

Laurelhurst Community Club  
Minutes for December 14, 2009  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Cary Lassen, Jeannie Hale, Don Torrie, Kirsten Curry, Colleen McAleer, Adrian Whorten, Emily Dexter, Brian McMullen, and Stan Sorscher

Excused: Marian Joh, Len Nelson, Leslie Wright, Maggie Weissman (leave of absence)

Guests: Jean Colley, Art Feinglass, Susan Marten, Kern Ewing,

#### ADMINISTRATION

Groundrules for Meetings: LCC's groundrules for meetings were distributed. The rules call for basic courtesy and respect for others. Those who do not adhere to basic rules of decorum will be asked to leave.

Minutes: The board reviewed the October 12 minutes, clarifying that the second bascule bridge would run "diagonally over Union Bay." Discussion by Susan Marten regarding what should be recorded in the minutes. **Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Don Torrie to accept the October minutes as corrected. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The board reviewed the November 9 minutes. **Motion** by Mark Trumbauer, seconded by Don Torrie to accept the minutes as submitted. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Center for Urban Center Trails Project: Jean Colley introduced Kern Ewing and Art Feinglass briefed the board about a trail project adjacent to CUH, the proposed "East Basin Loop Trail." This is located at the corner of NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Surber Drive beneath the blackberry bushes. The trail would wind down to the swamp of the Yesler Creek outlet, skirt a lagoon that connects with Union Bay past an active beaver lodge and then return near the parking lot of CUH. The area serves as fishing grounds for bald eagles and a breeding ground for water fowl. In addition to constructing an all-weather, handicapped accessible boardwalk over the part of the trail that is submerged part of the year, volunteers will remove invasive plants and plant natives.

Four neighbors are working with Kern Ewing on the project. Fred Hoffer, Carol Arnold, Jean Colley and Art Feinglass were inspired by a tour led by Kern Ewing.

Kern Ewing summarized the work done by students on the natural area. A loop trail was created, but much of it is underwater in the summertime. A boardwalk, up to 2 feet above ground, would be enough to keep the trail open year-round. The loop trail connects to Wakiahkum Lane by walking behind the greenhouses at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Construction needs to meet conditions for disabled access, the State Department of Natural Resources, the UW, and the City.

Art Feinglass says the natural area is a great resource for the neighborhood. Art will file a small and simple grant with the city. LCC can write a letter of support. Art would like to sponsor a swamp-walk in January. Art calls the project "The Yesler Swap Trail." Art has

a web site at [yeslerswamptrail.wordpress.com](http://yeslerswamptrail.wordpress.com). The budget for design could be funded by the small and simple grant plus fundraising revenue. In a second phase, the design would go out for bid.

**Motion** McAleer/Brian McMullen to support Yesler Swamp Trail Project for the small and simple grant proposal. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Jeannie Hale suggested getting this to the next NEDC meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh is sick, and could not provide a report.

Changes to the Agenda: Add alterative NOAA proposal and possibly CUCAC Report.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Car prowls: A neighbor provided LCC with pictures from a video capturing two young men suspected of car prowls in the vicinity of Laurelcrest Lane. Those photos were provided to the police and LCC private security.
2. Break-in: On 11/18, a house in the vicinity of Surber Drive NE and NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street was broken into between 8 and 10 a.m. It appears that the suspects first threw a baseball through a window. When no one responded to that breakage, they must have decided the house was unoccupied and then broke in the front door, apparently after breaking through a window to get to door knob. They stole a new TV set.
3. UW overflow parking: Jim Romano emailed on 11/23 to report the UW overflow parking by students and employees in the Town of Yesler. On most school days, the street parking is full by 9:30 a.m. Parkers also leave garbage behind (condoms, cigarettes, etc.). LCC will follow up as it periodically does when UW students and staff fail to follow the rules.
4. Illegal dumping: Neighbors have been dumping their extra garbage into Seattle Community Church's dumpsters. Dumping oversized or extra garbage in any dumpster (including the school's) is illegal. Seattle Municipal Code 21.36.440 states that is unlawful for anyone not authorized by the property owner or occupant to deposit any material in any solid waste container on private property. If you have oversized garbage, you may set it out for regular pick up by Seattle Utilities. Customers are charged \$7.60 for each extra bag, bundle or can up to 32 gallons and a maximum weight of 60 lbs. You can also call 206 684-3000 to request a bulky item collection.
5. NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street planted median: On 11/30, Sara Mockett emailed to ask about the lack of maintenance on the portion of the NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street planted median from where Mary Gates and NE 41<sup>st</sup> intersect up until past CUH. This is the portion of the median that the UW maintains. On 12/01, she and her husband inventoried the area to determine what work that needs to be done. On 12/04, LCC wrote a nice letter to

the University asking that they take care of their responsibilities. (LCC's letter is included in the correspondence packet.)

6. Worker in the neighborhood: On 12/02, Cary Lassen followed up with Puget Sound Energy on concerns from neighbors about a worker in the neighborhood to make sure he was legitimate. Lassen learned that this person was a PSE employee doing corrosion inspections on meters. She was told that if neighbors have concerns, they should ask for the person's contractor ID.
7. Laurelhurst RPZ: Kevin Wrenn emailed on 12/05 to thank LCC for its letter to SDOT to explore initiation of an RPZ adjacent to Laurelton. (LCC's letter is included in the correspondence packet.)
8. Red light runner cameras: On 12/09, Jean Amick reported that for the first ten months of this year, about 4,900 citations have been issued at the Five Corners cameras, 97 percent of those about evenly divided between the east- and westbound cameras (2,234 eastbound, 2,458 westbound, and just 212 total from the northbound camera on Mary Gates).
9. Private security: Since 12/09, in just six days, 35 neighbors have subscribed to the expanded private security project through LCC's website. This does not include neighbors who mailed in payments. Several neighbors emailed to thank LCC for expanding the project. The entire neighborhood will receive a letter and "tips" sheet in the mail in the next few days.
10. Moved: Neighbor Becky Johnson who LCC has worked with at CUH emailed on 11/09 to say she has moved to be closer to her grandkids. She'll still be working at CUH.
11. Children's: Tom and Margo Wyckoff emailed on 12/03 to say they hoped that Children's accepts LCCs offer to settle for doubling, rather than tripling the square footage at Children's. They were very complimentary of Peter Eglick. They noted that they have watched Children's break agreement after agreement over the years.

On 12/03, William Russell sent the article that was in the *Outlook* entitled "Seattle Children's expansion may be more business than usual" to the CAC and others. David Belvin, Jean Amick and Liz Ogden emailed on the same day to congratulate John Fox and Carolee Colter for the *Outlook* article, as did Bonnie Miller from Hawthorne Hills, Lynn Ferguson from North Windermere and Diana Kincaid from View Ridge. Jeff Jaisun from Ravenna emailed on 12/03 to respond to the *Outlook* article. He raised additional concerns about ten years of construction and the traffic and transportation impacts with the widening of Montlake Boulevard and U Village expansion. Cheryl Thomas from Portage Bay emailed to ask about how U Village expansion will affect Children's plans.

The Bingham's emailed on 12/04 to ask to be added to LCC's Constant Contact list to keep up with Children's matters. Bill Scott emailed on 12/09 outraged by the secret agreement between Children's and the city attorney's office. Beth Alderman

emailed on 12/10 to express concerns about the Children's signage and the way Children's has framed the issue as being for or against children, rather than as a land use issue. She wondered if Children's had the resources to expand at the level proposed. On the same day, Alan Zarky and Steven Reisler, both attorneys, emailed that they were appalled at the actions of the city attorney's office in handling the Children's matter.

12. Agenda: Susan Marten emailed on 12/10 to ask that LCC's agenda be posted on its website the following day. It was explained that the agenda had not been finalized and the LCC's webmaster was out of town.
13. Crime in the U District: Karl Erik Hellstrom emailed on 12/10 about the weekly emails he receives from the UW police. On one day, there were four serious crimes. Hellstrom asked that LCC do its best to work with the UW police and the mayor's office to ensure the safety of neighbors. McMullen responded.
14. Minutes: Susan Marten asked about the "secret agreement" between the City and Children's Hospital, mentioned in the Newsletter. Susan wants to see direct quotes from the secret agreement. Susan asked how much money has been collected from all the projects undertaken by the Club. Do we have outside money? The report at the Annual meeting did not meet Susan's expectations. She would also like to see a budget.
15. Waterway: Mark Trumbauer is looking into the possibility that the Armintrouts could trade land at another site on Lake Washington for the waterway next to their house. Mark has asked Monica Shoemaker at Washington DNR for details. The trade would move the waterway to another site.
16. Tailgaters use Talaris. Stan Sorscher will talk to Mary at Talaris about a plan for the 2010 season, especially since the parking lot at Husky Stadium will be under construction for the Light Rail station. The Settlement Agreement does not allow tailgating on the property.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please see the NEDC announcement handout.

1. Utility project on Laurelcrest Lane: Seattle City Light is about to open bids for a project to significantly upgrade the underground electrical system on NE Laurelcrest Lane, approximately in the 4900 and 5000 blocks. The work might begin as soon as late January. City Light would like LCC's assistance providing information to the Laurelhurst community, especially the residents who will be most impacted. City Light will be contacting the affected residents directly, but want the broader Laurelhurst community to know what's going on, how long we will be disrupting traffic and parking, etc.
2. Council Restores Funding for Library Hours: The City Council has added \$860,000 to the Seattle Public Library's 2010 budget. The additional money means the Library can provide seven-day-a-week service at 11 branches (including the Northeast Branch) and the Central Library in 2010. Another 15 branches will operate five days a week for 35 hours. The budget still will be cut by \$1.77 million, so the Library will

need to make other cuts. Hours at the Northeast Branch will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

3. Christmas Ship Sails: Enjoy the flotilla of beautifully lighted ships with friends and family and enjoy the bon fire, refreshments and hear the choir.
  - Monday, December 21, 8:30 to 9:50 p.m., Laurelhurst Beach Club, 51st Avenue NE and NE Laurelcrest Lane
  - Tuesday, December 22, 8:50-9:10 p.m., Magnuson Park Beach
  
4. Construction Alert—Burke Gilman Trail Closure and Montlake Boulevard Lane Closures: Starting on December 14 and ending on January 3, 2010, there will be closures on the Burke-Gilman Trail and Montlake Boulevard. Sound Transit's contractor will install the infrastructure for an electrical ductbank that will provide power to the UW Station construction site and ultimately additional high voltage service to the University of Washington campus. The work is scheduled during UW's winter break to minimize impacts on trail users. While the work is underway, pedestrian and bicycle traffic along the Burke Gilman Trail (BGT) will be re-routed for a short distance at the south end of the UW campus (see attached alert). Contractors will install the electrical ductbank under Montlake Boulevard and it will be necessary to restrict traffic to one lane in either direction. This work will be done at night to minimize the impact to traffic on Montlake Boulevard. This is part of the University Link 3.15-mile extension of light rail from downtown to the UW.
  
5. Work party: Mark Trumbauer plans to lead a work party in mid-January for Waterway #1. Seattle City Light wants to host a meeting to discuss upgrading underground utilities on Laurelcrest near the Beach Club. City Light will send a representative to our Trustees' meeting to discuss the project.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen discussed video images of men suspected of breaking into cars. The pictures were sent to the police. Cary Lassen and Brian discussed options regarding our role in dealing with the images. Brian passed out a report of criminal activity for the month. Brian is tracking days of the week, and time of day for reported activity. Many of the incidents involve unlocked homes or open garages.

Security project: The Newsletter announced expansion of the security patrol area. Dozens of neighbors have signed up.

North Precinct: Cary's "socks drive" was very successful - 417 pairs of socks. Don Torrie's wife brought in about 50 pairs of knitted socks. The collection was appreciated very much. Captain Washburn is changing assignments to work on violent crimes. With the police murders, community relations will be a new focus. Another group brought in 1261 pairs of socks plus a bunch of gloves.

Parks: Emily Dexter spoke in favor of Tim Gallagher, who has been very helpful on Magnuson Park issues. **Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Mark Trumbauer to write a letter requesting the new mayor to retain Tim Gallagher as Superintendent of Parks Department. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Neighborhood Street Fund: At its December 3 meeting, NEDC reps ranked projects submitted for the Large Project Fund component of the Bridging the Gap Program. Voters approved this transportation \$365 million levy in 2006 for transportation maintenance and improvements. Below is the ranking. The top three projects are likely to be funded in 2010.

NUMBER	PROJECT LOCATION / DESCRIPTION	PTS
1. 200 7- 039 / 121	NE 85 <sup>th</sup> St-30 <sup>th</sup> NE to 27 <sup>th</sup> NE—Construct concrete curb, gutter and 300 feet concrete sidewalk on the south side with new catch basins and storm sewer piping; NE 82 <sup>nd</sup> (NE 83 <sup>rd</sup> ?) from Ravenna Ave NE to 28 <sup>th</sup> NE—widen street two feet to meet city standards; construct 6 ft concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter on north side from Ravenna to 28 <sup>th</sup> ; construct retaining walls where necessary; repair section of existing street pavement; construct curb returns and ADA ramps on both sides at NE 83 <sup>rd</sup> and Ravenna; 28 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE-NE 83 <sup>rd</sup> to NE 85 <sup>th</sup> —Construct concrete curb and 300 ft concrete sidewalk on the west side \$440,000-\$540,000, \$100,000-200,000, \$530,000-\$650,000 ( <i>Wedgwood</i> )	90
2. 200 7- 234	Ravenna Ave NE between NE 85 <sup>th</sup> and Lake City Way—construct concrete curb, gutter and 6 ft concrete sidewalk for 680 feet on both sides of the street; widen street 7 ft; grind and overlay existing pavement to restore cross slope to new drainage system; construct drains; install pedestrian handrail and guard rail next to creek; extend box culvert at creek crossing ( <i>Wedgwood</i> ) \$1,550,000-1,910,000 (\$1,228,000 for west side preferred alternative); SDOT's sidewalk development program could provide additional funds	84
3. 200 7- 037	Sand Point Way and NE 52 <sup>nd</sup> St—Install traffic light with sensors, marked crosswalk, defined curbs and sidewalk (200 ft) on standing pads at street corners and bus stop; provide center of the roadway refuge for pedestrians caught in the middle during light change ( <i>Hawthorne Hills/Bryant</i> ) \$200,000-\$260,000	78
4. 200 7- 254	17 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE between NE 45 <sup>th</sup> and 50 <sup>th</sup> Sts—Remove and replace damaged sidewalks along both sides of 17 <sup>th</sup> (1275 ft) ( <i>University Park</i> ) \$500,000-\$620,000	68
5. 200 7- 429	35 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE and NE 80 <sup>th</sup> St—Construct pedestrian activated traffic signal ( <i>Wedgwood</i> ) \$100,000-140,000	59
6. 200 7- 158 / 490	NE 50 <sup>th</sup> to Ravenna Park and 16 <sup>th</sup> NE to 21 <sup>st</sup> NE—Remove and replace raised, broken or missing sidewalk (2700 feet); 17 <sup>th</sup> NE from NE 45 <sup>th</sup> to Ravenna Blvd—remove and replace existing sidewalk where necessary (3200 feet); construct curb bulbs and ADA ramps at all intersections from NE 45 <sup>th</sup> to Ravenna Blvd ( <i>University Park</i> ) \$450,000-\$550,000,	47

	\$2,770,000-\$3,390,000	
7. 200 7- 262	NE 43 <sup>rd</sup> from 36 <sup>th</sup> NE 200 ft west and NE 44 <sup>th</sup> from 36 <sup>th</sup> NE 200 ft west—construct concrete curb and gutter along both sides of the street ( <i>Laurelhurst</i> ) \$110,000-150,000	45
8. 200 7- 230	NE 95 <sup>th</sup> between 35 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE and Sand Point Way (near Mathews Beach)—Construct concrete curb, gutter and 6 ft concrete sidewalk (3200 feet); widen road 2 ft on both sides; construct new catch basins and storm sewer; install stormwater detention and water quality facilities; parking would be removed on both sides of the road ( <i>Wedgwood</i> ) \$3,210,000-3,930,000	42
9. 200 7- 149	42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE from NE 75 <sup>th</sup> to NE 77 <sup>th</sup> St—Construct concrete curb, gutter, 5 ft landscaped parking strip and 6 ft sidewalk at west end of project; widen street, construct retaining walls on west side at both ends; construct concrete curb, gutter, 5 ft sidewalk on east side from 42 <sup>nd</sup> and NE 75 <sup>th</sup> to match into existing sidewalk ( <i>Maple Leaf</i> ) \$730,000-910,000	34
10.200 7- 387	NE 50 <sup>th</sup> Street: 50 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE to Ivanhoe PI NE—Remove and replace existing pavement between Harold PI and Nicklas; add 6 ft cement concrete, curb and gutter on the south side of 50 <sup>th</sup> (1500 ft); alternative would be to construct curb and gutter along north side to prevent parking on the sidewalk ( <i>Laurelhurst</i> ) \$3,000,000-3,800,000 or \$350,000-430,000	33

Parks Superintendent: Mayor Elect Mike McGinn is making some changes in department heads at city hall. One appointment that is still unknown is the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. Tim Gallagher currently holds this position and replaced Ken Bounds. Emily Dexter suggested that LCC write to the mayor elect supporting retention of Gallagher.

Union Bay Lake Management Plan: The Public Utilities department will manage the cleanup of Union Bay. The State will recommend techniques to remove milfoil. Funding will come from several sources. Other sites will also have milfoil control projects. This could help Kern Ewing's swamp trail project. SR 520 construction will also provide money to improve water quality.

Seattle Children's Update: The Seattle City Council's Committee on the Built Environment (formerly the Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee) will continue its consideration of Children's proposed master plan beginning in January 2010. Dates are January 13, 20 and 27 and February 3. The meetings are at 9:30 a.m. in city hall. No public testimony regarding the merits of the proposed MIMP will be taken at these meetings. The Committee will consider the numerous objections filed relating to such matters as the failure to designate outside counsel to advise the Council (the city attorney's office is advising both DPD and the Council), failure to take affirmative steps to prevent improper quasi-judicial contacts with councilmembers (Children's extensive improper paid media campaign), denial of a properly filed appeal, the secret agreement between Children's and the City preceding the Hearing Examiner process to get the master plan approved, and other issues related to the flaws in the public process. People and groups that have filed appeals will have an opportunity to

provide oral arguments at upcoming meetings. Council meetings are cablecast live on Seattle Channel 21 and Webcast live on the City Council's website.

SR 520 Update: Colleen reported that the Legislative Workgroup has met - about 8 legislators heard testimony. They prefer Option A+, with a price of about \$4.6B. That option does not move traffic through Montlake very efficiently. Montlake neighborhood also opposed Option A+ for construction that encroached into their neighborhood. The mediation committee previously recommended Options K, M and L. The Governor has final say. Frank Chopp likes Option M, which has an immersed tube tunnel. Patty Murray will talk about bridge options and possible Federal funding.

NOAA: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) upheld a protest by the Port of Bellingham regarding NOAA's planned move to Newport, Oregon. Bellingham argued that the proposed new homeport in the coastal community of Newport was in a floodplain and that bid specifications and federal regulations prohibit building in a floodplain unless there is no "practicable alternative." The GAO agreed. NOAA is now looking seriously at Bellingham. Seattle, Bellingham, Port Angeles and Newport competed for the new 20-year lease. The current lease at Lake Union expires in 2011.

In August 2007, LCC wrote to Congressional leaders supporting the University of Washington in urging that NOAA operations be kept at its Pacific Marine Center on Seattle's Lake Union.

LCC has learned that community leaders and members of congress are exploring moving NOAA's ships on Lake Union out to its facility at Magnuson Park. This would keep NOAA in Seattle. NOAA has been a good neighbor at Magnuson Park assisting with environmental projects. LCC trustees discussed whether this proposal should be supported.

CUCAC: Kirsten has news from the CUCAC meeting, The HUB will be remodeled in the collegiate gothic style. The design will have more light and glass, and would be very attractive.

Executive Session started at 9:10, ending at about 9:35 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher