

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for February 9, 2009
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

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

Excused: Don Torrie

Guests: Barbara Warren, Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, Dixie Wilson, Amy Woodruff, Ingrid Savage, Debbie Anderson, Karen Ko, Nina Walsh

Changes to the Agenda: Add Little League sponsorship and the density legislation proposed by Futurewise in the state legislature. An informational packet was included in the agenda packets about the second item.

Contract Rezone proposal in Roosevelt. Barbara Warren is from the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association. A light rail station is planned for the Roosevelt neighborhood on the site of the QFC at NE 65th St. The Roosevelt Neighborhood Association wants to encourage higher density transit-oriented development. Barbara pointed out key features on a map of the area. Some properties have been zoned up for higher density. The commercial properties on NE 65th St, just south of Roosevelt have been leased. Developers are applying for a contract rezone - with 16 story apartments with commercial at street levels. The RNA recommends limiting construction to 4 stories.

The developers will apply for a 16-story contract rezone, and submit an EIS. Once the Contract Rezone is filed, the process forbids contact with City Officials. The Neighborhood plan was developed over years, and the Contract Rezone would leapfrog that plan. The Neighborhood plan is not binding, but must be considered by the city.

Barbara places high value on Roosevelt High School, just north of the site. The school was recently remodeled, and has a key position, architecturally, in the area. A high-rise development would diminish the school building and change the character of the commercial district.

Jeannie spoke about the neighborhood planning process as a long and involved process that should be respected.

Motion by Heather Newman, seconded, to endorse the statement in the handout.
Amendment by Maggie Weissman, seconded, to add "no higher than 6 stories"
Amendment accepted. Motion as amended **passed** without objection.

Beacon Hill Village Debbie Anderson lives in Wedgwood. She is active with programs for seniors in the area. The Beacon Hill Village is a program started in Boston working with older people in their existing homes, creating a "virtual village." Ownership and neighborhood connections build a sense of community. It's designed to break down

isolation. Older people will call volunteers in the neighborhood for services and interaction.

Guests' discussion of Childrens. Dixie Wilson said she sent Peter Eglick a detailed statement of purpose for the information she requested. Last month she saw financial statements for the year, but wants to see expenditures by month, showing how money was spent.

Mark Trumbauer asked if Dixie has a financial interest in the information. Dixie said she is a volunteer at Childrens' Hospital, but has no financial interest and is not being paid by Childrens. She and her husband have objected to some positions LCC has taken. She created the "Friends of Childrens" organization to have a separate identity with respect to development at Childrens.

Dixie believes the LCC should be more active in reaching out to neighbors. She asked about terms of service for the trustees and made negative characterizations of LCC's work. Dixie wants a poll of neighbors to see what they want.

Ingrid Savage said she did not feel welcome and was unhappy with the tone of the meeting.

Amy Woodruff lives in Laurelton Terrace. She expected LCC to come to Laurelton Terrace meetings and solicit the sentiments of the Laurelton residents.

Nina Walsh is a naturopathic doctor who practices in the neighborhood. She wanted to attend to observe how the LCC meetings work.

ADMINISTRATION

Bylaws. Proposed Bylaw changes are postponed until next month.

Minutes: Review of the January minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh passed out the profit and loss and balance sheet reports and discussed the security project budget.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Street lights: Janneche Nevin emailed on 1/16 to ask if LCC could help in contacting the city to get burned out street lights replaced. She had filed a complaint with the city and was told it would take six to eight weeks. She mentioned that many streets are dark and dangerous. Wright sent her a link to the city's streetlight report form.
2. Shed restrictions: Delores Petra emailed on 1/19 asking if there are restrictions other than size for building a small shed in one's back yards. Ogden responded.
3. Children's issues: Laurie Snider sent LCC a copy of her message to the Children's CAC on 1/20. She urged the CAC to limit building heights to 105 feet. Cary Lassen sent LCC a copy of her 1/21 email message addressing height, bulk and scale issues, traffic and other issues.

4. Vacant house in the Town of Yesler: On 1/21, Heather Newman learned that the seller's realtor of the old dilapidated house in the Town of Yesler said the sale would close on 1/23 and that the house would be torn down and rebuilt. Neighbor Michael Adler responded and was appreciative for all of LCC's work in addressing the issues with this property.
5. Signage on traffic circles: Diane Matlock emailed on 1/25 to express concerns about commercial signs on the traffic circle near her home. One sign was for a real estate open house and the other for Little League signups. Ogden responded.
6. Inspection of corporate records: Dixie Wilson phoned LCC attorney Peter Eglick's office on 1/27 and left a message with his paralegal stating that she would be in his office the following day to inspect LCC's corporate records. Eglick responded via email and letter. The letter is included in the agenda packets. Washington's nonprofit law allows members of nonprofit groups to inspect corporate records at either the registered agent's office (Eglick is LCC's registered agent) or at the secretary's. Records that may be inspected include: current articles and bylaws, membership lists, statements of accounts and finances, a listing of officers names and addresses and minutes of meetings.

Wilson contacted Sorscher and made arrangements to inspect LCC records and the two of them went over to Kinko's so Wilson could copy records of interest to her. Wilson photocopied LCC's geographic membership list that is used for the mailing of LCC's newsletter. This list does not include the names of neighbors and the mailing labels specify "Laurelhurst Neighbor." This is because all those residing in LCC's geographic area are automatically members and LCC does not keep track of all the names. Wilson sought a copy of the list of LCC dues paying members. Pursuant to the state law, any member "must have a purpose for inspection reasonably related to membership interests. Use or sale of members' lists by such member if obtained by inspection is prohibited." Eglick asked that Wilson provide a binding agreement as to the use intended for records copied. To date, Wilson has not provided this document.

7. Replacement housing: Madeline Sullivan sent LCC a copy of her message to the Children's CAC on 1/27 urging that the required replacement housing for the demolition of Laurelon be located nearby. She is concerned that just designating "northeast" Seattle could mean that the housing could be located as far away as Northgate. She also expressed concerns about allowing an entrance into the hospital from 40th Avenue NE.
8. Entrance on 40th Avenue: Scott Beck sent LCC a copy of his email message of 1/27 to the Children's CAC urging that no entrances into the hospital from 40th Avenue be allowed. He fears that an entrance at that location would push traffic up into the neighborhood and create safety problems. Beck was critical of the CAC in continually siding with the hospital and DPD with no regard to the neighborhood, particularly relating to limiting the height of buildings to 105 feet. Adrian Whorton and Tonya Clegg emailed with similar concerns about the entrance on 40th Avenue.

Clegg is concerned that about retaining the pedestrian friend environment of the neighborhood. In her message, she stated, "If the expansion planners cannot conceive a plan that does not destroy neighborhood livability, then they are lacking the professional skills and artistic vision needed to design the new Children's."

9. Certificate: Karmann Kaplan emailed on 2/01 to arrange to get her Good Neighbor certificate. She was unable to attend last year's event. Weissman has been in touch with her.
10. Message to neighbors: Jean Amick emailed on 2/01 suggesting that an email message to neighbors be sent our remind neighbors of the opportunity to comment on the Children's master plan.
11. Attacks on Frat Row: Lassen learned that there have been assaults on Frat Row in the U District. She continues to follow this issues and the newspaper has reported progress in apprehending the culprits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you! Thanks to Don Torrie for distributing the January LCC agenda packets.
2. U Village Environmental Scoping Meeting: February 24, 6-8 p.m., Center for Urban Horticulture. University Village is planning a 26 percent expansion in square footage to include three new buildings of retail space and restaurants. A 702 vehicle parking garage is also part of the plan. The focus of the scoping meeting will be traffic and parking.
3. Children's Hospital Master Plan Public Hearing: March 2, 9 a.m., Office of the Hearing Examiner, 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4000. The SEPA adequacy hearing is scheduled on March 5 at the same location.
4. Husky Stadium Renovation Scoping Deadline: February 17. On January 27, the UW issued a determination of significance and request for comments on the scope of a supplemental environmental impact statement for Husky Stadium renovation.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Children's Hospital Update:

1. CAC: The Children's CAC has its final meeting on Monday, February 2. The meeting was spent finalizing the CAC's draft report on the master plan. On the Saturday prior to the last meeting, Cheryl Kitchin hosted a meeting for those interested in preparing a minority report. Thirteen minority reports are included in the report addressing a variety of issues such as height, square footage, expansion of the major institution boundaries across Sand Point Way to include the Hartmann property and vehicle access to the hospital from residential streets. Those reports are included in the agenda packets.

Ingrid Savage asked for copies of the minority. The reports are public documents, and are available online.

2. Laurelon's motion to intervene in SEPA adequacy appeal: LCC made two basic arguments in opposition to intervention by Laurelon. First, that a financial interest was not enough for standing. Second, that even if Laurelon had articulated a colorable interest in the proceeding, that interest was more than adequately represented by the other responding parties in the appeal. The Hearing Examiner did not agree with the first argument, but, did agree completely with the second one. She therefore adopted a result along the lines that LCC suggested. Laurelon is granted titular intervention only so that, if it does not like the ultimate outcome before the Hearing Examiner, it will have the right to appeal that decision elsewhere. However, per the Examiner, Laurelon "will not actively participate in the appeal."
3. LCC's discovery requests: On 1/22, both Children's and the City objected to all of LCC's discovery requests. LCC wrote to the Hearing Examiner on 1/26 asking that this issue be included for discussion at the pre-hearing conference. During the 30-day period allotted for producing the documents, neither Children's nor the City raised any issues with compliance. On 1/27, the Hearing Examiner ruled that the documents must be provided. The order also listed the schedule for such matters as when witness and exhibit lists are due and when motions must be filed. On 2/05, Children's and the City finally responded to discovery requests as required.
4. Consolidated hearing: On 1/28, the Hearing Examiner issued an order consolidating the hearing on the master plan with the SEPA adequacy appeal. Testimony on the master plan will be taken March 2, 3, and 4 and will be immediately followed by the SEPA hearing on March 5 and 6.
5. Motion to remand: On 2/06, LCC filed a dispositive motion to remand the EIS for failure to consider required reasonable alternatives and failure to respond to public comments. The EIS does not include a single alternative with less than 1.5 million square feet, nor does it include an alternative at a reasonable alternative site. The EIS also failed to include LCC's written statement submitted at the DEIS public hearing and to address issues, including the public benefit/need issue.

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen passed out a map of crime activity in the last monthly reporting period showing one event in January. The patrol is well funded for the rest of the year with extra coverage in the Summer. Last night, two white males were going through a large car, and stole license and registration to use on another large car they had stolen.

Cary Lassen reported that the überkool Precinct District bomb squad spoke at the monthly crime prevention meeting. Suspects were arrested in muggings in the area.

Parks Update: Emily Dexter reported on progress at Magnuson - buildings, wetlands, community gardens, art studio, theater renovation, and the tennis club are moving forward. A trail will go from the 65th St entrance to the water. The Parks levy will fund some of the improvements. Emily said the City is doing a very good job of listening to community stakeholders, prioritizing lists of projects and coming to agreements. The top

item was renovating building #30 as a giant space for use as a community event center. No swimming pool. No historical district.

Waterway No. 1 Work Party: Jerry Gettle and Judith Thornton organized a work party on January 17. Neighbors removed concrete and built up the breakwater. A big load of garbage went to the dump.

Neighbor Appreciation Day Planning: Leslie ran a notice in the Newsletter - not much response, so far, for Good Neighbor Award. The City has a timeline for getting certificates, and we missed their deadline. Maggie Weissman proposed we slide our NAD to the Annual Meeting. We got good turnout last year, when we combined the two events.

Maggie, Liz, Jeannie, Emily, Mark Holden will start planning. We intend to invite speakers from the Center for Urban Horticulture, and include the Neighborhood Appreciation part.

SR 520 Update: About 100 citizens testified in January. The City Council passed a resolution for Alternatives A, K and L. No more than 6 lanes on Portage bay, not including ramps. That would exclude Alternative A.

Colleen and 8 other community representatives met with Frank Chopp. Chopp says the financial picture is so bad that we might just be able to afford the pontoons, built in Grays Harbor. LCC supports Alt K with the tunnel. The other alternatives have fewer features. Alt L with two bascule bridges has one ardent supporter, but that is not Frank Chopp's first choice.

Colleen is contacting the 46th LD representatives. She met with Scott White, today. The bridge will be part of legislation on tolling. Tolling gives access to federal money. The toll won't apply to the section between I-5 and Montlake.

Tolling strategies are part of the picture. Judy Clibborn lives on Mercer Island and she chairs the transportation committee. Sound Transit funding will also be tied into this.

Neighborhood Street Vacation Petition: Children's has filed a petition with the Seattle Transportation Department (SDOT) to vacate streets in the Laurelon Terrace area. In order for a vacation to be approved, the City Council must determine that to do so would be in the public interest. In making this determination, the Council will must determine that the vacations provide a long-term benefit to the general public.

The following do not constitute a public benefit:

- Mitigation of the adverse effects of a vacation.
- Meeting code requirements for development.
- Paying the required vacation fee.
- Facilitating economic activity.
- Providing a public, governmental or educational service; while the nature of the project is a factor in determining the adequacy of a public benefit proposal, it does not in and of itself constitute an adequate public benefit.

The public benefit must exceed elements required by the Code or mitigation required by SEPA or other regulations and is in addition to the fees and other obligations. The “public benefit” listed by Children’s is the mitigation it has proposed for its expansion plan.

While LCC does not oppose the street vacation, it may wish to suggest items to be considered as part of the “public benefit” requirement. For example, Children’s plan calls for a 40 foot setback along portions of NE 45th and 50th, where as LCC supports a 75 foot setback.

Cary, Liz Ogden and Maggie discussed possible bike safety options at 40th Ave NE.

Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF): Last year, LCC submitted or supported the NSF project applications below. Usually, the top three projects are funded. Sometimes, others are funded if higher ranked projects are determined not to be technically feasible.

RANK	POINTS	PROJECT#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
3	142	2008-379	NE 50th St between 49th & 48th Ave NE—Add chicanes, 2 curb bulbs and later a third, if needed to reduce speeds near Villa Academy and St. Bridget’s, high priority in N Laurelhurst Transportation Plan
6	116	2007-037	Sand Point Way and NE 52 nd St—Install traffic light, marked crosswalk, defined curbs and sidewalk or standing pads at street corners and bus stop
8	112	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
9	91	2008-377	43rd Ave NE between NE 33rd St and NE 35th St—Add speed cushions on a segment of a highly traveled non-arterial where cars travel at excessive speeds and there are many kids
12	79	2007-261	47 th Ave NE and NE 54 th St—install curb median for traffic calming to calm traffic speeds
14	45	2008-378	NE 50th Street/44th Ave NE—Add traffic circle—high priority in N Laurelhurst Transportation Plan
14	45	2007-262	NE 43 rd and NE 44 th between 36 th NE west to deadend—Install curbs and parking strips

Colleen McAleer raised questions about speed cushions on 43rd Ave NE.

Once a project is submitted, it stays on the list for future years. We've done well in past years, in getting high priorities for our projects. Liz talked about projects on the list for this year. Liz will introduce a new proposal for curb bulbs on NE 43rd St on the steep hill up to Laurelhurst Park.

Mark Trumbauer would like an official bike access path near the steps between the Burke-Gilman Trail and NE 45th St at 36th Ave NE, near the Can-Am Pizza store.

Density Legislation: Futurewise, (formerly called 1,000 Friends of Washington), a statewide land use and environmental planning group, has proposed state legislation that would essentially force cities in the Puget Sound region to create Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas at every transit station along a rail or bus rapid-transit route and upzone all the land within a half-mile radius of those stations. In its current form, the bill would require 50 housing units per acre in these areas. The bill's impacts would be most immediate in southeast Seattle, but over the long term, it also affects Capitol Hill, the University District, Roosevelt and Northgate, where rail extensions are planned.

A copy of the bill report on House Bill 1490 is included in the agenda packets. (The Senate counterpart is Senate Bill 5687.) There are also pro materials from FutureWise and con materials from the Seattle Displacement Coalition.

At its January meeting, the Seattle Community Council Federation after hearing from both proponents and opponents voted unanimously to oppose the bill in its current form. The City Neighborhood Council also heard a presentation on the bill and district councils are now in the process of reviewing the measure. The issue surfaced at the February NEDC meeting and concerns were raised by the representative from North Windermere. NEDC member representatives were encouraged to take the issue back to their parent organizations.

Motion LCC opposes SB 5687 and HB 1490 in their current form. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Executive session began at 9:15 PM.

Motion by Colleen, seconded, to approve expenses for Carol Eychaner. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Subcommittee: Marian, Liz, Jeannie and Leslie to work on Childrens' strategy.

Motion by Leslie seconded by Emily to authorize up to \$7600 for Nancy Field to prepare for public hearings and prepare expert testimony. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher

