center Property Tax Levy: The King County Council unanimously approved placing before the voters in the August Primary a property tax proposal to construct a new Children and Family Justice Center. If approved, this new facility would replace the aging Youth Services Center located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Alder in Seattle.

The legislation asks voters to approve a nine-year property tax levy lid lift of seven cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, which would raise approximately \$200 million for construction of the Children and Family Justice Center. The cost to the median homeowner in King County would be less than \$25 per year. The revenue from the proposal would replace the three buildings on site—the Alder Tower, Alder Wing, and Youth Detention Facility. Five judges and two commissioners at the juvenile court handle 3,700 cases a year in the facility. The annual average daily population in the facility is approximately 70 individuals.

Motion by Luiten, seconded by Weissman, to support the measure. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Livable Streets Open House: Two years ago, LCC along with many other groups cosponsored Seattle Children's first Livable Streets open house. Another event is planned on Saturday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children's is asking if LCC would again like to cosponsor the event. Motion by Chang, seconded by Wright, to cosponsor the event. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Town Hall/Annual Neighbors Meeting Wrap-Up: We had a successful Town Hall and Annual Neighbors Meeting on June 2. Wright, McAleer, Ogden and Hale participated in the Mayor's van tour of the neighborhood and were joined by trustees Chang, Kelly, Luiten, Dexter who served as greeters and helped with logistics at the events. Hale opened the program and Ogden served as moderator.

On the van tour, the first stop was Flooring America, as the Mayor wanted to visit a local business. Jim and Illaria Heiderich, owners of our newest business, were thrilled that the Mayor took time to stop for a visit. The second stop was SUN Park and Wright provided an excellent briefing on the history of the project. The third stop in south

Laurelhurst was a perfect location to see firsthand the SR 520 bridge and its proximity to Laurelhurst and to discuss issues associated with the SR 520 bridge. The Mayor shares LCC's concern that the state has only partial funding for this \$4.65 billion project and that there is no funding for the west side past the high-rise bridge.

The final stop was Waterway No. 1 where Ogden took the lead in the van and on site briefing the Mayor on this history of the site, LCC's contractual agreement with DNR and progress that has been made. Representatives from Save Union Bay Association (SUBA) were on hand to brief the Mayor on their efforts to manage milfoil and other invasive weeds and rodents. Nearby neighbors from Friends of Waterway 1 also showed up to meet the Mayor and to promote their plan and vision for the waterway. LCC continues to encourage those neighbors to work with us as we move forward.

Ogden noted that the Mayor is interested in the Laurelhurst shoreline street ends. She pointed out two of them to the Mayor on the tour. He is also interested in Yesler Swamp and the adjacent Waterway No. 2. Ogden was encouraged to update the booklet she prepared a few years ago on shoreline street ends and state waterways.

About 90 neighbors attended the Town Hall and Annual Neighbors Meeting. The flyer LCC prepared for the Town Hall and program for the event are included in the agenda packets. At the Town Hall, the Mayor provided introductory remarks and responded to questions from neighbors. Great Harvest Bread Company provided delicious chocolate chip cookies and McAleer brought some tasty baked goods. The following trustees were reelected: Kevin Chang, Kathryn Kelly, Jeannie Hale, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Don Torrie, and Maggie Weissman. Retiring trustee Elizabeth Graham was thanked for her service to the board and the community.

SR 520 Update: McAleer updated the board on the status of the federal lawsuit. Opening statements are scheduled for July 10. McAleer and Hale will attend with many representatives from other impacted neighborhoods.

Talaris Update: LCC's land use committee will be meeting with representatives from Talaris on June 13. On June 8, nearby neighbors met to discuss options for the site. Hale attended this meeting. Neighbors suggested daylighting Yesler Creek as mitigation for the SR 520 Project.

Essential Public Facilities Update: The EPF appeal is on hold for now. After undertaking due diligence, LCC attorneys determined that the appeal could not take place until after the city council passes the measure. This could be several months.

"Regulatory Reform": LCC continues to work on the regulatory reform proposals. Letters addressing detached accessory dwelling units, changes in SEPA threshold and eliminating of parking requirements in certain areas and for major institutions to the City Council are included in the correspondence packet.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:59 p.m.