

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for June 9, 2008
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Jeannie Hale, Liz Ogden, Brian McMullen, Leslie Wright, Heather Newman, Don Torrie, Mark Trumbauer, Colleen McAleer, Stan Sorscher, Emily Dexter, Marian Joh, Maggie Weissman

Excused: Mark Holden

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

ADMINISTRATION

Changes to the agenda: Add public safety funding.

Minutes: The board reviewed the March and May minutes.

Motion by Colleen McAleer seconded by Emily Dexter to accept the March minutes as submitted. **Motion passed** without objection, with Liz Ogden abstaining.

Motion by approve the May minutes, with three correctons:

1. On page 6 regarding Childrens' Hospital be amended to read, "... agreed with the community that no access to the campus would be planned from NE 45th or NE 50th Streets."
- 2) On page 1, regarding the Newsletter proposal, two clarifying items, and changing the reference to the "free ad" to Ptarmigan Press.
- 3) On page 2, "west site" should be "web site."

Motion passed unanimously.

Review of the April minutes was deferred.

Election of officers: **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Heather Newman to re-elect the current slate of officers. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Board needs: There are currently 13 members of the LCC Board of Trustees. The bylaws allow up to 19 members and for the board to fill vacancies. If board members know of neighbors who might be interested and willing to commit to the required 10 hours per month (attending meetings, representing LCC on other organizations, coordinating projects, etc.) please have them contact Heather Newman.

LCC needs assistance with Crime Prevention. For trustees who represent LCC on other groups (NEDC, the North Precinct Advisory Council, CUCAC, etc.), if the representative cannot attend a meeting, he or she should contact the alternate or another trustee to ensure that LCC has a representative at the table. LCC also needs at least two people to work on the Sidewalk Safety Program.

Maggie Weissman offered to help with the Block Watch program. Stan Sorscher volunteered to attend the CUCAC meeting on June 10. Jeannie Hale will get approval for Sorscher to be out delegate.

Treasurer's Report:

Status report and dues update: Joh's written treasurer's report was distributed for review. Our dues notices went out late, this year. Some neighbors paid their dues before the notices went out. Next year, we could pull out names of early payers. Also, some households pay more than once, and Marian or Jeannie try to confirm what those households want to do.

Marian described some administrative problems with the Key Bank checking account.

Figures for the security project were broken out separately. Income for that item is ahead of expenses, leaving a balance that would support the activity for about 3 or 4 more months.

Legal expenses for the Childrens project will be broken out in the future. Charges to date for Peter Eglick have consumed the retainer. **Motion** by Marian Joh, seconded by Leslie Wright to authorize \$3000 to pay Peter Eglick for work done to date. **Motion passed.**

Land use consultant: Enclosed in the packet is a memorandum and proposal for services by Carol Eychaner related to the draft EIS and draft master plan process. She completed her scope of work with \$2800 left in her budget. **Motion** by Marian Joh, seconded by Heather Newman to accept Carol's proposal. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Transportation consultant: Both Carol Eychaner and Peter Eglick have recommended that LCC hire its own transportation consultant. The suggestion is that LCC interview Ed Koltonwski from Gibson Transportation Consultants in Everett. Jeannie and Colleen would like to interview him about our issues. We would like the consultant to examine the draft EIS, for about \$5,000 and possibly another \$1-2,000 to get through the hearing examiner's meeting. **Motion** to contract with a traffic consultant to evaluate the draft EIS. **Motion passed** unanimously.

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CALLS AND CONCERNS:

Burglary: On 5/22, there was a house burglary in the 3800 block of 43rd Ave NE (on the boulevard) late in the afternoon or early evening. It appears they entered through back gate, opened garage door and probably pulled into the garage, used a crow bar of some type to break into the house through French doors to kitchen. Neighbors are pretty certain, based on some children that saw the people, that it was a group of four teen that drove a red SUV down the alley and into the garage and proceeded to burglarize the house. After loading up the car, one teen most likely drove the car out of the neighborhood while the other three teens walked away because the car was full of stolen items. These teens roughly were 14 to 16 in age (three Caucasian and one African American) dressed in mostly black with silver and red type clothing and stood

out pretty easily. It is suspected that the teens entered the house around 5p.m. and were seen walking out of the neighborhood down 41st Street towards Talaris around 7:45 p.m.

Board service: Beginning on 5/24, there were a series of email messages from Judith Thornton regarding the interest expressed by one neighbor for serving on the LCC Board of Trustees. That neighbor had a potential conflict of interest on one issue and health problems that would have prevented attendance of LCC trustee meetings. That neighbor had been in touch with the Nominating Committee.

Pilot project on the news: On 5/25, King 5 TV news interviewed Colleen McAleer about LCC's pilot private security project.

Traffic cameras: On 5/26, Jean Amick followed up with SDOT to find out when the red light runner cameras would be installed at Five Corners. Today, SDOT reported that construction will begin in the next week and the cameras should be installed after the 4th of July.

University Village: On 5/27, neighbor Larry Howard emailed to express major concerns about U Village proposed expansion. He is concerned about the backups on Montlake and the traffic hazards along 25th. LCC will keep him informed.

Malicious mischief: On 5/28, Joia and Matt Poort who live on the boulevard reported that someone vandalized the outside of their new car (leaving something disgusting on the car).

St. Bridget's trees: St. Bridget's has slowly but surely taking out all of its big trees. On 5/30, they took out much of what was left on the west side of its property. They say that all of the alder and some of the big leaf maples are past their life spans and pose a threat to homes. They are planning on replacing them with Douglas fir and hemlock. It has been suggested that the trees are being removed for view protection.

Laurel Village vegetation: Newman followed up with the UW again regarding the vegetation along the eastern border of the fencing at Laurel Village. Invasive species and blackberries have grown over the top of the fence into neighbors' gardens.

Talaris property issues: On 5/30, Steve and Sharon Finn emailed to report that the Talaris property fronting NE 41st to the west of the property entrance has not been maintained. They spoke to the grounds people and were told they were requested not to maintain this portion of their property because eagles were nesting on one of the tall trees in the areas. LCC responded. McMullen also pointed out maintenance issues with the median across from Talaris.

Code violations: A neighbor who lives near Villa emailed on 6/06 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 wrote to the neighbors, but the conditions remain

unchanged. The neighbor filed an online complaint with the Department of Planning and Development for code violations and is waiting to hear back.

Suspicious activity: On 6/02 in the 3800 block of 43rd Avenue NE, at approximately 11 p.m., a young male with olive skin was spotted in a backyard filming a home's contents and/or occupants through a window. The incident was reported to Seattle Police who are investigating.

Transportation planning: The Portage Bay/Roanoke Park Community Council emailed LCC on 6/04 to inquire about resources to undertake a transportation master plan as LCC has done.

Boulevard cleanup: On 6/03, Bill Allen reported that he and his neighbors have scheduled a "cluster cleanup" for Saturday, 6/14. He recently met with Darren Morgan, Field Operations Manager at SDOT Urban Forestry to discuss the City's participation. The City agreed to provide mulch and topsoil (delivered on small tarps close to the clusters) and to pick up yard waste after the event. Later this year, the City will prune the trees as required, thin the trees and remove dead branches. Bill Allen is continuing to encourage the City to consider speed bumps and improved lighting.

Pilot project: On 6/03, Brendan Moore who lives on 44th and 50th Avenue, emailed to ask LCC about plans to expand the security patrols.

Attempted arson: On 6/05 in the 5400 block of Ivanhoe, sometime between 11 p.m. and 9 a.m., someone threw a Molotov cocktail type device at a house window that luckily didn't penetrate the house or catch the house on fire. The outside of the house was burned some.

Vandalism: On 6/05 on Ivanhoe, a house had a window kicked in and a small green car was seen leaving the area. Police are investigating.

Waterway landscaping: Mark Trumbauer spoke to Kate Lloyd about volunteering for the landscaping work at Waterway #1. Volunteer agreements need to be re-signed, after the Department of Natural Resources signs a new contract. DNR needs to approve any work at the site, although not everyone is waiting for the formal process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you: Thank you to Don Torrie for coordinating distribution of agenda packets and for Heather Newman for assisting.

Thank you: Thanks to Mark Trumbauer for picking up LCC's sandwich board and for Don Torrie for agreeing to store it in his garage.

U Village: There was a Preliminary Design Review meeting for the proposed U Village expansion on June 2. Both LCC and the Hawthorne Hills Community Council had a representative at the meeting, which was attended by approximately 25 people.

Everyone else in the audience was either from University Village or various architecture or developer perspectives.

This expansion would be the biggest ever for University Village. Due to the complexity of the issues, it is expected that there will be at least two more Design Review meetings. At the June 2 meeting, there were major concerns about height, bulk and scale issues, particularly relating to the 5-story tall mega garage planned adjacent to the NE 45th Street Viaduct and view blockage as Montlake Boulevard is designated a scenic corridor. The schematic drawings of the proposal are included in the agenda packets. LCC encouraged the U Village to partner with CUH in planting native plants and trees so the Village could be an example for neighbors. The Village had suggested planting English Ivy, an invasive plant.

Parks Levy Committee Public Meeting: On Tuesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lopez Room at the Seattle Center, the Parks and Green Spaces Levy citizens advisory committee meeting will take public comment on preliminary proposals considered for including on the 2008 levy ballot. LCC submitted a request to include \$50,000 for the Waterway No. 1 Enhance Project.

Sand Point Walkway Construction in the Works! Design of an asphalt-stamped walkway with a concrete curb is complete and construction is due to begin this month. The concrete-colored walkway will extend from the Princeton Bridge to 50th. For many years, walkways in this area have been an NEDC priority in the Neighborhood Street Fund process. The project is included in the North Laurelhurst Transportation Master Plan and was submitted to the Street Fund jointly by the Hawthorne Hills Community Council and the Laurelhurst Community Club.

Concerts in the Park: Bring a picnic!

Thursday July 17th Anzanga Marimba Ensemble at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy traditional and contemporary marimba music from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa and Gambia, plus original compositions created and arranged in an African style.

Thursday July 24th Paul Richardson Group with Josephine Howell 6 p.m. This group is comprised of four of Seattle's top musicians. Skilled in R&B, Gospel, Jazz and the Blues, each musician is highly regarded by fellow artists and audiences throughout the Northwest.

Laurelhurst Annual Salmon Bake featuring the band Two Scoops Combo Thursday July 31st 5:30 - 8 p.m. Get ready for the ultimate picnic in the park. Delicious salmon with all of your favorite picnic fixings.

Last Roast Carnival at Laurelhurst Park, Friday August 22 5-7 p.m. Enjoy all of your favorite old time picnic games and a BBQ. Get ready to race retro style. Races include potato sack, three legged, wheelbarrow, relay and more. Carnival games, balloon toss, face painting and jump toys. Enjoy s'mores at the firepit. Activity Fee: \$2 BBQ/ 4 tickets for \$1 carnival games/races.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: On May 3 a big fire pit party spilled over into the Park, and somehow a big fight broke out. On June 4, an incendiary device was reported. Maggie described a

situation involving a suspicious car in the area. Brian discussed the idea of email alerts with crime information. Brian will manage the email alert distribution list.

Crime activity was quiet for a couple of months, but picked up in May and June.

Brian outlined four options for the patrol pilot project -
Let the project expire near the end of the summer.
Work on the non-subscribers in the initial patrol area.
Run the initial program again, collecting new dues
Expand the patrol area at the same rate per household

If 500 households pay \$200 for a revenue stream of \$100,000, that would be enough to patrol the larger area for a year. By way of comparison, about 500 households pay dues to LCC each year. About 1 household in 3 are paying in the two current patrol areas.

We could take a survey to see how people perceive the project. Crime statistics for past years are not easy to pull from the database. Brian would think of this as a long-term commitment, to establish the general awareness of Laurelhurst as a community that is watching over its homes.

The original project was for 9 weeks, ending in January 2008. Some people from the original patrol area have already paid twice.

Bermuda Square Issues: Heather Newman briefed the board about three properties in her area - the Spiger building, the abandoned home and the boarding house. Diane Sugimura has kept in touch with Heather about these situations. The rooming house complaint is going through various City Departments. The owner falsified the permit; the City is suing, with the remedy to remove the ADU. The City could put a lien on the property. The empty house across the street may have been sold at auction.

SR 520 update: Colleen McAleer attended a flurry of meetings. Plan A - interchange has issues with on- and off-ramps at the Montlake interchange. Plan K - the parkway plan seems to be working out better, in terms of our NE neighborhoods. Colleen and Jean Amick are asking for more study of the traffic plan into the University area. At the Pacific Interchange, the pedestrian traffic and the tunnel may block views down the vista. The light rail station adds more design elements with pedestrian and street traffic.

Nutria in Union Bay and Lake Union: McAleer reported that UW may help fund an effort to wipe out the nutria in the natural area behind the Center for Urban Horticulture. An eradication plan could cost \$25-35,000. DNR might get involved and help pay for the program. **Motion** by Stan Sorscher, seconded, that LCC endorse project to eradicate nutria in Union Bay. **Motion passed.**

Waterway No. 1: Trumbauer updated the board. We have 1760 pavers on the site. We only need about 800, following a shorter path than the original design. Sod can be moved around to help with the grading. Earth Corp may help with the weed eradication.

LCC recently approved \$1,000 to purchase high quality top soil to address noxious weed eradication and preparation of the upland area for the grass and native plantings. Since then, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has indicated that some funds are available and that DNR will consider matching LCC funds and volunteer hours.

Regarding the Right of Entry Agreement and volunteer agreements, 27 neighbors have submitted signed volunteer agreements expressing interest in helping with the enhancement project or supporting the proposed agreement.

Judith Thornton and Kate Lloyd submitted a comment letter asking that the Right of Entry Agreement be delayed until the private use of public property issues on the part of the adjacent property owners has been resolved. The proposed Right of Entry Agreement only covers the area of the waterway and upland area that does not include the privately used portions. The Center for Environmental Law and Policy at the UW submitted a comment letter that also addressed the private use of public property issues. DNR responded to Thornton, Lloyd and the Environmental Law group stating that the purpose of the volunteer right of entry agreement is to encourage volunteers under LCC's direction to help restore, enhance and maintain a specified portion of the waterway and upland area.

On Saturday, June 7, Gerry Gettle mowed the waterway upland area. He was advised that he needed DNR's permission. The unauthorized mowing has resulted in massive spreading of the many noxious weeds on the site.

Trumbauer has been in touch with DNR about the large 30 inch manhole cover in the center of the planned grassy area that is at grade now and will need to be raised 3 inches to be level with the new grassy area. He also mentioned two manhole covers on the basketball court that will have to be raised to whatever level the new court ends up at.

Children's Update:

CAC meetings: At the May 20, Children's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), briefed the CAC on the "Train Building Addition," the last remaining project under the old master plan. The new addition would add approximately 20 to 25 new single-bed rooms. The area unbuilt under the existing master plan is 54,000 square feet. The new addition would add 24,000 square feet and would demolish 10,300 square feet. Construction would run from September 2008 to July 2009. LCC commented suggesting that photos be taken of nearby roadways and curbs where—that a preconstruction inventory be undertaken. This would avoid the problems Laurelhurst during the garage project when the dump trucks travelling down NE 45th caused major damage to the roadway and Children's initially refused to help pay for the damage.

CAC vacancies: The Department of Neighborhoods (DON) has heard from about 16 individuals interested in being considered to fill the alternate spots on the CAC. Two (that we know of) are from neighborhoods other than Laurelhurst. Four are Laurelhurst residents who have attended most of the CAC meetings, commenting regularly. The others are from Laurelhurst or the apartments across the street (still considered part of

Laurelhurst). These ten applicants either have never paid community dues or been involved in community projects.

Public records request: As a result of LCC's May 7th public records request, several documents and emails were provided. The materials provided were incomplete. They included only five email messages from the CAC chair and vice chair in about a one-year period. There were references to conference calls involving the CAC officers, DON and a Children's representative, but no telephone notes were included. There were two email messages from one CAC member, one from another and none from the many other members of the advisory committee. Some messages reference attachments which were not provided. Some handwritten notes were provided, but it is unclear who prepared the notes.

Ethics inquiry: The Seattle Ethics and Elections response to LCC's May 6th ethics inquiry regarding the elevation of Theresa Doherty to become a voting member of the CAC is included in the correspondence packet. Doherty is an assistant vice president at the University of Washington and it is a matter of public record that Children's is home to a significant portion of the UW's Department of Pediatrics. LCC asked whether this would be consistent with the Ethics Code and for a copy of any written disclosure filed by Doherty. The Ethics office responded that the relationship between Children's Hospital and the UW and Doherty's employment would to a reasonable person appear to impair Doherty's independence of judgment in the performance of her work on the committee. Doherty is required to make a written disclosure that she is an Assistant Vice President at the University, and that the hospital is affiliated with the University, hosting its pediatric residency program and providing inpatient facilities for the majority of children hospitalized within the UW-affiliated system. The State ethics board will consider LCC's inquiry on June 13.

In Motion project: Children's will partner with Metro this fall on a program call *In Motion* to encourage its employees and neighbors to take fewer automobile trips. Rewards such as gift certificates and free Metro passes will be provided for those who reduce trips.

Future meetings: The CAC will meet from 6-8 p.m. on June 10, June 25 and July 16 at Talaris. The public hearing on the DEIS is scheduled for July 10 from 6-8 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Pubic safety. General consensus to write a letter in support of City funding for Police.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher