

**Laurelhurst Community Club**  
**Minutes for July 14, 2008**  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

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

Excused: Marian Joh, Maggie Weissman

Guests: MaryAnn Spangler, Peter Eglick

**ADMINISTRATION**

Changes to the agenda: Add public safety funding.

Minutes: Review of the minutes was postponed until the August meeting.

Nomination of New Trustee: The LCC bylaws establish the board at between 13 and 19 members and allow the board of trustees to fill vacancies by a majority vote. Those appointed by the board would stand for election by the community at the following annual neighbors meeting. LCC currently has 13 members of its board of trustees.

Wright nominated Cary Lassen to serve as a trustee. Lassen, her husband Jim, and son Seth, a junior at WSU, are longtime Laurelhurst residents. They live across from the Laurelhurst School's north playground. Lassen is an accomplished children's book illustrator who contracts with several publishing companies. She's also working on her own illustrated story. Interests include bike touring, gardening (she's a member of the SUN Park steering committee), and dogs. She and Atlas, their black and white terrier, walk everywhere in the neighborhood.

Lassen is passionate about maintaining Laurelhurst's quality of life, has attended most of the CAC meetings, and was active in trying to resolve park fire pit and playground concerns that arose last summer. While her son was attending Laurelhurst elementary, she was active in PTA.

**MOTION** by Leslie Wright, seconded by Colleen McAleer that LCC elect Cary Lassen to the board. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh's written treasurer's report was not available.

Hospital consultant: Nancy Field presented a proposal to review the portion of the DEIS regarding bed need and for her to appear at a Hearing Examiner's meeting. Significant items are transportation study, bed need study and legal services. Field estimates that would involve 16 hours at \$190 per hour, which totals \$3,040.

**Motion** by Colleen McAleer, seconded by Heather Newman, to approve 16 hours

work by Nancy field, with written comments to be completed by August 25. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Website Update: When Wright last briefed the board, she and Rucker were planning to get together to transfer the FrontPage-based site (pc-based and no longer supported) to the Mac version of Dreamweaver software, which is the current web design/development software standard for non-html experts. At the time it was anticipated this would occur sometime during mid- to late June and would take at least a day, if they were lucky.

Since then, Rucker has decided that she cannot assist with the conversion; however, she offered to continue with some basic content updating until the transfer is complete. Because Wright was unfamiliar with the new software, she took two-day Dreamweaver intensive training from an Adobe certified trainer at her own expense last week. She came away from the seminar thinking it would make the most sense to redesign the LCC website now, rather than later, and build it in Dreamweaver, not simply transfer the old site. The board previously decided that the look and feel of our site needs refreshing. Also, some information is not up-to-date and a lot of information can be archived.

In May, the board authorized \$200 to purchase the Dreamweaver software and up to \$200 in labor charges per month for three months to maintain the web site and begin a redesign of the web site.

Wright will provide a further update next month. Her goal is to have the new site up in early September. After that time, updating the site with routine content changes should be smooth and easy.

The "Click and Pledge" system was updated. Stan Sorscher modified our site to use the new Click And Pledge software, and it seems to be working smoothly.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Median responsibilities: On 6/12, Dennis King emailed to inquire about LCC's responsibilities for maintaining the planted median on Mary Gates and NE 41<sup>st</sup>. The librarian at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) didn't know. LCC provided detailed information to King about University, Talaris and LCC responsibilities. King passed along the information to CUH.
2. Clark Road Bridge: On 6/13, LCC received an inquiry about the location of Clark Road Bridge as restoration and cleanup work is planned in that area as a result of a sewage backup into University Sough. LCC responded that Clark Road is the last road on the left heading on Mary Gates toward Five Corners, just the other side of the Center for Urban Horticulture. It goes past the Industrial Arts Compound and the playing fields on the right. The parking lot for the golf driving range is on Clark Road. The Clark Road Bridge is in this area. The University and Seattle Public Utilities were in the process of fixing the culvert when the spill happened.

3. Noisy kids: On 6/17, several cars loaded with high school kids were parked in front of Laurelhurst School on 46<sup>th</sup>. The five cars were playing extremely loud music and about 10 kids were out of the cars rocking another car that was parked on the street. A neighbor went out and asked them to leave. The party continued in the church parking lot until 1:45 a.m. The loud music, swearing and cars speeding off continued until 2 a.m.
4. Website: On 6/19, John MacIntyre emailed to ask the LCC update its website as the last minutes posted were those for September 2007 and no summer events are listed. LCC responded that LCC is transitioning to a new webmaster with new software and that the site should be updated soon.
5. Unreadable signs: On 6/20 Dennis King emailed to provide information he'd received from SDOT about replacing unreadable street signs. Because of the funding through the Bridging the Gap levy, the City is upgrading all street signs by 2016 with larger more reflective signs. SDOT couldn't provide any idea of when they would get to Laurelhurst.
6. Children's: There have been many messages from neighbors about Children's proposed expansion. On 6/24, Mary-Britt Love emailed to thank LCC for its eloquent statements at CAC meetings. She is concerned about building heights and traffic in particular and plans to speak at the DEIS public hearing. On 6/26, Lois Jones inquired about bed need and information was provided.
7. Rental housing: Kristin Vemo contacted LCC on 6/18 and 6/26 to inquire about rental housing in the neighborhood as her family is moving here from California soon. Info that appeared in LCC's newsletter was passed along.
8. Waterway No. 1: Since mid-June, LCC has received and responded to messages from Judith Thornton and her husband Jerry Gettle about volunteering at the waterway. Thornton completed a volunteer agreement indicating she would volunteer to organize and serve on the landscaping committee. LCC responded that it must first coordinate with DNR to formalize a plan. When that is done, LCC will contact Thornton about volunteering at work parties. Thornton has also expressed interest in volunteering to help eradicate the Japanese knotweed. LCC responded that it will be developing a plan incorporating best management practices and that DNR would like this work done under the supervision of professionals. LCC will continue to work with Thornton and other interested neighbors on the enhancement project.
9. Meeting notes: On 6/28, a neighbor inquired about the September 2007 LCC minutes that are posted on LCC's website. She was concerned that her comments and those of others regarding Children's expansion might be construed as being hostile or in opposition to Children's. Sorscher and Hale have been back in touch with the neighbor. Sorscher congratulated the neighbor on efforts for a coordinated campaign for reasonable hospital expansion.

10. Belvoir Place park hours: On 6/30, Katie Mahoney contacted LCC about new park signage that has been installed at Belvoir Place Park. The Parks Department has replaced the usual department "rainbow" sign with a new sign that lists the "park" hours—4 a.m.-11:30 p.m. The hours frustrated the Mahoney's. There is no lighting in the pathway to the water and the Mahoney's were worried. LCC learned that the standard park hours are 4 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and that they are in place so the police can arrest anyone they find there during hours when parks are closed. If the hours are posted, then the police have grounds to arrest for trespass. LCC will continue to follow up with the Mahoneys.

11. Illegal traffic circle planting: The first week of July, someone planted four extremely tall bamboo stalks in the newly installed traffic circle near Villa Academy. The bamboo is leaning against the overhead wires. Two neighbors driving a white pickup truck were observed planting the bamboo around 1 a.m. and watering it the following evening at the same time. A note was placed at the circle advising that the planting was inappropriate. Whoever did the planting placed an anonymous response letter indicating they had permission from SDOT, which is not the case. CiLinden Mead is the City Traffic Circle coordinator. Linden came out and "red-flagged" the planting for removal and left her card - please call.

Pods: Jeff Edelman emailed on 7/02 to inquire about the pods at the UW student housing. He thinks that the pods are being used as permanent rather than temporary storage structures. He said that they are not intended to be used this way, doubts whether the City permits this and said they should be removed. LCC will respond.

12. Land Use Committee: Alan Hess emailed on 7/03 to express interest in LCC's land use committee. LCC responded with details.

13. City Light problems: The first week of July, Marilyn Ginnever contacted LCC about City Light repair of her electrical lines. While doing a remodeling project, one of her workers had nicked the underground wiring. After City inspections were done, Ginnever was told that the entire underground electrical system would have to be replaced and that Ginnever would have to pay for it. Ginnever had contacted LCC in October 2007 about this. LCC is following up with advice.

Door-to-door scam: On 7/3 there was an incident on Surber drive where someone was house-sitting. Two African American teenagers (described as 16-18 years old, one five foot five and other a little shorter, both with medium build, one wearing a red jacket and other a blue) asked to speak with the owner. During the conversation the two young men were petting the family dog. The young men finally said that if the house sitter didn't go get the owner, then they would take the dog. The sitter called 911.

14. Barking dog: A neighbor who lives above the Beach Club contacted LCC on 7/08 for advice about a barking dog. The large dog is kept in a small kennel outdoors. LCC provided materials from Animal Control about how to handle the matter.

15. Another traffic circle: Liz Ogden reported on another traffic circle at 50<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and Nicholas street. The City has considered several designs, and Liz is coordinating with Wayne Wentz in the Traffic Department and St Bridgett's Church, which has a heavy parking requirement. A written plan is expected soon, which may cover the traffic circle and possibly some chicanes to slow down traffic.
16. Ice cream truck. An unlicensed ice cream truck operation has been reported - run by a neighbor and one other person. However, the ice cream truck parks next to the school, waiting for children to come out of school. Ice cream trucks are banned within 1000 feet of a school(!!!). A neighbor complained that the ice cream truck parks at the school frequently. It blocks their driveway and wakes their toddler at nap time. The police and SDOT are involved. The ice cream vendor may be fined \$150 for violations in the future.
17. Landscaping at Waterway. Kate Lloyd asked Mark Trumbauer about cutting the grass at the waterway. The site is starting to look bad, but evidently, cutting is allowed only if clippings are picked up to prevent noxious weeds from spreading. Mark may have found a volunteer who would mow under conditions acceptable to DNR under an approved plan.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Proposed development: Developers are planning on replacing the old burned out bike shop and the weedy area next to it with 40 units of housing with retail on the bottom level. An early design guidance meeting will be held on Monday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 209 at University Heights. The property is zoned neighborhood commercial with a 40 foot height limit.

Children's meeting: The next CAC meeting will be July 15 at 6 p.m. at Talaris.

Changes in Form 990: Hale recently participated in a seminar entitled "The New IRS Form 990 for Nonprofits: Clearing up the Confusion." She has shared the course materials with Joh.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

Changes to the Noise Ordinance: The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the City Council's Transportation Committee have proposed changes to the noise ordinance that would add civil penalties and the ability of DPD to issue citations and stop-work orders and to revoke a noise variance that it has previously granted. The changes would also prohibit late evening noise from earthmoving and log chippers without a variance. Other changes would weaken the noise ordinance by increasing nighttime construction hours and noise levels.

Copies of DPD's and the Council's report on the proposal are included in the packets along with a draft letter from the City Neighborhood Council (CNC). **MOTION** by Heather Newman, seconded by Mark Trumbauer that LCC support CNC's position regarding proposed changes to the noise ordinance. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Five Corners Traffic Sequencing: Newman again contacted SDOT to inquire about increasing the time before the light turns green for northbound traffic from Mary Gates. The time had not been long enough and there had still been many near miss accidents. She asked for an explanation as to why northbound traffic was sequenced before southbound. Although Newman did not receive a response to her email, SDOT did fix the problem because northbound traffic **always** goes after southbound **now**--just as it did for all the years prior to the installation of the QFC traffic light.

36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Dilapidated House Update: Newman reported that the house on the corner of 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Town of Yesler has continued to decline in appearance. The siding of the house is rotten and the grass is now two feet tall.

SR 520 update: Colleen McAleer updated the board. Copies of a schematic of the Parkway Plan and a Q&A were distributed.

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 45<sup>th</sup> caused major damage to the roadway and Children's initially refused to help pay for the damage.

The CAC met on June 10 and 24 for briefings on the transportation plan and the DEIS. Materials from the meeting are available on Children's master plan website. LCC and its consultant attended and spoke at each meeting.

Improper notice: When DPD issued its notice for the DEIS public hearing, they mistakenly failed to indicate that the hearing would also be for the Children's draft master plan. The Major Institutions Code requires a public hearing on the draft plan. LCC wrote to DPD about its mistake to make a record of the major procedural flaw.

DEIS public hearing: The public hearing on Children's DEIS was on July 10 at 6 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Children's PR firm has instructed "Friends of Children's Hospital" to arrive at 5:30 p.m. so those folks signed in early to testify. Most provided stories about how Children's had helped their kids or how important it

is to help sick kids—issues that are not relevant to the environmental review process. Most were either Children’s staff members or people who do not live in the area. About halfway through the hearing, neighbors started testifying, raising concerns that LCC has consistently raised about bed need, height, bulk and scale, transportation, etc. Comments from neighbors that LCC has received are included in the packets, as well as LCC’s preliminary comments. Hale, Newman, Wright, Trumbauer, Holden, McAleer and Carey Lassen testified on behalf of LCC and many other neighbors also provided public comment. Maryann Spangler also spoke at the DEIS meeting. Overriding the established process can have serious consequence by setting a precedent allowing others to grab land and short-circuit the review process.

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 at the time) were from neighborhoods other than Laurelhurst. Four were 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).

On July 1, the DON director appointed Mike Wayte from Laurelhurst, Brice Semmens and Nicole Van Borkulo, both from Ravenna-Bryant for fill alternate spots on the CAC. The balance of interest on the CAC as established by the City Council has been altered in a major way. In addition, the DON director has decided to act on her own, contrary to the Major Institutions Code, in seeking an additional CAC alternative with a citywide perspective. The Code calls for one citywide rep and there are now two on the committee with the possibility of a third as another citywide person.

Public records request: As a result of LCC’s May 7<sup>th</sup> 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. DON subsequently followed up with additional materials—mostly materials that LCC had provided to that agency.

Ethics inquiry: The Seattle Ethics and Elections response to LCC’s May 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 at 6 p.m. on July 15 at Talaris to start finalizing its comments on the DEIS. The compilation of comments from CAC members is also included in the packets.

Executive Session, starting at 8:02 PM. **Motion** by Heather Newman, seconded by Mark Trumbauer to authorize interim funding, as proposed, for Peter Eglick to continue preparations to review the DEIS and Chidlrens' Hospital Hearing Examiner's meeting. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Return from Executive Session at 9:15 PM.

Crime prevention. Brian McMullen proposed that we let the current pilot expire, and reconsider this down the road. Emily Dexter proposed a survey asking neighbors what they thought of the project. Brian reviewed recent reported activity in the area. One suggestion was to continue getting the activity reports, and emailing digests or reports out to an opt-in list.

Jail siting. General consensus to support the letter by North Precinct Advisory Committee letter on jail siting.

The LCC Board agreed to hold a special meeting July 30 at Colleen's house.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher