

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for August 11, 2008
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending:

Mark Trumbauer, Heather Newman, Leslie Wright, Brian McMullen, Emily Dexter, Colleen McAleer, Jeannie Hale, Liz Ogden, Stan Sorscher, Carey Lassen and Don Torrie

Excused: Mark Holden, Marian Joh, Maggie Weissman

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Review of the minutes was postponed until the September meeting. Sorscher apologized for the delay.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh prepared a report that was passed out at the meeting. As of 7/31/08, of the 1,380 families, businesses and others within the LCC, 591 have paid their 2008 dues. This represents about 43 percent of LCC members, an increase from last year's dues payments. We have a significant balance, but our expenses going forward could be very high.

Website Update: Wright updated the board about progress in setting up the new Dreamweaver software and updating LCC's website. In May, the board authorized \$200 to purchase the new software and up to \$200 in labor charges per month for three months to maintain the web site and begin redesigning the web site.

Leslie asked for volunteers to help sort out what is important and not. Old files could be archived. Stan volunteered. Leslie estimates 10-12 hours at \$80 per hour for an outside service to redesign the site. Leslie would also charge some time to maintain the site.

Motion Mark Trumbauer/Emily Dexter to approve up to \$2000 for web site expenses.

Motion passed without objection.

Colleen McAleer asked that our US mail addresses be removed from the site. She had a lot of trouble from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's blog.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Children's party house: On 7/16, Miriam Muller forwarded a message she sent to Children's Hospital about one of their rental houses. There was a very loud party on July 4 on 44th Avenue NE and the renters removed the "No Parking 9-5" sign. Muller provided the license plate numbers and type of cars illegally parked. Children's responded and said they are reviewing tenant screening tools with the property manager and will insist that tenants comply with the Landlord Tenant Act. Ginny Sherrow reported that one of the tenants who has a seven-week old baby works at a spa downtown. The other two tenants work at downtown restaurants. Children's had previously told the CAC and LCC that the houses they have purchased around the perimeter of the campus would be rented to doctors and staff.

2. Bamboo: On 7/27, Judith Thornton emailed about the bamboo that was planted in the new traffic circle by the Villa. The tall bamboo was leaning against the overhead wires and neighbors had contacted LCC about this. Those neighbors wanted to remain anonymous and Thornton doesn't like this policy.
3. Sandwich boards/banners: On 7/17, Susan Avery contacted LCC about the huge banners and sandwich board that Ciao Bella put up. LCC provided a link to the Department of Planning and Development's code compliance page that provides an easy method to file a complaint.
4. Everett hospital expansion: On 7/21, a person in the Everett area contacted LCC for information about LCC's efforts in working on the proposed Children's expansion. Her group will be working on the Providence expansion in Everett.
5. Pilot project: On 7/23, McMullen reported that the Beach Club had an incident with some kids jumping the fence and jumping off the high dives late at night. The Beach Club expressed interested in joining the remainder of the pilot project. They would like the patrol officer to make two checks a night of the facility by observing through the fence if someone is there. There would be no need to enter the facility each time or walk around. The Crime Prevention Committee agreed that the Beach Club could be added to the project. This is fine with the off-duty police officers.
6. Night Out Event: On 7/25, Miriam Muller emailed LCC crime prevention suggesting that the City's annual Night Out Event be publicized.
7. Red light runner cameras: On 7/29, Jean Amick advised that red light runner cameras at Five Corners have been installed. The only hold up at that time was that City Light needed to hook up power into the City's grid. It was estimated that would occur by 8/4.
8. Eagles: On 7/31, neighbor Jean Colley emailed to express concern about the low flying Blue Angels and the impact on the eagle's nest on the Battelle property. Colley suggested that the planes fly at a higher altitude to avoid conflicts with the eagles. There are two adult eagles and two eaglets in the nest. LCC contacted Councilmember Rasmussen and were provided contact information for offices that prepare the flight plans for the Blue Angels.
9. Crows: Richard Ettinger emailed on 8/3 to inquire about why the crow population is expanding. He sent photos from U Village and the neighborhood. Ettinger was put in touch with Sorscher and Robin Chalmers. Sorscher emailed information from UW Professor John Marzluff's web site.
10. Speed bump request: Robin Chalmers emailed on 8/5 requesting speed bumps on NE 41st. LCC responded that because NE 41st is an arterial, speed bumps would not be allowed. Chalmers sent a short video of one homeowner's homemade speed bump. LCC suggested increased police patrolling and asked Chalmers when most of the speeding takes place.

11. UW issues: Russ Amick shared his message to Mark Emmert about two issues—the Ravenna Creek sewage problem and when the pods at the student housing will be removed. LCC contacted the Ravenna Creek Alliance for info on the sewage issue. Kit O’Neill responded to the Amicks.
12. Advertising: ProRobics contacted LCC on 8/6 about advertising in the newsletter. The August newsletter has already gone to the printer and he will contact Wright for the next edition. ProRobics would also like to pay its dues.
13. Traffic hazard: Barb Ragee contacted LCC on 8/6 about dangers at Five Corners. Cars turning left from the inside lane continually turn into the wrong lane. She would like the roadway painted or bumps installed directing motorist how to properly make turns.
14. History books: Barb Ragee is awaiting a check from Miller Pollard for history book sales.
15. Street renaming: On 8/7, neighbor Pat Cheney contacted McMullen about the possibility of pursuing the renaming of 43rd Avenue NE to its original name of Laurel Boulevard—something Cheney noted on a 100-year-old map. Information about the renaming of Mary Gates Boulevard was provided.
16. Historic designation: Roy Amundsen emailed on 8/7 to inquire as to whether Children’s had changed its mind about acquiring and demolishing Laurelon in light of its nomination for historic designation of the property.
17. Pods. University housing is still replacing porch railings in the housing complex, but they are making good progress.
18. Pedestrian Island. Jeannie Hale mentioned that the pedestrian island at Surber Way and NE 41st St was cleaned up. The impression is that neighbors took care of it.
19. Eagle fledgling. Stan Sorscher was approached by a neighbor, who saw the eagle fledgling trapped in a nearby tree. The bird, about the size of a Thanksgiving turkey, was vocalizing actively and seemed to be in distress. It had a fish in its claw, and the fish was jammed in the fork in a branch. An adult eagle was in the area. Sorscher called the Executive Director of the Seattle Audubon Society, and the Audubon Society rescue center, both of whom assured him that eagles have a way of figuring this out. Sorscher's mother-in-law, who has exceptional common sense and insight, reminded him that eaglets get to be the size of Thanksgiving turkeys by vocalizing and insisting on being fed a lot of food. In that respect, vocalizing is not a sign of distress. About 20 minutes later, the fledgling dropped the fish, turned on the branch, and reflected on the situation for several minutes. It extended its wings, swooped majestically off the branch and flew away.
20. Vacant House. Heather Newman reported that the vacant house on NE 44th St. is subject to foreclosure, but the foreclosure date was extended to July 11. Heather Newman reported rats to the Department of Health. No action has been taken.

21. Rooming House. The complaint against the "rooming house" on NE 44th St is proceeding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you: Thank you to Don Torrie for distributing this month's agenda packets.
2. Thank you: Thanks to Emily Dexter for attending the 7/21 City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on the proposed parks levy. Dexter did an excellent job testifying and asking that funds be allowed for the Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project. Unfortunately, decisions on the projects to be included in the levy had already been made. LCC can still apply for funding through the levy's opportunity fund should the levy pass in the November election.
3. Enotria celebration: Enotria will be celebrating its one-year anniversary on Monday, 8/18. Neighbors are welcome to stop by between 5 and 9 p.m.
4. U Village expansion: U Village has invited LCC and RBCA to get together to learn about progress on the proposed expansion. The meeting will take place in the next month.
5. Sun Park. Leslie Wright invited everyone to an event at the Park.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Crime Prevention. Brian McMullen passed out a map showing recent crime activity reported to the Seattle Police. The pilot patrols will close down in the third week in September. The patrol area was extended to the Beach Club, which expressed concern that kids go into the beach area after hours, and jump off the high dive. The police can stop by and check the property. In Windermere, the patrols have not resulted in major arrests. Many neighbors find the patrols reassuring, nevertheless.

We are looking for a volunteer to go to the North Precinct meetings every month.

SR 520 Update: Colleen McAleer passed out drawings of a new design for the Foster Island interchange including a tunnel, emerging at UW Husky stadium. Frank Chopp spoke to the advisory group about the funding situation for Eastside and our side of the project. Colleen described the lids at Foster Island and at the I-5 interchange. Colleen and Jean Amick will prepare photos of the existing bridge and surroundings, and then WashDOT will project the new construction onto the photographs, to help neighbors visualize the proposed design. Colleen described the construction in the Pacific interchange and how it will interact with the Vista from the UW campus.

Colleen missed the meeting where tolling was described. Some people will have transponders, but cameras can see license plates, and bills will be sent out monthly. We oppose tolling the section from I-5 to the Montlake exit.

Park Issues: Emily Dexter reported that the indoor tennis center was approved at Sand Point. The lease for Building 11 was overturned, and will be restructured to retain the

public character of the site. Hangar 27 (Arena Sports) is likely to be developed with conditions to "meet community needs" which Emily thinks means "make it affordable."

NE District Council position on new schools: General consensus that LCC supports adding enough classroom capacity for elementary and middle school students in the NE Cluster to attend neighborhood schools.

Neighborhood street project: Liz Ogden reported that chicanes in her area were not designed to slow down traffic properly. SDOT has agreed to split the chicanes. Also, Liz has been given some guidance on preparing and filing applications for future projects.

Children's Update:

1. DEIS comments: The deadline to submit written comments on the Children's DEIS was 7/25. Gibson Traffic Consultants submitted extensive comments (128 pages) on behalf of LCC, including two earlier traffic studies with results conflicting with information in the DEIS. LCC's independent hospital consultant submitted comments and included her earlier bed need study. Land use consultant Carol Eychaner submitted a 34-page analysis of the DEIS and many enclosures. In response to a call-to-arms from The Buck Firm on the basis that "numbers" of DEIS comments are needed to sway the outcome, LCC attorney Peter Eglick submitted a letter outlining the requirements for DEIS comments. Comments must be of a substantive nature. These materials are included in the trustee packets, along with comments from the CAC, the Department of Planning and Development, the Seattle Department of Transportation and others.
2. Landmark nomination of Laurelon Terrace: Children's and the Laurelon Terrace board filed a nomination with the Landmarks Preservation Board. The nomination report is included in the agenda packets. The Landmarks Board will consider the nomination on Wednesday, September 3 at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the meeting and comment. At this meeting, the Board will determine if Laurelon meets at least one of the criteria for landmark designation. Should the Board decide that it does, then the next step would be to designate the property as historic. A separate public meeting would be held for this purpose.

Because Children's recognized the possibility that Laurelon could be designated as historic, they, in cooperation with the Laurelon board, hired professionals to prepare the landmark nomination as a preemptive step to allow them to control the timing of the process. Children's and the Laurelon board oppose designation of Laurelon as historic as that would frustrate development plans and deprive Laurelon property owners of the windfall promised by Children's to Laurelon property owners.

The City's landmarks preservation ordinance requires a property to be more than 25 years old and "have significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation." The ordinance specifies six specific criteria, one of which must be met for designation as a landmark. Three of the criteria appear to be present in the case of Laurelon. These include: "It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction," "it is an outstanding work of a

designer or builder,” and “Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City.”

General agreement to let the Landmark process move forward without any action on our part.

3. Perimeter houses. Cheryl Kitchin's former house was sold to Childrens, for use by doctors and staff. Currently, it is rented to people not employed by Childrens, and has become the subject of complaints regarding loud parties. Cary Lassen explained her communications with Childrens and Seattle City officials over this issue.
4. New alternative: In early September, Children's will present updated plans and refinements to Alternative #7 to the CAC.

Executive Session. Discussion of strategy going forward on Childrens.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher