

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for January 11, 2010
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Cary Lassen, Leslie Wright, Kirsten Curry, Jeannie Hale, Colleen McAleer, Emily Dexter, Stan Sorscher, Mark Trumbauer, and Brian McMullen,

Excused: Len Nelson, Don Torrie, Marian Joh, Maggie Weissman (leave of absence)

Guests: Beth Joffe, Susan Marten, Stephanie Heffner, Dixie Jo Porter, Jaimee Mader, Debbie Anderson, Karen Ko, Mike Eagan, Seattle City Light; Matt Haba and Jack McCullough, University Village;

Laurelcrest Lane City Light Project: Mike Eagan from Seattle City Light briefed the board on a project to significantly upgrade the electrical system on Laurelcrest Lane (approximately in the 4900 and 5000 blocks). The project could begin as early as late January. The work involves replacement of the buried 4,000 volt power cable with a new 26,000 volt cable encased in a concrete electrical duct. New underground vaults will be installed to house transformers, switches and other electrical equipment. The project will involve intermittent power outages and there will be significant traffic and parking disruptions, as well as construction noise and vibration.

Construction is scheduled for 90 days, then a period of time for pulling the wires. After the work is done, restoration will be "in kind."

City Light has scheduled a meeting for neighbors on Wednesday, January 20 at the community center. The project manager and the contractor will be at the meeting to answer questions.

University Village DEIS: Matt Haba and Jack McCullough briefed the board on the DEIS for University Village's plan for a phased development of portions of its site to provide up to an additional 527,500 sq. ft. of retail development (158,800 sq. ft. of net leasable area) together with approximately 638 net new parking spaces. The proposed development projects would be implemented in phases between 2009 and 2014. Project includes 17,900 cubic yards of grading. Written comments on the DEIS may be submitted through February 2 at 5 p.m. and at the upcoming public hearing. The public hearing to gather comments on the DEIS will be held on January 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture in NHS Hall, 3501 NE 41st Street.

Two build alternatives in the DEIS are a full build alternative (involves the addition of approximately 158,800 square feet of gross leasable area with approximately 638 net new parking spaces. Five buildings are proposed in conjunction with this alternative) and a reduced development alternative (involves the addition of approximately 105,000 square feet of gross leasable area and the addition of approximately 400 net new parking spaces. Three buildings are proposed in conjunction with this alternative.

The larger alternative is not the intended choice at this time.

The DEIS is of limited-scope and only addresses transportation and parking as this is the direction proposed during the environmental scoping process.

Very limited mitigation is proposed in the DEIS. Signal timing modifications to the traffic signals at 45th Street/Montlake Boulevard and 45th Street/University Village Drive is recommended to mitigate the impacts to both average vehicle delays and 95th-percentile queue lengths. Because the number of University Village employees parking off-site on local streets during the Saturday period of peak parking demand would increase by about 24 vehicles under the Full Development Alternative or by 15 vehicles under the Reduced Development Alternative, some kind of mitigation will be explored such as increasing the current transit subsidy offered and or the number of parking passes issued.

Building final designs are not done, yet. Suggestions from the neighborhood were incorporated into the planning, so far.

Q: Environmental issues? A traffic study is required. The City is aware of the contents of the report.

Q: Shuttle to light rail, especially at Christmas time? (2016)

A: Customers need to get to site. Possible drop-off site at Center building. Need to coordinate with Sound Transit and UW about use of their roadways.

Q: What about the 4th and 5th buildings?

A: No MUP application for them. The City requires "real" buildings, but planning for them is more long-range.

Q: How does QFC development affect UVillage plans? Parking for instance?

A: QFC is in an early design process. UVillage and QFC planners have met. QFC is on hold with the City.

Q: The existing North parking structure requires long drive up, with a fast way down. Can we have a fast way up in the proposed south garage?

A: South building will have bypass up-ramp, with turnoffs at different levels, so you can skip levels.

Q: Road signs to encourage people to enter on 25th Ave NE? Signs on Montlake?

A: After QFC put in the new entrance, fewer cars use 25th AVE NE. Still not sure about signs on Montlake. If neighbors make that comment on the DEIS, that would help negotiate with the City.

Q: Mitigation on traffic? Overflow on neighborhood streets?

A: DEIS is intended to elicit suggestions and ideas. Developer is not the sole source of mitigation ideas.

Q: Pipeline projects - Childrens' UW, Magnuson Park - cumulative effects?

A: Coordinate with City, review potential projects, their likelihood - QFC for instance. Timeframe sets the scope for which other projects to include. Cumulative impacts are in

the DEIS. UATRS (University Area Traffic [?? ??] has a 2030 time horizon - longer view for planning. UVillage does not benefit from bad traffic and unhappy shoppers. Bike storage room for employees with wall stands with shower facility (at capacity in the summer). More are planned. Customer biking and storage is harder to work out.

Q: Bike chicanes on entrance from Burke Gilman Trail?

A: QFC owns that entrance.

Q: Occupants?

A: Boom noodle, LEAD certification, sustainable practices.

Comments close February 2.

Northeast Seattle Together (NEST): Debbie Anderson updated the board on the work of NEST, a group endorsed by LCC. NEST is an innovative, new approach to “aging in place” that is inspiring neighbors to organize, incorporate, and take charge. The mission of NEST is to connect northeast Seattle residents to community resources and provide social and educational opportunities so that, as they age, members can live confidently in their homes and neighborhoods. The group includes 14 northeast Seattle neighborhoods (Bryant, Hawthorne Hills, Inverness, Laurelhurst, Maple Leaf, Matthews Beach, Meadowbrook, Ravenna, Roosevelt, Sandpoint, University District, View Ridge, Wedgwood and Windermere).

To date, NEST has accomplished the following:

- Developed mission statement, selected name, formed steering committee;
- Created and launched NEST website, identity and marketing materials;
- Incorporated as an organization;
- Received first individual donation of \$5,000 and subsequently received additional donations;
- Recruited NEST board, adopted by-laws, elected officers and developed a three year budget;
- Developed board committees and recruited members; and
- Applied for and was granted 501(c)(3) status.

Informational meetings about NEST are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, January 13, 6 - 7:30 p.m., University Library
- Monday, February 8, 5 - 6:30 p.m., Northeast Library
- Wednesday, March 10, 3 - 4:30 p.m., NE Library 6801 35th Ave NE

NEST has a website at www.nestseattle.org.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Consideration of the December 2009 minutes was deferred.

Changes to the Agenda: Renew our Little League sponsorship by email.

Sympathy card: A sympathy card was passed around for Glover Barnes who sadly died on December 26. In the 70's he led the charge to eliminate redlining in the Central

District. For over four decades, he worked on community issues. Dr. Barnes was Vice President of the Seattle Community Council Federation.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Private security project: In the last month, LCC's Crime Prevention Co-chairs have responded to questions from neighbors, including St. Bridget's, about expansion of the private security project.
2. Children's: Lawrence Plummer emailed on 12/14 concerned about the magnitude of Children's expansion. He asked about Children's expansion in Bellevue, a clinic and outpatient surgery center. LCC provide information. The Harley's continue to express doubts about the level of proposed expansion.
3. Tromp through the Swamp Work Party: On 12/29, Jean Colley reported that 30-35 people showed up to help at the recent Swamp work party.
4. Talaris maintenance responsibilities: On 12/29, Jean Colley mentioned that she and a few other neighbors had been doing the maintenance on the portion of the planted median that is covered by the Settlement Agreement with Talaris and that is that entity's responsibility. She said they had been doing the maintenance for the last three year periodically and didn't know that it was Talaris's responsibility.
5. Crime patrols: Debbie Tonkovich emailed on 12/19 inquiring whether increased security patrols are effective in reducing crime. As an alternative, she suggested contributions to a yet to be determined group working to reduce crime (e.g. career and/or academic interventions to struggling youth).
6. Dead trees: Two of the trees on the planted median adjacent to Talaris need replacing. They are the two that were vandalized a few years ago. One was replaced with a different species and doesn't fit in very well. The other is dead. About five or six years ago, LCC purchased 12-14 Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood' trees from a Marysville nursery. On 1/04, Jean Colley who organized the original tree purchase and planting, contacted the nursery to inquire about the availability and cost of four-inch replacement trees.
7. Fundraising suggestion: Jim Thompson who now lives on Queen Anne and who was president of LCC in the '50s contacted LCC on 1/09 about LCC involvement in a Children's fundraiser that coincides with the UW/Nebraska football game on September 18, 2010.
8. Vandalism: Trumbauer reported that the tires of Judith Thornton's car had been damaged eight times in the past few months. After Christmas, someone hopped over Jeannie Hale's back fence (there is a door and deadbolt) and took a hammer to some piping by her pump house. A house sitter was at the house at all times. The pool person services the equipment weekly and the breakage occurred after the freeze. He confirmed that it was vandalism due to the nature of the pipe breakage. Initially, it was thought that only pipe replacement would be required. Today, it was

learned that the pump, enclosed in a locked pump house was affected. The cost to repair is about \$600.

9. Tree removal: On 1/11, neighbor John Fox reported that work has begun for Sound Transit's Light Rail Stop at the University of Washington. Site clearance was supposed to be in the south parking lot. It turns out that much of the excavation is not occurring in this area. The excavation involves removal of a beautiful old grove of trees (about 148 trees).
10. Treasurer's reports: Susan Marten asked about Treasurers' report. Marian is absent. Susan asked for reports every month. Susan encouraged hearing from members about what priorities the Club should set. A budget would also be a good idea.
11. Crows: During the winter, the City does not track reports of dead crows. West Nile virus is a problem only when mosquitoes are active. With budget cuts, crow reporting may be dropped altogether.
12. Tree removal: John Fox called about tree removal at the construction site for the UW Light Rail Station. The trees will be replaced in the restoration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please see the NEDC announcement handout.

1. Waterway No. 1 Work Party: There is a work party scheduled on January 16 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 at Waterway No. 1 to remove some purple loostrife and floating pieces of debris in the water portion of the waterway. LCC has been in touch with the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about including removal of concrete from the water as there is a question as to whether that is part of LCC's Right of Entry Agreement in managing the waterway maintenance. DNR will also answer other questions about the work to be undertaken. LCC has assured DNR that any new volunteers will fill out a volunteer agreement.
2. Laurelcrest Lane Meeting: City Light will host a meeting at the community center on January 20 at _____ p.m. to review the project to upgrade utilities in that area.
3. Waterway #1: Mark Trumbauer is waiting for approval to pull concrete out of the waterway, and clean up vegetation in the water. Mark is planning a work party.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen passed out a crime report, listing all recorded incidents for the year 2009. Crime is up this year compared to last year. The Boulevard has had burglaries during the day and car prowls during the night.

Cary Lassen reported that a suspect was arrested. Police believe this individual was responsible for a lot of incidents in the area.

Cary explained the problem with Click and Pledge. Cary emailed two people who had complained about charges on their credit card statements. Both declined to accept reimbursement for the unexpected charges.

We should send messages to all our online donors explaining the situation; that we have changed out service so it won't happen again, encouraging donors to check their credit card statements.

Cary can get reports from Click and Pledge. She still needs to handle the paper checks that come to the mailbox. It would be helpful if the online service could collect contact information for the security project.

SR 520 Update: Colleen McAleer explained that Plan M is now our preferred alternative. The Legislative workgroup prefers alternative A-plus. Alternative K and L are in the State DEIS, but their proponents have deserted those alternatives. The flyer stop may come back in, and Mayor McGinn is talking about Light Rail on 520. The Sierra Club is influential with the new Mayor. Mayor Nickels was not active in the 520 project. Plan M proponents will be coordinating with the Sierra Club meeting the mayor and Tom Rasmussen, who chairs a key committee.

The East side is ready to go, and we would like that to go on hold until the entire project is approved.

Committee Consideration of Children's Proposed Master Plan: The City Council's Committee on the Built Environment (formerly the Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee) will consider Children's proposed master plan at meetings on January 13, 20 and 27, February 10 and 25 and possibly in March. No public testimony regarding the merits of the proposed MIMP will be taken at these meetings.

At the January 13 meeting, council central staff will brief the council on the proposed major institution overlay, including areas of expansion and requested height limits; the relationship between the proposed expansion and the State Department of Health's Certificate of Need process; and the city's Comprehensive Plan. Oral argument by the parties is scheduled on January 27.

Brian prepared aerial views of the country's top 10 best children's hospitals as ranked by U.S. News and World Report. Brian's illustrations are included in the agenda packets. None of the hospitals is located in single family neighborhoods. The average number of beds is 331 and the largest number of beds is 511.

Executive Session started at 9:07 PM.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:40 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher