

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for May 12, 2008
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Mark Trumbauer, Heather Newman, Leslie Wright, Brian McMullen, Emily Dexter, Colleen McAleer, Jeannie Hale, Liz Ogden, Maggie Weissman, and Stan Sorscher.

Excused: Barb Bender (leave of absence), Mark Holden, Marian Joh, Don Torrie

Guest: Michael Adler

Jeannie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Heather Newman introduced Michael Adler, a neighbor who is considering serving on the LCC Board.

Minutes: We will review the April minutes at the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Marian Joh has the flu. We are getting a trickle of dues payments. The dues statements are at the printer and will be mailed soon.

1. Status report: Joh's written treasurer's report was distributed for review.
2. Newsletter proposal: A proposal to increase payment of the newsletter editor is included in the agenda packets. The proposal calls for increasing the newsletter editorial/production payment from \$588 to \$650 per issue to cover meetings, writing, editing, layout, revision, coordination of unclassified advertising, coordination with the printer and mailing services. Additional services provided by the newsletter editor would include managing display advertising at a cost of \$150 per issue. The newsletter would continue to be self-sustaining with an increase of \$212 per issue.

Since Wright took over as newsletter editor, she solicited bids for a new printer and arranged for printing to be done from digital files by Alphagraphics. This resulted in a savings of \$100 per issue. The free ad provided to Ptarmigan Press has been sold to another advertiser generating an additional \$75 in revenue per issue. Over the last 20 issues, these actions have saved approximately \$3,500. The expense for sending out the dues statement is \$125.

Leslie Wright set a goal that the Newsletter be self-sustaining. She explained how the advertising part of the operation works. Leslie observed that a \$212 increase for her editorial services would still leave an operating surplus of \$200 to \$360 per issue.

3. Webmaster: Wright has proposed to takeover as LCC webmaster. She would update the site with new information (letters, minutes, trustee changes, newsletter PDFs, etc.) at no cost for up to two hours per month. Additional time would be charged at \$50 per hour and a maximum number of hours could be set by the board

if it chooses. The first step would be to get the Web site transferred and up and running. The next steps could be cleaning up the existing site, archiving some of the older materials and creating some visual changes within whatever budget the board approves. Completely redesigning the site is a goal and Wright will work on that and come back with a proposal at a later date.

The current webmaster uses Microsoft FrontPage, a program that is no longer available. Rucker and Wright met and agreed that purchasing Adobe Dreamweaver and converting the FrontPage files to Dreamweaver would be the best immediate solution for transferring the webmaster duties. Rucker agreed to assist Wright with the transition, which may take several hours.

Leslie would transfer the web site from Susan Rucker to Leslie's computer. Another task, long term, would be to redesign the web site.

Converting the web site from Susan's computer to Leslie's would take a day or so. Mark Trumbauer and Stan Sorscher discussed the purpose and goals we might have for the web site, and how that would translate to a statement of work.

Motion by Maggie Weissman seconded by Colleen McAleer to approve increasing editorial fee services from \$588 to \$800. **Motion passed** without opposition, with Brian McMullen abstaining.

Motion by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Emily Dexter to authorize \$200 to buy Dreamweaver software, transfer the web site to her computer, and authorize up to \$200 in labor charges per month for 3 months to maintain the web site and begin a redesign of the web site. **Motion passed** without opposition.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. New nominee: Stacy Graves emailed on 3/24 to inquire about nominating Molly Black for a Good Neighbor Award at the Annual Neighbors meeting. She was put in touch with Weissman.
2. SEPA legislation: On 4/23, Jennifer Biely emailed to inquire about the SEPA legislation that the City Council just passed. She suggested a newsletter article on the topic. LCC responded that LCC opposed that legislation which exempts projects like U Village expansion from environmental review. An article also appeared in a recent LCC newsletter.
3. Code Violations: On 4/09, a neighbor who lives near Villa emailed to follow up on the conditions at 4816 NE 47th. The yard and parking strip have been torn up and there are possible safety hazards to neighbors, in addition to the unkempt nature of the property due to home repairs. LCC agreed to write to the neighbors to point out possible code violations and to ask for their cooperation in correcting the situation. LCC followed up with neighbor concerns about the parking strips that are all torn up next to the sidewalks with a danger that pedestrians will go over the edge. LCC suggested that temporary fencing be installed to avoid neighbors falling off the steep drop-off.

4. ReLeaf Program: Annette Frahm emailed on 4/17 to alert LCC to the City's releaf program. The program encourages neighbors to plant trees in their yards. Information is available at www.seattle.gov/trees. LCC will explore a future newsletter article about the topic.
5. Rooming house: Tom Maider emailed on 4/22 to inquire about the listing he saw for the Laurelhurst rooming house. He was sent the message exchange between Newman and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD). DPD issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) on February 11. Copies of the Notice are in the packets.

The property remains out of compliance and the file has been referred to the Law Department for a civil penalties action. DPD will ask the inspector to have the NOV recorded. While a property can still be sold with an outstanding NOV, most title insurers prefer to have the NOV dealt with (removed from title, either via a Certificate of Compliance or a Certificate of Release) before they will insure the property--which does have the effect of delaying a sale. Recording also would put any potential buyer on notice that DPD has identified a violation affecting the use of the property. DPD would not issue a Certificate of Compliance unless the property was in compliance with the NOV. Generally, in order for a Certificate of Release to be issued, the property buyer or seller would have to give DPD some assurance, often via a written agreement of some sort, that the violation would be dealt with in some given period of time. Payment of a penalty is sometimes a part of this transaction.

The NOV states that the owner falsely certified the accessory dwelling unit as owner occupied or failed to comply with the owner occupancy certification and that the owner is subject to a \$5,000 fine. The NOV also says that the owner must discontinue maintenance of congregate housing (or a boarding house) as the type of housing is not allowed in single family zones. The NOV finally states that the owner is violating the conditions of his permit that allows single family housing with an accessory dwelling unit.

To comply with code, the owner or any new owner must live in the house. Alternatively, the house could be remodeled to remove the ADU. However, as long as the ADU is in place, the owner must live in one unit. The fine so far is \$5000 for falsely asserting ADU occupancy. Additional penalties accrue until the code corrections are made.

6. Absentee landlord: LCC followed up with absentee landlord Marvin Strenge in a formal letter on 4/24 (included in the correspondence packet). LCC encouraged Mr. Strenge to be a good neighbor and take care of his property.
7. Theft: The Police Department reported that on 4/25 in the 4400 block of 55th Avenue NE, two pairs of skis were taken from an open garage. The incident was called in at 7:45 p.m. Two suspects were seen, one in a maroon colored hatchback and one on a bicycle that was also stolen from the garage.
8. Visibility problem: John and Noma Kriebel wrote to LCC on 4/26 about the traffic safety issue near Laurelhurst School for drivers pulling onto NE 45th from 47th

Avenue NE. LCC wrote back indicating Ogden would follow up with the transportation department.

9. Crime prevention: Miriam Muller emailed several times starting on 5/5 urging some kind of notification network for crimes in the area. Muller suggested a system similar to what Wedgwood does and expansion of the pilot project.
10. Patrol cars in the neighbors on Sunday night: Karmann Kaplan emailed on 5/11 to report that she saw four police squad cars sail down her street at about 11:15 that night. No information about the incident is yet available.
11. Five Corners: Heather Newman described the traffic flow at five corners. Left turns from Mary Gates Way onto NE 45th St can start while left turns from NE 45th St. into Mary Gates Ways are running their red light at the end of their light cycle. Wayne Wentz at DOT said he could delay the green light at MGW to give more time for traffic to clear from NE 45th St. Heather will check with Wayne about when this will go into effect.
12. Pods at University Housing: Theresa Doherty responded that UW will arrange for construction on decks of some of the housing units. Residents store possessions in the pods while the work is being done.
13. Park activity: Maggie Weissman heard from a neighbor about noise and unpleasant activity in Laurelhurst Park.
14. U Village Expansion: Colleen McAleer heard from several neighbors about the proposed expansion of University Village.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you: Thank you to Leslie Wright, Emily Dexter and Heather Newman for distributing this month's agenda packets.
2. Children's master plan meetings: Tuesday, May 20, 6-7:30, Wright Auditorium at Children's Hospital. This is a special meeting to review the preliminary design of the possible "Train Building Addition." Talaris Conference Center and May 6, time and location to be determined. This is the last remaining project that will be constructed under the existing CHRMC Master Plan. The meeting will not deal with issues surrounding the development of the new CHRMC Master Plan. The subsequent meetings will be June 3, 10 and 24 from 6-9 p.m. at Talaris.
3. Children's Hospital: Brian McMullen described a meeting where Children's executives spoke to community groups about the expansion and their characterization of opponents.
4. Reimbursement: LCC's executive committee approved a reimbursement of about \$53 to McMullen for a physical box for the private security project. LCC's bylaws allow the executive committee to approve expenses of up to \$500 in between board meetings.

5. Neighborhood Planning Focus Group: Hale and Ogden attended the April 17th focus group meeting on neighborhood planning facilitated by the UW.
6. U Village: The Early Design Guidance meeting for University Village is tentatively scheduled for June 2nd. Details about the meeting are not yet available.
7. Mega House legislation: Council president Richard Conlin's mega house legislation came out today. Copies are available on the Department of Planning and Development's website.
8. Traffic islands: Liz Ogden prevailed in getting new white striping and reflectors around the islands on 47th Ave NE at NE 47th St and NE 50th St. The thermoplastic strips were not replaced. Liz thanked the City maintenance department, and will follow up regarding the strips. Work is on-going at other traffic circles in the area.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention:

Update: Maggie Weissman is resigning as Crime Prevention coordinator. Maggie is interested in the Block Watch program, and may work on other projects in the neighborhood.

Brian McMullen reported on crime activity over the last month. Car prowls and other crimes are down from previous reporting periods. The Treasurer's report suggests we are currently subsidizing the security project, based on year-to-date figures. Brian will double check on the budgets.

Pilot Project Extension: The original plan was to run for 9 weeks in the winter. The question, at this point, is what form we want this to take moving forward. Brian wants us to get a measure of how much the security project should cost per house, and how large an area we want to cover. Based on the two areas in the project so far, about one third of the houses in the patrol area pay for the service.

Options include all-year coverage, larger or smaller areas of coverage, more or less money, and variations in the hours and days of coverage.

Brian reviewed costs projections to continue the program. The patrol officers keep notes from each night, to coordinate from one shift to the next. The crime prevention committee will work on a recommendation.

Annual Neighbors Meeting Planning:

1. Nominating Committee: LCC bylaws call for a board of trustees consisting of between 13 and 19 members. This means that there are up to five vacant spots, although not all need to be filled. There is an article about the opportunity to serve on the LCC board in the May newsletter. The article directs interested neighbors to LCC's website where there is information about trustee responsibilities and LCC's conflict of interest policy. Nominations close May 19.

2. Date: The Annual Neighbors meeting will be on May 29, from 7-9 p.m. with a short reception at 6:45. The Parks Department has waived the rental fee.
3. Program: The program will include folks from the University's Union Bay Natural Area providing an update, a special thank-you neighbor segment and a briefing on Children's proposed expansion by Carol Eychaner. Jeannie Hale reviewed the topics on the agenda. Maggie Weissman will help with the logistics for the meeting. Volunteers are needed for setup and cleanup afterwards.

Waterway No. 1 Update: Trumbauer updated the board. On April 16, the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) posted a public notice sign at Waterway 1. The notice informs the public of the proposed volunteer agreement that will recognize a partnership between DNR and the Laurelhurst Community Club to allow volunteers to restore, enhance, and maintain portions of the waterway. So far, 18 neighbors have filled out volunteer forms and several have submitted letters supporting the partnership. LCC's comments on the proposed agreement are included in the correspondence packet.

DNR did not receive any formal comment letters, other than LCC's letter and the written comments and volunteer agreements that LCC forwarded to DNR. Monica Shoemaker from DNR did receive two calls supporting the agreement, one from Reed Waite of Washington Water Trails Association and one from neighbor Doug Armintrout.

LCC has asked the Seattle Transportation Department (SDOT) if it will pay for a temporary irrigation system. Two groups have expressed interest in the pavers donated by the Port of Seattle. Trumbauer is working out the logistics for a work party after the proposed right of entry agreement is approved.

SR 520 Update: Colleen McAleer said the mediation meetings are on hold. The baseline design is a six-lane plan. "Plan K" includes a tunnel under the Montlake cut. The Governor seems to prefer Plan K. The "Surface bridge" plan is not very popular. Colleen spoke briefly about costs and funding options. Tunnel experts from around the world have come to study the situation and make suggestions. Colleen discussed sound walls and plantings that might absorb some of the sound. Some neighbors may set out balloons to show the location of the new bridge, so people can visualize how close it may be to Laurelhurst.

Children's Update:

1. CAC meetings: At the April 15 Children's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Children's outlined more specifics about its Early Laurelton Alternative. For this alternative, Children's has agreed with the community that no access to the campus would be planned from NE 45th or NE 50th Streets. Construction would require less phasing and construction time would be reduced. This plan still calls for expanding the major institution across Sand Point Way to the Hartmann property with a 105-foot height limit (currently 30 feet). The CAC subcommittee asked that the 75 foot buffer along 44th Avenue NE, NE 45th and NE 50th Street be retained as development occurs. The CAC subcommittee further did not agree to a 160 height for Laurelton, but asked where the taller buildings would be located on the Laurelton

site. The Emergency Department expansion that was part of the last master plan would not proceed as that would now be located elsewhere.

At the May 6th meeting, Children's briefed the CAC on possible transportation mitigation measures.

At 9:12, the Board started executive session to discuss Childrens Hospital campaign ideas.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:30 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher