

Laurelhurst Community Club  
Minutes for October 13, 2008  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending:

Heather Newman, Leslie Wright, Brian McMullen, Colleen McAleer, Jeannie Hale, Stan Sorscher, Maggie Weissman, Cary Lassen, Don Torrie, Marian Joh, Emily Dexter, Liz Ogden, Carry Lassen

Excused: Mark Holden, Mark Trumbauer

Guests: Dave Warner and Kristen Dean, WSDOT

Desiree Leigh, Justin Passey, Paulo Nunes-Uemo, Suzanne Petersen, Peter Steinbrueck, Ruth Benfield, Childrens  
Jody Carona HFPD

Maryann E. Spengler, neighbor

**Childrens' Update:**

Peter Steinbrueck introduced the Childrens' project, saying the development was an evolutionary process, which tried to balance the quality of life, neighborhood character and the needs of children, among other interests.

Ruth Benfield continued. The project went through a series of intermediate designs. Ruth spoke briefly about designs #2 through #7. Ruth said that the Executive Board at Laurel Terrace approached Childrens, asking to Childrens to purchase their site. Ruth talked about Alternative # 7r and concerns raised by Ravenna Bryant neighbors.

All alternatives call for roughly 1.5 million sq. ft, in addition to existing space, for a total of just over 2 M sq. ft.

Alt #4 - modest expansion onto Laurel site.

Alt #5 - existing campus - more building to the north

Alt #6 - even more development north

Alt #7 - more onto Laurel, less to the north

Alt #7r - closer to Sand Point Way, stepped back from the south edge at NE 45<sup>th</sup> St. Helipad above emergency department.

The Hartmann site is included in many of the alternatives, although CAC asked that the Hartmann site be left out of the MIO. The emergency entrance is off 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, as opposed to the current entrance off Penny Dr.

In Alternative #8, the Hartmann space moves to the SW corner of the Laurel site. A transit center is included at the intersection of Sand Point Way and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. It would connect Metro and CHMC shuttle buses.

CAC asked for increased buffer along NE 45<sup>th</sup> St.

Discussion about 140 foot and 160 foot height limits.

Transportation plan -

Q: How many trips based on square footage of the project?

A: City estimate - customized for Childrens was provided in the draft EIS. The standard estimate uses an average for all projects nationally. The LCC consultant disputed the assumptions in the draft EIS. How does Childrens explain the difference between the draft EIS and the report from our consultant? Paolo stands by the draft EIS. Paolo and Peter think the City should explain any differences.

Q: Traffic mitigation?

A: Childrens will sponsor a Flex pass, create a personalized transit plan, coordinate with transit staff, operate a shuttle linking to transit - Green line to bus tunnel, company bike program (100 enrolled in the first 5 weeks), shared bikes with electric assist to UW Med center - CHMC.

Other proposed traffic mitigation:

Sand Point/Montlake - intelligent transportation - signals sense traffic density.

Improvements in NE Seattle

Bike/pedestrian projects in NE Seattle - connection to Burke-Gilman Trail

Off-site parking (100 to 200 parking spaces per phase) - park & rides way out of the area.

Jody Carona described how Childrens sees its bed need. The Department of Health has a methodology. Using that formula, CHMC gets the number published in their brochure. The LCC independent consultant used the same formula and got a different number. Jody believes our estimate contains many errors. DOH claims data do not exist to use DOH methodology for psychiatric beds. **Peter wants the data** from our consultant to see where the discrepancies might be. Jeannie will try to get that information.

Some history of the Childrens campus: From 1983-2000 not much building. Since then, DOH methodology underestimates actual need, according to Jody. Psychiatric beds - 140 beds seems like a lot. And why on this campus, instead of somewhere else? Chronically ill patients have mental health problems. Children with eating disorder may be medically fragile. Psychiatric patients interact strongly with medical services.

### **Discussion of SR520**

Dave Warner and Kristin Dean gave an update on the SR 520 bridge project.

Dave talked about tolling on 520, the Eastside transit HOV project which will move transit to the median. Dave gave some details about the pontoon construction site.

Governor Gregoire has decreed a 6-lane replacement plus regional bike path.

For several months, LCC participated in a mediation effort to resolve differences between communities and planners. Dave went through funding, and various

interchange designs. Over time we've gone through several alternatives. He showed a large visual of Alternatives A, K, and L.

Alternative A - a second bascule bridge, plus a lid in Montlake and lid at I-5. This alternative has a high profile over Foster Island that allows light into the natural area, but it adds to noise and has a big visual effect. New design parameters are to maintain existing height, and use quiet pavement. Dave mentioned transparent noise walls as a possibility.

Alternative K - The existing interchange would be eliminated and moved to the old MOHI location. The new interchange would be depressed about 60 feet below grade. The interchange would feed into a tunnel under the Montlake cut, to Pacific interchange. Lids would cover the roadway near Foster Island, Montlake, and near I-5. Lake Washington Blvd access would go onto 520.

The tunnel being considered would have two cut & cover sections, plus a sequential excavation - freeze and [something] - section under the cut.

Alternative L - Similar to Alternative K, but the tunnel under the cut would be replaced by a second bascule bridge from 520 to the Pacific interchange.

Alternative A is cheapest, Alternative K is most expensive, and Alternative L is in between. A Supplemental EIS is required by law. A finance plan is being prepared. Funding sources are still needed.

The mediation committee needs to finish a project impact plan - noise, environmental, constructability, cost, transit interactions.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed September 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Heather Newman, to accept the minutes, correcting of the spelling of Marian Joh's name. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Marian John gave a quick Treasurer's report, presenting cash on hand, income and expenses. The Board considered the budget for the security project.

CALLS AND CONCERNS - deferred to next month.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you! Thanks to Don Torrie and Heather Newman for distributing the October LCC agenda packets.
2. Children's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings: Tuesday, October 14, Wednesday, November 12 and Tuesday, December 9. The October 14 meeting will be at Wright Auditorium, Children's Hospital, 4800 Sand Point Way. The November

12 meeting will be at Talaris. The locations for the December and other meetings have not been set. All meetings will begin at 6 p.m. The October 14 meeting will be the first working session to discuss changes to the alternatives and begin work on the preliminary draft of the CAC final report and recommendations. Subsequent meetings will continue to finalize the CAC's report and recommendations. Public comment is always welcome. The final EIS is scheduled to be available on November 10. Because of the many flaws in the DEIS, particularly relating to the transportation and traffic analyses, and the fact that new alternatives have been proposed, it has been suggested that a supplemental DEIS be prepared with a new public review and comment period.

3. View Children's updated conceptual model: Join Children's staff and architects on Saturday, October 18 from 1:30-3:30 at the Laurelhurst Community Center, 4554 NE 41st Street.
4. SUN Park: Construction of the new SUN Park will be starting in November!
5. Walkway on Sand Point: After over a decade of work on the part of LCC and the Hawthorne Hills Community Council (HHCC), the first stretch of asphalt with concrete curbs has been installed on Sand Point Way in the vicinity of the Princeton Bridge by Katterman's. Year after year, LCC and HHCC submitted street fund grant applications to the Northeast District Council. The project was rated year after year as a priority and finally funding was secured—last year for the design and this year for the first phase of the project.
6. Red Light Runner Cameras: Since start up on August 18 of the red light runner cameras at Five Corners until September 24, 919 citations have been issued for the three cameras at this location. SDOT reports that it is too early to talk about revenue, as those receiving citations have up to 60 days or so to pay before being referred to collections.
7. U Village Expansion Design Review Meeting: The meeting will be on Monday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. at University Heights Community Center, 5031 University Way NE. At this Design Review Board meeting the applicant will present information about the proposed design and how it responds to the Design Guideline priorities established at the Early Design Guidance Board meeting on June 2, 2008, regarding this site. The public may offer comments regarding the proposed design; and, the Design Review Board members will offer to the Director of the Department of Planning and Development their recommendations regarding the design. Height, bulk and scale issues will be addressed by the Design Review Board.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

##### Childrens' Expansion:

Our consultant, Nancy Field, offered to update her estimate. Nancy has worked with Jody Carona in the past.

Marian Joh suggested that we should set a goal for our involvement in the Children's project. Then we can decide which efforts contribute to that goal. Nancy Field's study, for instance may not affect the final outcome of the project.

We will try to get Childrens' data so Nancy can compare to hers. We should also get Nancy's data.

Crime Prevention:

Three crimes were reported last month - at the Union 76, someone with a gun stole an iPod. Brian McMullen passed out results of a survey of subscribers. The survey shows more support for covering the park than the area near the beach club. A map of 2007 incidents shows more crime activity toward the play field. Brian will recommend a patrol area south NE 41<sup>st</sup> St, plus the town of Yesler as the next phase of the project.

Cary announced the City budgets will be discussed at the next NE police district meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher