

LCC Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Center
October 8, 2012

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

Excused: Kevin Chang, Brian McMullen

Jeannie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Illegal boat parking: On September 16, LCC received an inquiry about a boat trailer that has been parked on East Laurelhurst Drive NE for nearly a week making it difficult for others to park on the street. LCC responded that there is a rule against this type of parking and indicated that LCC includes an article in the newsletter about the problem periodically.
2. Car prowls: On September 25, the cars of a neighbor on West Laurelhurst were prowled. Unfortunately, the homeowners left the garage open. An iPod, sunglasses, loose change and some dry cleaning were stolen. On September 21, Michelle and Scott Summers notified LCC that their car on the 3600 block of 42nd Avenue NE was broken into. Nice sunglasses and coins were stolen.
3. Oversized houses on small lots: Neighbors continue to contact LCC about developers (one in particular) who have exploited a loophole in the Code to create very large homes in backyards and side yards that are out of character with the neighborhood and grossly intrude upon the privacy of adjacent neighbors. After the city council enacted a moratorium on this kind of development, LCC again contacted the council with suggestions and an opportunity to be involved in development of the permanent code changes.
4. Speeding drivers: On October 1, a neighbor emailed to ask LCC's advice on speeding drivers on 52nd Avenue NE on the north side of 45th which is a dead end street. The neighbor noted that the speed limit is not posted. There are 13 kids on the block, two of whom are disabled/autistic. The speeders have been belligerent when confronted about the problem. LCC responded stating the speed limit is 25 mph and further that the concern would be forwarded to Liz Ogden and LCC would be back in touch.
5. U Village: On October 5, Heather Newman emailed to ask for an update on U Village construction. An update was provided.
6. Noise: On October 6, a neighbor emailed to ask what to do about drum noises in the neighborhood that have been ongoing since December 2010. The responsible neighbor and SPD have been nonresponsive. LCC responded citing the provisions of the city's noise ordinance regarding restrictions on noise at certain hours and also

stating that the SPD considers noise complaints to be a low priority. LCC provided a link to DPD's website when noise complaints can be filed and an inspector will investigate.

7. Waterway No. 1: LCC members Claudine Lawlor and Kristin Luttinen have been working very diligently on LCC's behalf for almost two months on the basketball court resurfacing project at Waterway No. 1. They obtained three bids for the project, have selected a concrete contractor and are in the process of obtaining pledges for the project. To date, they have received \$7700 in pledges. The approximate cost of the project is \$8,975.00 excluding tax and includes a one-year guarantee on craftsmanship. The contractor has offered a seven percent discount if work begins after Thanksgiving which brings the cost to approximately \$8200.

Lawlor reports that she has been contacted several times by Judith Thornton and Kate Lloyd who both support the project. Thornton inquired about LCC's budget and Dexter provided details regarding how funds are allocated. Thornton also contacted LCC on October 7 regarding what she felt was incorrect in LCC's April 2012 minutes regarding the waterway. LCC responded.

We may need a street use permit – with a one-time \$125 fee + couple hundred dollars to review the application, plus an inspection fee – total \$490. Jeannie wrote a letter to DNR asking for clarification or a waiver of the fees, or that DNR pay the fees. Liz will check with Kate Leitch.

8. Fire! Late this afternoon, it was reported that a furnace in a home under construction on Laurelcrest Lane blew up causing a massive fire. Fifteen fire trucks were on the scene, 25 police cars and ambulances. One fire fighter was injured and taken to Harborview. Another has incurred heat exhaustion. Embers from the fire spread to the roofs of the home to the right of the home under construction and it caught on fire. The home on the other side was also affected. Embers also spread to three homes uphill on Latimer.
9. Talaris development: Stan Sorscher was asked about development of the Talaris site by Jim Rupp and Jean Gompf. The notice in the Newsletter had caught their attention. Stan said he explained that the details were very preliminary, and a public meeting would be held once more the plan was a little more settled.
10. Beach Club: A neighbor called Don Torrie about a newspaper picture of the Beach Club, printed in the newspaper, which was found in a neighbor's old house.
11. Suspicious activity: Linda Luiten said, someone was going through the neighborhood, saying he was from the Seattle Time, asking for delivery of the paper. One the Linda's neighbors called the Seattle Times, and verified the basic details of the individuals' story.

ADMINISTRATION

501c(3) Status: We need to file a form for the 501c(3) status. Trustees affirmed general agreement to move forward and pay the filing fee, which we understand is in the \$75-100 range.

Minutes: Review of the June, July, August and September minutes was deferred to the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Dexter briefed the board on the monthly treasurer's report, the report on committed funds and the Talaris/Battelle program. Emily included financial statements in the packets with actuals up to September, although some expenses haven't been billed, yet. Income is very low last month. Our legal expenses to date are somewhat over authorized amounts. **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Don Torrie to pay the outstanding expenses of \$2419. **Motion passed** without objection.

Announcements: The September NEDC announcement handout is in the packets.

1. CUCAC meeting: The next CUCAC meeting is tomorrow from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Husky Union Building, UW Central Campus, Conference Room 238. The agenda includes a tour of the newly remodeled HUB and a presentation and discussion on the schematic designs for the Maple and Terry Halls project. LCC still needs a permanent representative to that group.
2. Tweets By Beat: As part of SPD's 20/20 policing plan, *Tweets By Beat* has been launched allowing the viewing of police dispatches in each of Seattle's 51 police beats. *Tweets By Beat* works a lot like a police scanner, giving you information about what type of crimes officers are responding to, and where those crimes are happening. Details about the program are included in the monthly NEDC announcement handout.
3. Safe Communities Initiative: The meeting for the North Precinct is Wednesday, October 10 from 7-9 p.m. at North Seattle Community College. Details are on the flyer included in the agenda packets.
4. Roosevelt High School/UW Symphony Concert: This free concert features the Roosevelt High School orchestra and the UW symphony musicians. The concert is on Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in the Roosevelt High School theater.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Linda summarized the monthly crime prevention meeting for the North Seattle Precinct. Tim Burgess told the group that the City Council is trying to finish work on the North Precinct remodeling. Attrition has reduced the police staffing, and hiring will fill some of the positions. It costs about \$1 million for 10 new officers. The City is also considering a system to locate gun shots using microphones. Linda asked for help collecting socks for the sock drive. Kay volunteered.

SR 520 Update: Jean Amick and Colleen picked up a copy of a study by Nelson Nygaard, commissioned by the City of Seattle to study bicycle and pedestrian traffic on regarding a second bascule bridge.

The study found the bridge functions at a level of D for bikes and pedestrians on the bascule bridge. Perhaps the issue is the narrow sidewalk on the old bascule bridge. The City has certain triggers for the second bascule bridge. The City's triggers involve bikes and pedestrians, but do not consider car traffic. WashDOT has a separate decision-making process. The Montlake neighborhood doesn't want a second bascule bridge.

Stan Sorscher reported on a public hearing held this summer, where 3-D scale models of the Portage Bay designs were on display. Several hundred neighbors went through the displays and poster boards over the course of the day.

Bridging the Gap Large Project Fund: The City of Seattle's Neighborhood Street Fund program is now accepting applications for the third of three rounds of funding from the Bridging the Gap levy. The application deadline is December 17. Up to \$4.5 million will be spent on planning, designing and building projects selected from among those considered most important by Seattle's neighborhood district councils. District councils will pick three applications in January 2012 for SDOT evaluation.

LCC previously submitted an application for a project that would install sidewalks and curbs on the south side of NE 50th Street, curbs and gutters on the north side of the street, and repave the entire street between 50th Avenue NE and Ivanhoe. This project will be resubmitted.

Kevin Chang reviewed the old application and suggested that we should focus on the most important need for this section of roadway, namely a sidewalk along the north side of NE 50th Street. This enhancement would greatly benefit the residents in the area and provide a direct link to Villa. He added that the other components of the current request are important, but may be restricting the attractiveness of our proposal due to the added cost. A sidewalk on the south side, along with the repaving of the roadway, are certainly not any less important, but given the limited funds available, might be worth postponing for now.

Hale has been in touch with SDOT in response to a presentation at NEDC regarding incorporating art into traffic and pedestrian safety projects. The committee will continue to explore this option.

Regarding priorities, Liz Ogden cited NE 50th between Nicholas and Harold Place.

Talaris: On September 19, the board was polled and approved \$1,200 to authorize about 3-4 hours of work for our attorney, architects and Carol Eychaner for their continued interaction with the Talaris attorney and developer, and to meet/conference call with our land use subcommittee. At the time, the board was unaware that LCC was over budget on fees to our attorney and land use consultant and architect by \$1709 and \$710 respectively as we had no meeting in August and no treasurer's report in September.

Preservation of Thornton Creek School Playfield: The Wedgwood Open Space Neighborhood Coalition is collecting signatures on a petition asking the Seattle School District to reconsider their recommendation to build a second, K-5 school on the Thornton Creek School playfield. A copy of the petition is included in the agenda packet. The group says that the plan would triple traffic, degrade air quality, and significantly impact the quality of life in this neighborhood, which does not have infrastructure to deal with a project of this size.

The group asks that the school district reconsider its plans to build a new 650-student school on the groups that would eliminate playfields. In 2012, the Decatur fields were used for 430 athletic practices or games for a total of 1,051 hours. The Parks and Recreation Department has said it would have a very difficult time replacing those hours at other fields in northeast Seattle. At the October 4 NEDC meeting, the group voted to write a letter supporting the Wedgwood group.

Motion by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Emily Dexter, to write a letter to the Seattle School District, supporting the Wedgwood Open Space Neighborhood Coalition. **Motion passed** with 9-1, no abstentions.

Trustees began Executive Session at 8:30 PM. Executive Session ended at 8:55 PM.

We will invite the Talaris team to our November LCC Trustees meetings, with the intent of setting up a full public meeting afterwards. **Motion** by Colleen McAleer, seconded by Kay Kelley, to authorize up to \$2000 for Carol and Peter and two hours for the architect. **Motion passed** without objection.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM,
Minutes by Stan Sorscher