

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for October 8, 2007
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Mark Holden, Marian Joh, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Heather Newman, Liz Ogden, Don Torrie, Mark Trumbauer, Leslie Wright

Excused: Barb Bender, Joe Herrin, Lora Poepping (leave of absence), Stan Sorscher, Maggie Weissman

Guests: Carol Eychaner, Russ Amick, Christine Barrett, David Belvin, Andy Dale, Kathie Miners, Miriam Muller, Elizabeth Nelson, Cary Pillo, Kathleen Sabo, Ginny Sherrow, Maryann Spangler

Children's Update: Carol Eychaner briefed the board on the Children's master planning process. Trustees and neighbors at the meeting participated in the discussion.

1. The 240 event: About 150 neighbors showed up on September 15th to see the helicopter hover over Children's campus to get an idea of just how tall 240 towers would be. Neighbors gathered at the bus turnaround, across the street at the Playfield at on the overpass. Three TV stations covered the event and interviewed neighbors.
2. Community support for LCC alternatives: Hale attended the Hawthorne Hills Community Council and the View Ridge Community Council September meetings asking for support of LCC's lower scale alternatives. View Ridge did not take a position, however, Hawthorne Hills unanimously voted to support Laurelhurst. Hawthorne Hills, joins the Seattle Community Council Federation, the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association, the U District Community Council, the Laurelhurst Condominium Owners Association, the Laurelhurst PTA and the Neighbors and Property Owners of Windermere Circle in opposing Children's massive proposed expansion.
3. September 26th meeting: More than 100 neighbors attended the September 26th Children's Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. At the last minute with no time to notify neighbors, Children's moved the meeting location to its office building in View Ridge. LCC objected and asked that the meeting be kept in the neighborhood—either at the Community Center or the Laurelhurst Elementary School cafeteria. LCC asked the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to send a notice to Laurelhurst neighbors about any meeting location change. DON agreed to do this and LCC provided contact information about from Alpha Mailing Service so that DON could get the 3100 mailing labels. Instead of sending out notice to neighbors, DON and Children's decided to keep the meeting at the original scheduled location at the hospital. Children's assured DON that the group could move to the hospital's cafeteria if the room was too small.

Well, the meeting room was too small. At least 30 neighbors who showed up could not get into the meeting room. Children's had its security on hand to deal with irate

neighbors and a fire marshall to keep people out. Children's staff was given a script telling them how to respond to neighbors.

At the meeting, Hale went up to the DON staff person and asked that Children's staff who were not on the agenda be asked to wait in the hallway so more neighbors could get in the room. About 20 of Children's staff and consultants left the room and neighbors were allowed to enter. But, at least 30 were not allowed admittance.

Carol Eychaner was reluctantly allowed time on the agenda to present the LCC alternatives to those proposed by Children's. LCC has proposed three alternatives. One would retain existing building heights as Children's has not developed fully under the current height limits. The other two would limit building heights to 90 feet. Square footage expansion would be limited to 250,000 square feet, but exploring greater square footage within the height limits would be allowed. There would be no expansion of institution boundaries across Sand Point Way and no new access points to the hospital on Laurelhurst residential streets.

Eychaner also discussed the issue of "need" for the expansion. Children's must file for and receive approval of a "certificate of need" from the state Department of Health. Children's last applied for a certificate of need in 2002. At that time, the Department of Health estimated that Children's would need an additional 65 beds to meet its needs through 2020. This would be a total of 315 beds, instead of the 600 new beds proposed by Children's. In estimating its "need," Children's did not use the required methodology that is used by the state health department.

At the meeting, the CAC voted unanimously with one abstention to write a follow-up letter to DPD and DON requesting that LCC's alternatives be studied in the environmental impact statement. Karen Wolf, Bryant resident and chair of the committee, abstained from voting. Wolf has been hostile to LCC, which was evident at the meeting when she rolled her eyes each time after addressing LCC's president.

The CAC invited Eychaner to the October 30th meeting to respond to questions as there wasn't time at the September 26th meeting to ask questions.

4. September 26 meeting follow up: LCC wrote to Children's in response to a glossy flyer handed out at the meeting the prior evening advertising the availability to view Children's conceptual model at the community center. Children's is only making the model available on two dates—Saturday, October 13th from 12:30-2:30 and Thursday, October 23rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Children's had not been in touch with the community center to make arrangement to have the model on display and LCC pointed that out.

LCC was puzzled as to why Children's planned to make its model available to communities far removed from the impacts of your proposed development when it is the neighbors of Laurelhurst who would like to have access. LCC asked whether Children's had heard from Rainier Valley, Rainier Beach, West Seattle, Beacon Hill and the other neighborhoods listed on the flyer about their interest in having your model on display. LCC said the clear implication is that Children's does not want Laurelhurst neighbors to see your model and get involved in the master planning

process. At LCC's request, Children's mailed notice of the availability of its model on the two dates as the short notice did not allow this information to be published in the monthly *Laurelhurst News* newsletter.

In a separate letter, LCC wrote to Children's and DON expressing concern about the apparent violation of the Open Public Meetings Act and the Major Institutions Code at the September 26th Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30, requires that all meetings be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend. Seattle's Major Institutions Code, SMC 23.69.032D2, also requires the advisory committee to hold open meetings. Although Children's has not responded to this letter, future meetings have been scheduled in larger rooms in the neighborhood.

5. Scoping Report: DPD issued its final environmental scoping report on September 24th. Copies were included in the agenda packets. LCC received the report the day before the CAC meeting and Eychaner was forced to spend considerable time responding to it in preparation for the CAC meeting. In its report, DPD has asked Children's to propose one or more additional alternatives with lower building heights. Additional alternatives should consider additional excavation to place the base of structures lower on the hillside, locating uses such as parking, utilities, laundry and food service below ground; expanding north of Penny Drive; and spreading beyond the existing boundaries if acquiring land for development appears to be feasible. Mark Trumbauer noted that he shared the scoping report with the helicopter review committee.
6. Proposed budget: Eychaner has prepared an estimated budget for services for the four-month period of September 12 through January 8. The budget includes her preparation for and attendance at CAC meetings, general work such as reviewing flyers, newsletter articles, city or Children's prepared documents and additional research and analysis of issues that arise, review of the preliminary draft master plan and EIS and preparation of comments. **Motion** by Colleen McAlleer, seconded by Don Torrie to approved the proposed budget as presented. **Motion passed unanimously**. Joh, Hale and Ogden will interview attorneys.

ADMINISTRATION:

Treasurer's Report: Joh distributed the monthly financial report.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 10th meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Children's: LCC continues to receive many emails from neighbors angry at the magnitude of Children's proposed expansion. These messages will be compiled and shared with LCC after LCC receives all of the scoping comments from the Department of Planning and Development.
2. Car prowling, theft and other theft: On 9/22 Charles Evans reported that his new Toureg was stolen from his driveway on 9/18. He said he had had numerous car prowls over the years. He asked whether any thought had been given to installing

cameras to record the comings and goings from Laurelhurst. Joh reported that someone broke into her car and stole climbing gear. The following night, all cars on 46th Avenue NE in her area were broken into. Jean Amick's bike was stolen out of her open garage.

3. Waterway No. 1: The Department of Natural Resources reported that neighbors Kate Lloyd and Judith Thornton filed a public records request regarding actions at the waterway. They apparently thought that some of the public property was going to be sold.
4. Graffiti: On 10/04, Miriam Muller contacted the Parks Department about removal of graffiti on the Playfield sign on NE 45th. Muller "cc"ed LCC. Several months ago, LCC contacted the Parks Department about the graffiti, and it still has not been removed.
5. Say NO thank you to any magazine sales people at your door! Jean Amick reported that the police department would like you to call 911 when magazine sales people come around. According to SPD, these people are usually transient in nature, coming in from out of state. To sell door-to-door in Seattle one must have a Seattle vendor license. Only two of these have been issued to magazine sellers in the last year. Even if they are legitimate, the police would like to know who they are as problems with them as a group have been escalating.
6. Suspicious character: On 9/27, Stephen Ramaley reported a suspicious man taking pictures in his neighbor's yard. The man claimed to be an assessor. He returned the following day, went into his neighbor's yard and took off when he saw people in the house.
7. Materials from car break-in: On 9/26, Rita Paragras reported finding a stack of business cards and a temporary license from a neighbor in the vicinity of 40th and NE 40. She suspected that the materials were stolen from a car that had been burglarized.
8. Neighborhood security: On 9/21, Karmann Kaplan provided info to interested neighbors regarding security in Windermere. Windermere hires off-duty Seattle Police Dept officers to patrol the neighborhood. Bob Cross is the Windermere Board member who is in charge of security. Kaplan provided the contact info for the Windermere board member responsible for crime prevention.
9. Stolen chair: On 9/20, Linda Wold reported that a wicker chair was stolen from her front porch on East Laurelhurst Drive NE, near 30th.
10. Calling 911: On 9/20, Jean Amick requested a one line item in the newsletter urging neighbors to call 911 to report ANY crime/theft, even if it is not an emergency that minute.
11. Children's drilling: Miriam Muller has raised concerns about loud drilling related to Children's construction. LCC will follow up.

12. Diesel exhaust: On 9/11, Susan Avery “cc”ed LCC on her complaint to the city about a generator on the street at 4546 West Laurel Drive NE. The generator commenced at 7:40 a.m. and within a few minutes the diesel exhaust filled parts of her home, more than 1/2 block away. She spoke to the men operating the generator for a sand blasting operation. They said the diesel exhaust would go away; it did not. They were wearing respirators. Avery called DPD to complain and was told to call the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. No assistance was provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you: Thank you to Don Torrie for coordinating distribution of this month’s agenda packets and to Heather Newman for assisting.
2. Children’s model: Children’s has agreed to have its conceptual model available at the community center on Saturday, October 13 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and on Thursday, October 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children’s will have staff on hand to answer questions. LCC will provide its materials. Children’s has not responded to LCC’s letter requesting that the model be on display without restriction at the center. Children’s did agree to mail out its flyer to neighbors to ensure that neighbors know of the opportunity to see the model. Oddly, Children’s plans to have its model on display in West Seattle, Rainier Valley, Rainier Beach, the Central Area, Ballard, Queen Anne and in other areas—despite the fact that these areas will not be impacted by Children’s proposed expansion.
3. Children’s land grab: The King County Assessor’s office is now reporting the sale or pending sale of three Laurelhurst homes to Children’s: 4736 44th Avenue NE (David and Nancy Given’s), 9/28/07, \$960,000; XXXX NE 45th Street, not yet closed; 4323 NE 45th Street, 6/12/2007, \$858,375.
4. Husky Stadium: The UW has set up a committee to develop solutions to upgrading Husky Stadium. Possibilities include 1) razing the stadium and rebuilding it on its current site or elsewhere; 2) abandoning the site and sharing Qwest Field with the Seahawks; or 3) undertaking a restoration project that could cost from \$150 million to \$450 million. The committee is recommending ripping out the 40,000-seat lower bowl built in 1920 and adding as many amenities as possible while replacing it. Other improvements include a third deck to cover a new west end zone that would provide premium seating and move fans 86 feet closer to the field; the housing of football coaches’ offices, weight rooms, locker rooms, training rooms and meeting rooms inside the west end zone complex; the lowering of the field and removal of the track, and a new press box. On a smaller scale, stadium elevators would be increased from two to nine, concession stands would multiply by 50 percent, women’s restrooms would be doubled, men’s restrooms would jump by 30 percent, and wider aisles would be assured. CUCAC has been briefed several times about the progress of the upgrade.
5. UW golf driving range: DPD has approved a permit application for the UW to construct three driving range buildings—the clubhouse, maintenance building and the covered hitting platform. The project includes installation of 337,590 square feet of synthetic golf turf, replacement of 410 lineal feet of the north fence and 16,400 cubic yards of grading and demolition of existing buildings.

The project is not what was proposed under the master plan. The height of the fence will not be raised. The project involves maintenance of the existing facility. UW staff explains that they are regarding the range and replacing the grass with turf. The fence will remain at 37 feet all the way around. There will be no double-decker facility. If there are enough funds, a new lighting system will be installed on the existing fence and range. Minor repairs will be made to the tee area. The project will be discussed at this month's CUCAC meeting.

6. CUCAC: Heather Newman will no longer be able to serve as LCC's rep to CUCAC. CUCAC meets 8-12 times per year on the second Tuesday of the month.
7. Outdoor northeast pool: Elizabeth Nelson will testify on LCC's behalf at the October 10th City Council budget committee meeting supporting funding for a feasibility study to site one or more public outdoor pools in Seattle. With a plan in place, northeast Seattle neighbors can work towards getting a pool in our areas.
8. SR 520 catastrophic failure plan: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project are conducting a workshop on Tuesday, October 9 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This exercise will focus on response and restoration of a catastrophic failure of the SR 520 floating bridge. WSDOT is developing a comprehensive catastrophic failure plan, including transportation management and communications strategies, to prepare for a catastrophic failure of the SR 520 bridge. This plan is being developed in collaboration with regional jurisdictions, agencies, and other key organizations. The tabletop exercise will be a key part to developing this plan, as it will allow WSDOT to test existing response procedures, and develop and discuss possible recovery and restoration strategies. Colleen McAlleer will attend the afternoon session. Maggie Weissman and Colleen McAlleer will attend the event.
9. SNAP Program Workshop in Laurelhurst: Thursday, October 11, 7-8:30 p.m., Laurelhurst Community Center, 4554 NE 41st Street. Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP), an emergency preparedness program offered by the city, is offering a free workshop to teach you how to put together a disaster supplies kit, create a family disaster plan and organize with neighbors to take care of each other. For further information about SNAP, go to <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency/programs/snap/>.
10. Call for Artists to Display to Participate in Winter Art Sale in Laurelhurst: Deadline October 15. The Laurelhurst Community Center will host a Winter Art Sale at its center on Friday, December 14 from 4-8 p.m. and on Saturday, December 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Artists are invited to apply to display and sell artwork subject to an approval process. At the Winter Art Sale, there will be a designated area set aside for "guest artists" to display and sell their art. The Laurelhurst Community Center will provide refreshments, craft activities for children, and a "luminary park-walk." There is a \$25 display fee for each artist and a 10% fee on gross sales of all art work sold. Application forms are available from Dena Schuler at 206-615-0271 or dena.schuler@seattle.gov.

11. Red Light Runner Camera at Five Corners: On September 18, neighbors submitted a petition with 402 signatures supporting installation of red light runner cameras at Five Corners. The petition was submitted to the City Council's Public Safety Committee (Councilmembers Licata, Godden and Steinbrueck), the Mayor and SDOT. The petition included two photos of cars in the middle of the intersection while the light was red. Last week, a camera was installed near the Burgermaster for a 24-hour time period to film 5 Corners, vehicles coming west on NE 45th, where there have been many accidents. The results of the temporary camera installation will be available within the month.

12. Neighbor Appreciation Day Student Art Contest: Saturday, February 9, 2008 will mark the city's fourteenth annual celebration of Neighbor Appreciation Day. Once again the City is asking Seattle students to contribute original artwork for a contest as part of this annual event. Winning art depicts caring and active neighbors, reflecting the theme of Neighbor Appreciation Day. The winning artwork will adorn free greeting cards available at City Hall, the 13 Neighborhood Service Centers, and libraries throughout Seattle. The winner will also receive \$100. Student artwork must be received by Friday, December 14th, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Seattle students, kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to submit entries.

13. Fire Station 38 Clean Up: To prepare for the construction of Fire Station 38, the City of Seattle is cleaning up the site of a former gas station. The clean up began the week of September 10 and is scheduled for completion by the end of December. The site, located on the northeast corner of 40th Avenue NE and NE 55th Street, housed a gas station for about 40 years. To clean up the site, the City has contracted with Shannon and Wilson Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants to remove gasoline and contaminated water from under the ground.

To determine if contaminants may have moved from the site of the former gas station, tests are being conducted in the area surrounding the site. Once the testing is completed, a clean-up plan will be developed by the consultants if action is required. If further clean-up is recommended, the City will share the findings with the community after they are available. The City is pursuing resolution with the responsible parties. For further information, contact Christina Faine at Christina.Faine@seattle.gov or 206-386-1366 or go to <http://seattle.gov/firelevy/>.

14. Children's Master Plan Meeting: The next advisory committee meeting is Tuesday, October 30th from 6-8 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture. The committee has invited Carol Eychaner back to answer questions.

15. CUCAC: Neither LCC's rep or alternate to CUCAC can attend the October CUCAC meeting. LCC will try and find someone to attend to represent Laurelhurst.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: The board reviewed Weissman's notes from the October 3rd NPAC meeting and the September neighborhood crime report. Neighbors are continued to report crimes to 911.

SR 520: Colleen McAlleer briefed the board and provided an update on work with the SR 520 mediator.

On the November 6 general election ballot, voters will be faced with King County Proposition No. 1, known as the roads and transit measure or RTID. The measure would approve the next phase of Sound Transit's plan and formation of a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) and the RTID plan. The measure would provide funding for a number of transit and road projects, including funding for a six-lane alternative for SR 520 replacement. The plan would be funded by an increase in sales and use tax and an increase in motor vehicle excise tax. McAlleer noted that if passed, there would be a blank check on funding for SR 520 replacement.

The measure is supported by Washington Conservation Voters, transit groups, business and labor groups. Opposing the measure are the Sierra Club, Coalition for Effective Transportation Alternatives, King County Executive Ron Sims, Neighbors Opposing Prop 1 and others. **Motion** by Colleen McAlleer, seconded by Leslie Wright, to support Neighbors Opposing Prop 1. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Laurelhurst Rooming House: The megahouse behind the old John L. Scott is now for sale. Informational materials are included in the agenda packets. The house is described as a 10 unit "Laurelhurst Boarding House." There is no mention that the first floor is an accessory dwelling unit and that there is an owner occupancy requirement in the code. Seattle's land use code allows only 8 unrelated people to live in one house. LCC has been in touch with the Department of Planning and Development about this and will continue to follow up. Marian Joh will contact Coldwell Banker for additional information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.