

LCC Trustees Meeting
Wu Hsing Tao School, Talaris Campus
October 10, 2010

Attending: Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kathryn Kelly, Cary Lassen, Seth Lassen, Colleen McAlleer, Len Nelson, Stan Sorscher, Leslie Wright

Excused: Kirsten Curry, Marian Joh, Brian McMullen, Maggie Weissman, Don Torrie, Mark Weed, Mark Trumbauer (leave of absence), Adrian Whorton (leave of absence)

Guests: Alex Soldana, Josh Kavanagh, UW Transportation Services; Tracey Stone

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

U-PASS Program: Josh Kavanagh handled out a printed presentation about the U-PASS program. The UPASS program covers bicycle racks, bus passes for students and staff.

The U-Pass program is designed to reduce traffic and parking. Staff pays about \$130, and students pay \$99 per quarter. This grants users unlimited rides on transit, car-pool and vanpool subsidies, merchant discount program. Indirect benefits are paid from the U-Pass program for bicycles and pedestrians.

Funding:

1. Central administration dollars from UW to UPASS.
2. Proceeds from parking system
3. Fees charged to students and staff

Revenues and costs are equal. Payment to Metro is based on survey data by UW. Other revenues are based on parking. The increase in tax is budgeted to produce \$2 million. Fare increases at Metro also increased costs per ride, which passed through, to some extent, to the UPASS program.

UW has forgiven \$500,000 in expenses to U-PASS. Shuttle funding has also been absorbed into the UW budget. About 2000 parking stalls are empty at peak time, which is up from about 1500 a few years ago. Total parking is about 12,000. Josh argues that parking fees have reached a point of diminishing returns. Privately operated lots in the University District have thousands of parking spaces, and their rates are lower than UW parking rates.

Discussion of parking in the neighborhoods to escape parking fees. When the student fees increased, recently, student participation dropped dramatically. Josh has no survey data showing how those students get to school. Faculty and staff participation in UPASS also dropped. Part of that drop may be related to layoffs. The \$99 rate per quarter is still a deal, but not the great deal that it was before the rate increase.

ASUW passed a resolution opposing increases in parking taxes at UW. Students are actively lobbying the City Council.

One thought is to make the U-PASS mandatory, and charge a lower quarterly fee. Student organizations are in favor of this.

The City Council has recommended a 2 _ percent increase in the commercial parking tax, currently set at 10 percent. This would cost the University about five million dollars. In his budget, the Mayor has recommended an increase in the commercial parking tax to 17 _ percent—a cost to the University of about 15 million dollars. Information provided by the University indicates that increases to the cost of the U-PASS program have resulted in substantial declines in participation in the program. The University is seeking an exemption from the increase in the commercial parking tax increase.

Councilmember Licata will be proposing an amendment to the city budget that would provide for an exemption from the commercial parking tax increase so long as the University invests in transportation demand management by an amount greater than twice the product of its gross parking receipts times the current commercial parking tax rate.

Materials provided in the agenda packets indicate that U-PASS is an integrated, multimodal solution that supports the full range of green transportation options. As of 2008, 24.5 percent of U-PASS holders walked to campus, 7.1 percent bicycled to campus, and 5.7 percent carpooled or vanpooled. Easy access to transit and free or inexpensive services for bicyclists, carpoolers, vanpoolers, and walkers greatly lower the barriers to reducing drive alone trips. Whichever mode U-PASS holders use to get to campus, they are also able to use transit for their other trips around the region. U-PASS reduces emissions, congestion, and other impacts of commuting by single occupant vehicle (SOV).

Kirsten Curry, LCC's representative at CUCAC, recommends that LCC support UW exemption from the increase in the parking tax. **Motion** to support exempting UW from the increase in the parking tax.

Childrens' Hospital has an aggressive traffic plan. The City Council's exemption would apply to institutions with high-performing traffic plans. Childrens' is part of the dialog in the City Council. Childrens' funding system also applies parking fees to their bus pass program.

Nick Licata's amendment to the City proposal is conditioned UW's exemption on additional investments by UW in traffic mitigation. This type of condition would be easily met by Childrens'. Discussion that the motion applies specifically to the UW exemption. If the City Council ordinance expands beyond that to Nick Licata's amendment or other taxing mechanisms, then we would want to reconsider LCC's position. **Motion passed** with Kevin abstaining.

Community Center: Tracey Stone is a neighbor. She represents a group of about 1000 moms in the neighborhood working to keep the Community Center open. She encourages neighbors to comment in the City process, attend the remaining Council meetings, and call or write to Council members. Colleen McAleer points out that closing

our Community Center would be a hardship on families trying to get to other Community Centers on public transportation.

Our center has a great kitchen and the pottery shop. Tracey wants to see good turnout at the City Council meeting.

Minutes: The board reviewed the September 13 minutes. **Motion** by Leslie Wright to approve minutes, seconded by Kevin Chang. **Motion Passed**

Motion by Emily Dexter, seconded by Cary Lassen to approve 6-month leave of absence for Adrian Whorten, running to April 2011. **Motion approved** with Seth Lassen abstaining.

Treasurer's Report. Emily reported that charges by Carol Eychaner ran over her budget by \$337. Emily indicates the extra charge comes from our request that Carol prepare for and attend an extra meeting. **Motion** to pay Carol Eychaner's charges beyond the budgeted amount. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Discussion of formatting and arrangement of accounts in the treasurer's report.

Jeannie asked Carol to prepare a response on the MUP for the helicopter. Carol recommended that we look for a noise specialist. LCC contacted Eychaner to see about retaining her to review and prepare comments on LCC's behalf for the upcoming helistop. Depending upon the timing of when the MUP application is filed, she said she could review the siting and how the location(s) relates to the bed south proposal.

Our bylaws grant authority to the Executive Committee to approve expenses up to \$500 between meetings. Clarification is that this authority applies to consultants and legal fees up to \$500.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Laurelon demolition: On 9/16, Julia Sensenbrenner emailed with concerns about Laurelon demolition and the issues related to toxic dust with lead paint and asbestos in the old buildings. McAleer responded with information about protections that will be provided.
2. 44th Street closure: On 9/17, Heather Newman reported that the UW is investigating putting fencing or shrubbery to block the deadend at 44th where daycare workers and others park on the narrow street and cut over to the student housing.
3. Waterway No. 1: Judith Thornton called on 9/27 to say that she had met with Karen Peterson, a noxious weed specialist from King County. Karen wanted permission to inoculate the phragmites and garden loosestrife at the waterway with an aquatic herbicide later in the week. Dexter responded and LCC thereafter got permission from DNR for the noxious weed treatment. Thornton followed up with an email to Dexter.

LCC has been unable to verify some of the information provided by Kate and Noel Lloyd and Judith Thornton at the September LCC trustee meeting included in the minutes. Thornton reported that the Port of Seattle has permitted the old basketball court over six decades ago. LCC's information is that the court was installed by Elmer White for his son when White had leftover asphalt from another project. At the time, LCC's information indicates that the one-block dirt street along NE 35th was also paved. LCC requested documentation on the permitting, but Thornton has not responded. LCC intends to update its website with information about the waterway in the near future.

4. Community center closure: Gordon Bradley emailed on 10/01 and 10/04 with concerns about the closure of the community center. One neighbor had suggested shifting funds for the playground project to the community center. LCC pointed out that the playground project was funded through the last parks levy approved by the voters and that transferring funds is not a possibility. Another neighbor suggested that LCC take over partial ownership and management of the center.

On 10/2, Helen and David Belvin sent LCC a copy of their message to councilmembers about closure of the center. They said, "This institution serves vital needs of the community in every age group and the thought of being open only 15 hours of week is devastating. If the hours are so dramatically cut, loads of creative, educational, sports and other programs will disappear. Young mothers with small children and the elderly will be especially hard hit. Going to other centers for these opportunities will be nearly impossible for a variety of reasons. Walking, pushing strollers and bicycling will no longer be an option." On 10/03, Helen suggested vanpooling to the upcoming public hearing.

Scott, Rachel and Sophia Hinds wrote to the council asking that funds be retained for the community center. They said that one of the great features of the neighborhood is its vibrant community center which serves as a hub of the community. They said that the institution serves vital needs for every age group and that limiting hours would be devastating. They added that going to other centers would be difficult. Karmann Kaplan emailed her Block Watch list asking neighbors to email the city council, as did the Laurelhurst Blog and the NE Seattle Moms list. The Blog has had numerous posts on the issue.

Another neighbor commented that her kids love the community center and would rather go there and play and make friends and be active playing, rather than going to McDonald's or staying home to play video games. They are a one-car family and going to other centers is not an option due to financial hardship. They are upset that the city just invested \$2.9 million to upgrade the center and now neighbors will lose the opportunities and important community events and that the center would function principally for private events. On 10/03, Myrna Torrie and Heather Newman emailed to say that they had emailed councilmembers opposing closure of the center.

On 10/03, Laurelhurst historian Christine Barrett responded to LCC's request for the document transferring the four tracts of land where the community center and playfield are located to the city. Christine does not have the original document which

indicates that the property was transferred “for park and playfield purposes.” Maggie Weissman checked on the 2010 value of the property—\$29,416,100.

Under the leadership of Tracey Stone, Wendy Kelley and Sarah Adkins, a flyer was created and the 1500 copies are being distributed throughout the neighborhood, with several neighbors volunteering for different parts of the community. Stone provided her insightful comments to the city council to the Blog.

5. Children’s construction management plan: On 10/05, Christine Adkins, who manages the four-plexes on 40th Avenue NE, emailed with questions about the hospital’s construction management plan. She had attended the community meeting and had questions before meeting with the hospital. Info was provided.

Save Union Bay Association: Susan Holliday spoke on behalf of the Save Union Bay Association. The group has about 100 members, mostly home owners along Union Bay. SUBA was formed in the 70’s.

Homeowners can kill milfoil out to 10 feet into the lake. A more comprehensive program is needed.

Department of Ecology outlined a process to get a grant to write a plan to the City and State for milfoil control. Other lake organizations arrange for a City employee to manage the grant. Such plans are submitted to the State Department of Ecology. Then you can get a permit, and money to execute the plan.

Susan expects the plan to call for an herbicide called fluridone, which is a systemic treatment for milfoil and other aquatic plants. This treatment has been approved for other lakes, and has been found to be effective. No known side effects are expected, if applied at less than .15 ppm. The treatment is safe for ducks, fleas, fish and desirable plants.

The treatments will require fund-raising in the neighborhood. Glyphosate will be used to control water lilies. SUBA held a community meeting on October 4.

Motion by Colleen McAleer, seconded by Leslie Wright, that LCC supports SUBA's preferred option in their effort to control noxious weeds and milfoil in Union Bay. **Motion passed** without opposition - Cary and Seth abstaining (due to appearance of conflict of interest).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please see NEDC announcement handout.

1. Children’s Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting: Thursday, October 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Sound Café, Seattle Children’s Hospital, 4800 Sand Point Way NE. The SAC will have a presentation on the pre-Master Use Permit (MUP) application for the helistop.

2. Thank you: Thank you to Emily Dexter and Len Nelson for assistance for agenda packet distribution this month.
3. Gift to the Library Foundation: An anonymous donor recently pledged \$500,000 to The Seattle Public Library Foundation, provided the Foundation matches that amount in donations from individual contributors. Use of The Seattle Public Library is at an all-time high. Circulation of books and resources is up 20 percent in the past two years. At the same time, drastic city budget cuts have left the Library facing its most serious financial challenge in recent history.
4. Budget Public Hearings: Neighbors can submit comments on the budget to budget@seattle.gov and/or to individual city councilmembers. There are two upcoming budget hearings:
 - Wednesday, October 13, 5 p.m. sign-in, 5:30 p.m. public hearing, Brockey Center at South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Avenue SW, 98106, free, accessible parking is available in the south or general parking lots.
 - Tuesday, October 26, 5 p.m. sign-in, 5:30 p.m. public hearing, Council Chambers, 2nd floor Seattle City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, 98104.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention. At the October NPAC meeting, we heard that police will get modest increase in funding. They will lose 3 crime prevention officer positions out of 7, and will keep 5 out of 7 victim advocates. Night-life businesses are getting attention from the City:

- work on code compliance.
- Noise penalties for 80 dB commercial business in the downtown area.
- Consider flexible liquor service hours. Currently, with our 2 AM closing, bar patrons tend to consume drinks at last call. Spreading out bar closing hours would reduce that problem. North Carolina has 24 hour liquor service. New York City serves to 4:30 AM.
- Security training for bar bouncers. The bars would pay to send their bouncers to training.
- Late night transportation alternatives.
- Targeting public nuisances - disorderly patrons.

The public policy interest is that night-life is good business.

Seth summarized major police activity in the northeast area. NPAC will have a sock drive again this year. Cary will try to get neighborhood businesses to help with the sock drive. Recipients of the socks from last year's drive spoke in appreciation of last year's effort.

Cary gave a local crime report - no incidents were reported in the neighborhood. Cary heard from a neighbor that someone is illegally dumping garbage into a church's

dumpster. Normally DPD would cite an individual caught dumping garbage illegally. Jeannie and Cary discussed the content of a letter that LCC could write to neighbors in the area.

Landscaping - Emily reported progress on landscaping for the median. Trees should be planted in November. Ivor Park at Talaris will check with his gardeners to see if our median work can be included in their contract, and we would pay our share.

Talaris Median Update: On September 15, Ivor Park from Pistol Creek, the firm that manages the Talaris property, was back in touch with Emily regarding maintenance of the small median at the base of Suicide Hill. Responding to Dexter's suggestion, Park proposed that LCC handle the initial cleanup. If there is an incremental cost associated with the island, he will discuss sharing of that cost.

About a week later, the median had been cleaned up. Dexter checked with neighbors to see if they had done the cleanup. They hadn't. She has been back in touch with Park to thank him for the cleanup.

In the meantime, Heath Landscaping has installed the mulch on the center medians maintained by LCC as approved by the board. The 200 daffodil bulbs for the medians abutting Talaris have arrived and will be planted in early November. The two *Raywood* ash trees have been ordered to replace the two on the Talaris median that were destroyed or damaged. Jean Colley was fortunate to find 20 *Genista pilosa*, the groundcover in the pedestrian refuge island on Surber and NE 41st at Swanson's.

SR 520 Update: Colleen testified at a hearing on the bridge. City Council is asking for a role in the final permitting. Montlake is trying to get the second Bascule bridge removed. The City Council wants to delay start of the project until it is fully funded.

Emergency preparedness. Cary asked for a volunteer to prepare for winter weather conditions - perhaps shopping or running errands for neighbors who are not able to drive in snow. We can look for a volunteer through the blog, email network, and other ways.

Seattle Children's Update:

1. October 14 SAC meeting: The SAC will have a pre-MUP presentation on the helistop. It is unknown at this time whether Children's has explored options for re-locating the helistop. If Children's is considering putting the helicopter pad on the ground, Lassen recommends that the Children's complete the proposed transit hubs. She said that the entire parking area would need to be redesigned. This is a problem that LCC identified to DPD and Children's in improperly segmenting the MUP application for the Bed Unit South project and the helistop. Lassen would like the SAC to recommend hiring a landscape architect/urban planner to look at the frontage and design a better, more efficient, pedestrian friendly corridor. She added that the SDOT should study the NE 45th Street hill and 40th Avenue NE and consider traffic calming very soon.

2. Livable Streets Workshop: Children's is hosting a transportation workshop on November 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UW's Gould Hall. LCC and the Federation have signed up to be co-sponsors. Children's has invited other groups to also co-sponsor. The Workshop will feature various stations and areas where people can give input by drawing on maps, learn about pedestrian and bike facilities such as bike boulevards, watch videos and look at photos posted by community members and many other interactive ways to identify opportunities, and barriers for making the streets around Seattle Children's more livable. The event will be family friendly. Seattle Children's and Cascade Bicycle will have programming for kids including pedestrian safety packets for walks to school, low-cost helmets and fitting, and a bike skills and thrills workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.
Minutes by Stan Sorscher