

**Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for December 10, 2007**

Fireplace Room, Laurelhurst Community Center, Seattle WA

Attending: Maggie Weissman, Mariah Joh, Cheryl Kitchin, Brian McMullen, Emily Dexter, Colleen McAleer, Don Torrie, Stan Sorscher, Liz Ogden, Joe Herrin, Mark Holden, Heather Newman, Jeannie Hale, Miriam Muller

Excused: Barb Bender (leave of absence), Mark Trumbauer, Leslie Wright

Guests:, Carol Eychaner, Nancy Field, Detective Scott Kawahara, Gisela Schimmelbusch, Hugo Schimmelbusch, Robin Chambers, Lois Jones, Patsy Sawa.

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 PM.

Jeannie Hale thanked Joe Herrin for his work on behalf of the Community Club. Tonight is Joe Herrin's last trustee meeting. He is resigning from the board in January to get involved with the AIA urban design committee and to get it steered to working on SR 520 issues.

Jeannie passed out a memorandum from Peter Eglick, an attorney who has worked with us in the past.

Children's Hospital Proposed Expansion: Copies of the Children's master planning process schedule were distributed and photos that neighbor Roy Amundsen took of the balloons at the recent CAC tour.

Hospital Consultant: Carol Eychaner, LCC's land use consultant, introduced Nancy Field, a hospital consultant with extensive experience addressing certificates of need and related hospital expansion issues. During Eychaner's review of Children's proposed expansion and her work with the State Board of Health on certificate of need issues, Eychaner sought out a hospital consultant for LCC to consider.

Carol Eychaner explained that the state approval process for hospital projects is a specialized field of expertise. Since Children's project is such a large undertaking, Carol recommended that we use a specialist to analyze it.

The State requires a Certificate of Need for new hospital construction. The approval process can be very litigious, and time-consuming. A fight for or against a Certificate of Need can be expensive either for proponents or opponents of the project. Large projects often fail to obtain approval of their Certificate of Need.

Nancy has made a preliminary evaluation of the Children's project. Children's applied in 2002 for a CoN, but not since. Typically the review process takes into account demographics, past usage trends and standard formulas. Children's uses a national planning scope in some areas, and a regional scope in other areas, so the Certificate of Need might use different demographic and treatment groups in its formulas to assess the overall need.

Nancy has requested data from the 2002 permit. A new project can use a 20-year timeline. An addition typically projects out 7 years. Nancy talked a little about the steps in the overall approval process. A CoN is valid for two years, with a two-year extension. For that reason, CoN's tend to come late in the planning process.

In addition to the State-approved CoN, a project needs to go through the city zoning and permit process. Carol said that the City Code process is fairly broad. It does require decision-makers to balance interests in the community. Children's will get the benefit of the doubt in some ways. Opponents of the project will need something solid to challenge Children's proposal.

The CoN assessment takes into account the number of beds, but a facility can be larger or smaller for a given number of beds. The length of stay, type of treatment and other factors can be considered, too.

Miriam Muller and Carol Eychaner talked about getting this information to the Community Advisory Group.

Occupancy will be much higher with single-patient rooms, since the double occupancy beds must be left empty in some situations, for medical reasons.

Nancy proposed obtaining CHARS data on Children's from the State Department of Health. CHARS data will break out usage at Children's by age, condition and other factors. Nancy could compute figures for "bed need" with demographic data, projecting out 10 years, and compute high/medium/low occupancy scenarios then compare her result to the projections presented by Children's. Nancy thinks this phase would cost less than \$5000. Nancy's hourly rate is \$190.

Miriam spoke in favor of Nancy's proposal. Miriam feels Children's has the advantage in the discussion at the CAG, so far, and Miriam would be comfortable with credible independent data to speak from.

Gisela Schimmelbusch wants Children's to develop elsewhere. Children's should decide how to make best use of the Laurelhurst campus, and develop new facilities elsewhere.

Cheryl Kitchin said the analysis is technical and we should have something credible to support our arguments. Since the assumptions are so important, she is not sure what precision our numbers will have. If we have our own analysis, we can speak to the precision of Children's projections.

Mark Holden and Maggie Weissman spoke in favor of Nancy's proposal.

Marian Joh suggested the Board consider this in closed session.

South Laurelhurst Pilot Private Security Project: On November 20, Karmann Kaplan and other neighbors distributed a letter from LCC inviting neighbors in south Laurelhurst to subscribe to the pilot private security project approved by the board. For neighbors in the pilot area, the cost per family is \$200. The boundaries of the pilot area are

approximately on the north the entire length of NE 38th Street from 47th Avenue NE and westward to 42nd Avenue NE. From this northern border, patrolling will continue to all points south to the water's edge of the general Webster Point area. The project is planned for a nine-week period from the Thanksgiving holiday through Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 21, 2008.

Uniformed, off-duty Seattle Police officers patrol four nights a week with guns and radios in their own vehicles. They monitor incoming 911 calls and can respond quickly to participating families while waiting for official response from the on duty police officers.

As background, residents of the general Webster Point area and a representative from the LCC Board of Trustees met with Seattle Police Detective Scott Kawahara on November 15 to discuss the pilot project and to work out logistics. Detective Kawahara has served the Seattle Police Department for several years, is part of the Arson/Bomb Squad and is one of the four off-duty police officers who currently patrol the Windermere neighborhood. Windermere residents feel that this program has been a very successful deterrent to crime in their area.

Brian McMullen referred to the crime log shown in a handout. About 87 households have signed up - about one-third of the homes in the area. This is somewhat ahead of expectations. On the night of Saturday December 8, at least 6 cars were prowled, some in garages. Other cars were prowled earlier in the reporting period.

Scott Kawahara, Seattle Police detective, said he was in the area on Saturday and he did not see any suspicious activity. He answered a question about the advantages and disadvantages of driving marked cars in the private patrol.

Street numbers and street signs are not well marked in this neighborhood, which makes it harder to identify and respond to reports of suspicious activity. If you have serial numbers or identifying markings on your property, it is easier to claim stolen items from police recoveries, Craig's list or eBay. In addition to police patrols, we can all help by never leaving items in our cars, by having car alarms, and locking the car.

Blue-tooth receivers and GPS navigation systems are popular theft items, now.

Maggie spoke to a neighbor who wanted to contact the officer on patrol, but did not get through. The neighbor had a negative experience when talking to two on-duty officers at a coffee shop. Officer Kawahara said he prefers a single point of contact for the community. Brian McMullen and Karmann Kaplan serve as primary and backup contacts, now. Officer Kawahara made it perfectly clear that an emergency response should be from the on-duty officers, not the private patrol.

Brian suggested a meeting where neighbors can ask questions and get answers from Brian and Karmann, but the officers will probably not attend.

Laurelon Terrace: Lois Jones, a Laurelon resident, updated LCC on Children's efforts to acquire Laurelon Terrace. Last month, the Laurelon Action Coalition formed in response to Children's desire to acquire and bulldoze their homes for hospital

expansion. They have hired an attorney to review the covenants in the homeowners' agreement.

Executive session: The Board went into Executive session around 8:30.

Motion by Stan Sorscher, seconded by Don Torrie to authorize up to \$5000 for Nancy Field to make a preliminary assessment of the Children's Hospital project for the CAG.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Liz Ogden, seconded by Marian Joh to authorize Peter Eglick's firm to make a preliminary analysis of Certificate of Need and other permitting processes, to be completed in about 2 month. **Motion passed** unanimously..

Executive Session ended just before 9 PM.

Green Legacy Levy: Dexter spoke briefly about a proposal to establish a Green Legacy Levy citizens committee. With the Pro-Parks Levy expiring in 2008, the city will lose a significant source of parks funding. A coalition of community groups has joined to advocate for continued funding for Seattle's green spaces. The idea is to address Seattle's green infrastructure needs. The coalition would like a citizens' committee set up to formulate recommendations for projects to be funded in a 2008 Green Legacy for All Levy.

Motion by Liz Ogden, seconded by Marian Joh to endorse the Green Legacy levy committee. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher