

Laurelhurst Community Club  
Minutes for April 13, 2009  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Don Torrie, Mark Holden, Cary Lassen, Leslie Wright, Liz Ogden, Colleen McAleer, Emily Dexter, Stan Sorscher, Maggie Weissman, Jeannie Hale, Marian Joh

Excused: Heather Newman, Brian McMullen

Guests: Connie Sidles, Peter Eglick

Meeting called to order at about 7:05 PM.

Connie Sidels, from the Seattle Audubon Society, spoke about the natural area behind the Center for Urban Horticulture. An information kiosk was constructed at the entrance to Wahkiakum trail. Connie asked CUH that a white board be installed in the kiosk, to post bird sightings and other informal notices. The Montlake Fill natural area is world famous for birds and wildlife. It hosts as many as 250 species of birds, by some counts. Connie is writing a book about it. Posting pictures and information would be educational and would help build a sense of community. Connie needs \$1000 to put up the sign. She solicited donations from her email lists. We could include her solicitation in our email lists.

Coyotes go into the area to eat birds and coyotes also eat feral cats. Connie says she hears coyotes at night. Nutria have been reported in the area for about 60 years. Nutria traps are helping keep nutria numbers down. Blue-tail hawks in the area eat baby nutria, which also keeps the nutria population under control.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the March 2009 minutes. **Motion** by Liz Ogden, seconded by Stan Sorscher to accept the March minutes. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Changes to the Agenda: A short segment of this year's Neighborhood Street Fund/Cumulative Reserve Fund (NSF/CRF) process was added to the agenda. Items were added later in the meeting to address the Mayor's proposal to legalize Detached Accessory Dwelling Units (DADUs) citywide, LCC's membership list and LCC strategic planning.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh sent out an email with highlights regarding income and expenses. With the economy down, dues might be a little light. Marian is cautious about committing to additional expenses beyond what we are already doing.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Beach Club: Barry Aaronson emailed on 3/17 to inquire whom to contact about joining the Beach Club. Information was provided.

2. Transportation: Steve Shaiman emailed on 3/20 to let LCC know that his family is looking forward to light rail at Husky Stadium. Because that won't be in place for some time, he is interested in working on options to increase transportation services in the neighborhood—more buses, a private shuttle, etc. He will work on a committee set up for this purpose.
3. Lost kayak: Jean Amick emailed on 3/22 to report that the Buckners on East Laurelhurst found a yellow sea kayak washed up on their shore. They are looking for the owners.
4. Noise: A neighbor continues to work with the Hospital on ongoing noise issues.
5. Laurelon water pressure issue: On 3/24 Jackie Turbak called to ask LCC whom to contact at Children's because she has no water pressure in her shower. The water comes out at a trickle making it impossible to take a shower. Hale contacted Ruth Benfield and Desiree Leigh and they will resolve the issue.
6. Accident at traffic circle: Diane Matlock emailed on 3/30 to report another accident at the lower traffic circle on 50<sup>th</sup> NE. The sign was knocked down and dirt and car parts were scattered around. She thinks it was recycling or garbage truck or maybe a delivery truck.
7. Montlake webcam: Samanta Everett emailed on 3/30 to say how much she appreciated the traffic webcam on Montlake Boulevard as it helps neighbors decide whether to go on Montlake or up 45<sup>th</sup>. Hale emailed back to say that LCC worked for four years to get the camera. LCC provided a link to the web camera in March 2006 to neighbors. The web cam can be accessed at [http://www.seattle.gov/trafficcams/Montlake\\_25th.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/trafficcams/Montlake_25th.htm).
8. Staying in touch: On 4/7, Kim Johannessen emailed for help tracking down a person named Bruce Baird who used to do remodeling in the neighborhood 30 years ago when he was a young man. Hale provided information found on dexonline, but it could be the wrong Bruce Baird. Johannessen enjoyed the feature story about Laurelhurst in *The Seattle Times*.
9. CUH kiosk: Connie Sidles emailed today to report on a CUH project that she is working on. They are building an information kiosk at the east end of Wahkiakum Lane, where the Union Bay Natural Area begins. As part of this project, they plan to install a white board, where birders can post sightings of unusual birds and let nonbirders know what kinds of things are happening on the site, nature-wise. At her suggestion, the white board will be installed in a locked cabinet, to prevent graffiti. As a Seattle Audubon master birder, she will have a key and has committed to post all reports and doings several times a week. The CUH is very excited about this project, but unfortunately they do not have the money to complete it. They got a grant from the Seattle Foundation for part of the kiosk, but they need another \$1,000. Sidles sent out a broad email request to the birders' hot line, called

Tweeters. I am asking 100 people to donate \$10 each to make this lovely project come true.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Liz Ogden met with traffic engineers to discuss mitigation at NE 50<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. They had planned for 3 chicanes, but two chicanes may be fine. The City engineers may have other proposals.

**REPORTS/ACTION:**

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen can't attend, but he sent a report about car prowls and "egging" in the area. Cary Lassen reported that a squatter was living in a mother-in-law apartment on 48<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.

One of our street projects came in second in the City evaluations. The number one project is a redesign of the median outside Belvedere Terrace. LCC has supported that project for years. Our speed cushion project came in last. Sand Point Way may get an electronic sign showing motorists' speed as they approach.

NSF/CRF Project Ranking: At its April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, NEDC ranked this year's project applications. Each of the project proponents gave a presentation. LCC's application for a traffic circle came in tied for second along with two other projects. LCC supported the number one project as a priority requested by Belvedere Terrace. That project will reconfigure the median island on Sand Point Way as there is not enough room for cars to turn out of the center turn lane to go into and out of Belvedere Terrace. Cars are often backed up into lanes of travel and it is unsafe. Below are the project rankings:

<b>RANK</b>	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>PROJECT#</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>
1	85	2009-159	Median island on Sand Point Way NE at the intersection of NE 58th St.—Alter this median island to allow for adequate vehicle queuing onto Sand Point Way NE to improve traffic safety at this intersection. Engineering drawings have already been reviewed, approved, and filed by SDOT (see included.) Re-configure portions of the median island and extend the center left turn lane per SDOT engineering documents as requested by Belvedere Terrace.
2	60	2008-378	NE 50th Street/44th Ave NE—Install traffic circle that is a high priority project in the North Laurelhurst Transportation Management Plan.
2	60	2008-383	NE 45th Street along Sand Point Way NE between Five Corners and the Princeton Street Bridge and on Sand Point Way NE north of the NOAA driveway where the speed limit becomes 30 mph—Install radar speed signs north of the NOAA driveway where the speed limit decreases to 30 mph. and in both directions on the stretch between

			Princeton St. Bridge & 5 Corners as proposed by Hawthorne Hills.
2	60	2009-105	Arterial to arterial intersection of Ravenna Ave. NE/NE 92nd Street and Lake City Way—Construct 145 LF of porous concrete sidewalk (or alternative material) with curb ramps on the west side of Ravenna Ave. NE from Lake City Way to the existing bus shelter.
3	52	2009-053	NE 77th Street and 25th Ave NE at main entrance to Dahl Playfield, Wedgwood/Ravenna—Install pedestrian safety improvements at the main entry/access point to Dahl Playfield including a pedestrian refuge island, curb ramps or curb bulbs, parking lot entry modification, and a new marked crosswalk as proposed by Friends of Dahl Field.
4	47	2009-054	45th Ave NE at NE 92nd Street—Install three speed humps at a cost of approximately \$10,000 as suggested by SDOT and requested by Wedgwood Community Council and 45 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE SLOW.
5	40	2009-192	62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE from NE 68 <sup>th</sup> St North to NE 74 <sup>th</sup> St.—Add handicapped parking (load/unload) area front of 6940 62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE.; repaint no parking zones in front of building #3; add crosswalk at intersection of 62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE and NE 68 <sup>th</sup> St.; repaint crosswalk in front of 6940 62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE #5; install 20 mph speed limit signs on 62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, from NE 65 <sup>th</sup> St to NE 74 <sup>th</sup> St. as proposed by Friends of Magnuson Park.
6	36	2008-377	43rd Ave NE between NE 33rd St. and NE 35th St.—Install speed cushions on a segment of a nonarterial in Laurelhurst.

NEDC's four-page comment letter on the NSF/CRF process is included in the correspondence packet.

Executive Session started at 7:45 PM:

**Motion** by Stan Sorscher, seconded by Colleen McAleer to authorize Peter Eglick to prepare and negotiate a settlement providing the option of injunctive relief, and defining "LCC" as the Board of Trustees and further to authorize the President or Vice President to execute the settlement. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

Executive session ended at 8:30 PM.

SR 520 Update: Colleen McAleer gave an update on the 520 bridge legislation in Olympia. HB 2211 was introduced in the State legislature which provides tolling to help pay for the 520 improvements. Frank Chopp, Speaker of the House, wants Alternative L removed in the legislation. Colleen McAleer and representatives from other

communities met with Governor Gregoire and Frank Chopp, to discuss Alternative K. State engineers are becoming more familiar with tunneling with the light rail tunnel, plus the tunnel for Alaska Way viaduct. Indian tribes object to a tunnel in the 520 project because of environmental effects on fish. Of course, Alternatives A and L will also create problems with fish.

HB 2211 provides tolling on 520 to collect money before construction starts. \$2 billion is allocated, plus money for pontoons.

Detached Accessory Dwelling Proposal: The mayor is considering approving detached Auxiliary Dwelling Units. LCC has opposed this for many years. LCC has proposed conditional use that would provide public comment.

Survey; Cary Lassen suggested surveys at the Annual meeting, or maybe a survey embedded in the Newsletter, or maybe an online survey, where neighbors list their priorities, and how they feel about various topics.

Membership List: The LCC Board discussed the idea of buying a list of names matched to addresses.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher