

Laurelhurst Community Club  
Minutes for March 8, 2010  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Marian Joh, Cary Lassen, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Len Nelson, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Kirsten Curry, Mark Trumbauer, Adrian Whorton

Guests: Kern Ewing, Wendy Kelly, Kevin Chang, Susan Marten, Mark Weed

Yesler Swamp Project Update: At its December 14, 2009 meeting, LCC unanimously endorsed the Small and Simple Neighborhood Matching Fund grant proposal for the Yesler Swamp Trail project. The project is a cooperative effort between the community and the University of Washington to restore the native plants of the Yesler Swamp, protect and conserve local wildlife, and minimize human impact on the wetlands. The steering committee meets monthly and hosts work parties. There is a video of the January work party on You Tube (<http://yeslerswamptrail.wordpress.com/>). At its March 4 meeting, the Northeast District Council unanimously endorsed the project.

Kern Ewing and Wendy Kelly talked about plans for the swamp area, which is part of the Union Bay Natural Area - 76 acres total. Their goal was to restore the area, removing invasive plants. They applied for a Small and Simple Grant but their request was denied. Some Audubon members object to the boardwalk, saying it would disturb habitat and disturb the birds. Kern says various specialists had suggestions for improving the habitat. Volunteer work continues on removing invasive plants and replanting native species. Native species would differ from the plants typical in the rest of the city. This would be a relatively unique site that would support specialized species in a variety of micro-species.

The trail hasn't been designed, yet.

Kelly asked for a financial commitment, in lieu of the small and simple grant. Kelly is working on other grants, in the meantime. Design would not be covered in those grants. Design is estimated to cost \$19,000, and the project has \$3,000 so far.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh passed out a financial report through the end of January. Susan Marten asked to see reports for each month. Marian said she did not think it was appropriate to reveal all monthly figures, although if the Board voted to do that, she would. We have an annual audit which fulfills our obligation as a Board.

Minutes: The board reviewed minutes from February 8, 2010. **Motion** by Brian McMullen, seconded by Colleen McAleer to approve with corrections that Leslie Wright was excused, and that on page 7, in the SR520 update, the reference to Alternative A+ should have been that it was "Alternative A" which may not have enough ramp

capacity. Also, in that paragraph, Mayor McGinn wants to consider light rail, rather than Sound Transit. Finally, in that report, the last paragraph should read, "Mark said Alternatives A and A+ have the smallest footprints, although Colleen has a different impression. " **Motion passed**, with Leslie and Marian abstaining.

Meeting logistics: Jeannie Hale surveyed other groups to see where they hold meetings. St Stephens wants to charge us \$25 per month. One possibility is to run ads for the church in the Newsletter, as an in-kind payment.

Changes to the Agenda: Add reprint of the Laurelhurst history book.

**CALLS AND CONCERNS:** Since the last trustee meeting, just about all of the calls and emails from neighbors related to the compromise reached between LCC and Children's Hospital.

The following neighbors emailed to congratulate LCC: Andrea Early, Daniel Ederer, Marian Mullally, Samantha Everett, Mike Wayte, Heather Newman, Adam Bruckner, Beth Alderman, Penelope Percy, Michael Ryan, Phil and Star Fleckman, Lance Dahl, Eugenia Smith, Jim Madden, Dean and Tomilynn McManus, Linda Dee, Jean Amick, Tom and Margo Dee, Jennifer Biely, Maryanne Spangler, Scott Fallis, Jo Moniz, Barb Bender, Bev Kelleher, Clark Sorensen, Mark Weed, Buck Ferguson, Jim Schnitzius, John Maloof, Berta Cohen, Paul Klemond, Helen Belvin, Michael Perlman, Mark Revere and Lance Dahl. Trustees reported that many others have contacted them with thanks for LCC's efforts.

Congratulations also came from many others in other parts of the city: Julian Wheeler from the Roosevelt area, Cheryl Trivison from a local tree group, Janet Way from Shoreline, Irene Wall from Wallingford, Charles Prestrud from Haller Lake, George Holzapfel from Hawthorne Hills, Diana Kincaid from View Ridge and Gail Chiarello from View Ridge who emailed from Argentina.

Len Nelson mentioned the lane closure on Montlake to revise the entrance into the University parking lot. Discussion of the idea of dirt removal using a conveyor and barge instead of trucking it out.

Brian got a call about Landscaping on NE 41<sup>st</sup> St. - who takes care of which sections? Three parties maintain the medians - LCC, Talaris and UW.

Mark Weed asked why the strobe flash all the time at five corners? Other camera locations don't seem to flash so much.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Please see the NEDC announcement handout.

2. Waterway No. 1: Judith Thornton submitted a nomination for Waterway No. 1 for state historic status. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will consider the nomination at its May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. Rental inspection program: During the 2006 city budget process, LCC supported funding for a proactive rental inspection program. Currently, there is no way to enforce the owner-occupancy requirement for accessory dwelling units because DPD is not allowed to enter premises unless invited by the owner or a tenant. The apartment owners association has consistently opposed any rental inspection program. In 2007, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that a mandatory city housing inspection program based on periodic inspections and certifications by landlord-selected private sector inspectors, does not violate state or federal constitutional protections from unreasonable searches or invasions of privacy. Now, the state legislature has acted on the issue in passing Substitute Senate Bill 6459. This bill would allow local municipalities to require landlords to provide a certificate of inspection as a business license condition. The bill also provides for search warrants to allow housing inspectors to enter premises to see if there are code violations.
4. The online credit card utility on the web site has been fixed, finally. We will refund the foreign transaction charges for anyone who asks.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian's report showed a couple of car prowls on the Boulevard - broken locks, which is unusual, and one car stolen. One night-time house burglary was reported to police. Cary Lassen says this is happening in the north area. In many cases, the houses doors were not locked.

Graffiti is starting to appear on the Burke Gilman Trail, behind University Village. City Council member Tim Burgess wants to toughen graffiti laws. The City Attorney doesn't have resources to prosecute graffiti. Businesses should paint it out immediately. The City provides free paint to volunteers who want to paint over graffiti.

SR 520 Update: Jeannie and Colleen wrote a letter asking for more time to comment on the Supplemental DEIS. The roadway will be elevated to allow service from below. Mark Weed says legislation passed today will limit the height to 20 feet above the lake level. The Governor said the reduced height is a response to public comment.

Tolling on SR-520 passed the legislature and will start in 2011.

A feasibility study was authorized (SB 6392) to look (again) at light rail on 520. The bill provides for several working groups with different goals.

Mark passed out some notes on the SR-520 project.

Cary is thinking about the STP bicycle event which will bring 16,000 cyclists through the Montlake corridor. With the construction, this will be an exceptional challenge.

Red Light Runner Update: The bill in the legislature that would have limited fines for red light runners to \$25 did not make it to a vote. This means the bill is dead for this session. Council members Conlin and Licata contacted LCC about the proposal. On March 3, U.S. District Court Judge John Coughenour ruled against drivers challenging the current law.

The plaintiffs argued that the program provided an unfair incentive for the companies to find people running lights. But the judge ruled that the contracts with those companies were legal because the amount collected in fines affected when the companies were paid, not how much. The cities named in the lawsuit were Auburn, Bellevue, Bonney Lake, Bremerton, Burien, Federal Way, Fife, Issaquah, Lacey in Thurston County, Lake Forest Park, Lakewood, Lynnwood, Puyallup, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma.

#### Children's Hospital:

1. Joint Committee: Ten trustees responded electronically approving the framework for the joint committee that is included in the agenda packets. Four of those responding thought LCC should have one alternate to the committee, rather than two as proposed. Today, Children's responded and said the approach outlined is fine with them. Lisa Brandenburg added that either party can request additions, changes or clarification as we move forward. She thought early June would be a good time frame to review and discuss the proposed phase 1 of expansion. Hale and Sorscher expressed interest in serving as reps to the committee and McAleer and Lassen as alternates.
2. Update: LCC's settlement agreement with Children's received widespread media attention. Articles appeared in *The Seattle Times*, the *Post-Intelligencer* and the *Puget Sound Business Journal*. All local television stations and several radio stations covered the event and interviewed representatives from LCC and the hospital. Both LCC and the hospital are hopeful that the City Council will endorse the recommendations in the settlement agreement. The remaining issue to be resolved is comparable replacement housing—how much Children's should be required to pay for the demolition of 136 units of moderate income housing.

Carol Eychaner will prepare a list of upcoming plan implementation activities/processes that LCC may want to monitor and potentially participate in. She will do this as soon as the City Council takes final action on the master plan. She is willing to assist LCC with implementation activities if LCC is interested and will prepare a budget as the process moves forward.

Children's has proposed \$5M for housing, although the obligation is to provide equivalent replacement housing. John Fox objected to the appeal from the Major Institutions Coalition, saying they raised new issues that were not in the record. We expect a decision in late March.

Lisa Brandenburg has asked who might serve on the Standing Committee.

Carol is working on future items for planning purposes. Carol will give us an estimate.

Marian and Lisa had talked about a joint mailing to the neighbors. That could be a good first item for the joint committee.

Cary mentioned that two houses are empty near her house. The housing market may be picking up in North Seattle. Len's concern about maintenance could also be raised with Children's.

City's Spring Clean Project: Spring Clean is Seattle's premier public space cleanup program. This annual project runs from Thursday, April 1 through Monday, May 31. It is an opportunity to clean up and beautify neighborhoods. Projects include litter pickups, removal of invasive plants such as English ivy, weeding and general upkeep of traffic circles and planting strips, storm drain stenciling, and graffiti removal. Spring Clean participants are eligible to receive FREE resources from Seattle Public Utilities, including bags, gloves, safety vests, transfer station passes, and waste pick ups. Groups must fill out a registration form to be eligible for resource support.

History Book Reprinting: Barb Ragee is working out the logistics to reprint Laurelhurst's popular history book. She estimates the cost will be \$5,000. **Motion** by Marian, seconded by Leslie Wright to authorize up to \$5000 to print new history books. **Motion passed**, with Brian and Colleen abstaining.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.  
Minutes by Stan Sorscher