

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for April 12, 2010
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Kevin Chang, Kirsten Curry, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Cary Lassen, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Len Nelson, Don Torrie, Adrian Whorton, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Marian Joh, Stan Sorscher, Mark Trumbauer

Guests: Kate Lloyd, Laurie Snider, Judith Thornton, Mark Weed

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Review of these items was deferred until a future meeting.

Board Appointment/Leave of Absence: Under LCC's bylaws, the board is empowered to fill vacancies on the board of trustees. Candidates must reside in Laurelhurst and have a demonstrated interest in LCC. Kevin Chang meets these qualifications and is interested in serving on the board. MOTION by Weissman, seconded by McAleer, to appoint Kevin Chang to serve on the Board of Trustees. *Motion passed unanimously.* MOTION by Weissman, seconded by McAleer to authorize a four-month leave of absence for Mark Trumbauer. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Changes to the Agenda: Sun Park, Children's Design Guidelines

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. UW bonfire: On 3/5, there was a big bonfire on 17th Avenue NE median disrupting the surrounding neighborhoods. Participants threw bottles at the police and there was fear that a riot would occur. A couch was torched. Two groups representing the UW's 32 fraternities and 17 sororities wrote a letter today apologizing for the conduct. Leadership in the groups are working with the police and University staff to identify those responsible and to deter this kind of conduct in the future.
2. Neighborhood burglaries: On 3/11, a Crime Watch neighbor reported on two burglaries on 43rd and three in View Ridge. Computers and wallets were stolen along with other items. Burglars entered homes while residents were sleeping. Access was apparently gained through unlocked doors and "hide-a-keys" left in easy to find places.
3. Community Center locked bathrooms: On 3/14, George Majercak sent LCC a copy of his message to the community center about lack of access to the center's public bathrooms on weekends. He suggested allowing volunteers to have keys to keep the bathrooms open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends, depending on daylight hours, with LCC supervision. Dena Schuler is working with her supervisors in the Parks Department to resolve this continuing issue. One problem Schuler mentioned is that the community center is closed on Sundays. Today, Majercak reported that the bathrooms were again closed on 4/10 and 4/11. Schuler followed up to say the bathrooms were open on Saturday from 10-5 p.m.
4. Absentee landlord: On 3/16, a neighbor contacted LCC about the property located at 4711 49th Avenue NE. The house has been vacant for several years; the fence is falling down, the yard is a "jungle" and there are phone books piling up on the front porch. The complaint was referred to Heather Newman who is the lead on problems with absentee landlords. Weissman will check on ownership of the property.

5. SR 520: On 3/16, Susan Sloan emailed asking for background on how a Health Impact Assessment was integrated into the SR 520 bill passed by the state legislature as a mandate. As state mediation rep for LCC, McAleer followed up and provided information. Mark Weed addressed the board about his concerns relating to 520 replacement.
6. Teen drinking at the playfield: In March, there were two reports of teens drinking alcohol at the Playfield in the area of the tennis courts. Community center staff and grounds crew were alerted to the incidents and have encouraged neighbors to report incidents directly to 911. Apparently, a backpack was hidden on both occasions in the bushes and later retrieved by teenagers. Lassen continues to monitor this.
7. Pedestrian accident: On 3/19, a Laurelhurst neighbor was hit by a car while crossing in a marked crosswalk at the light on NE 45th and 36th Avenue NE. According to police and the Seattle Fire Department, a vehicle was traveling east on NE 45th Street when the pedestrian, who was standing on the southeast corner of the intersection of Northeast 45th Street and 36th Avenue Northeast, stepped out into the marked crosswalk and was struck. The neighbor received serious injuries and was taken to Harborview. It was reported that she has serious brain injuries and will be hospitalized for an extended period of time. LCC has received many emails and phone calls about the incident with best wishes for the neighbor and hopes that LCC would address pedestrian safety issues in the area and speed reduction along that stretch of roadway.
8. Shots fired? On 3/19, LCC received a message from a neighbor who had heard on KOMO news that shots had been fired at the Center for Urban Horticulture. McMullen followed up and learned that it was a false alarm. There was a test of pyrotechnics to scare off the Canadian geese.
9. Waterway No. 1: Judith Thornton and Kate Lloyd addressed the board and distributed informational materials about the interest of Maurice Major, Aquatics Management Archaeologists for DNR, in visiting the waterway to teach volunteers how to recognize cultural artifacts. Thornton has had archaeologists visit her home to discuss historical significance of the waterway.
10. Crashed wall: Extensive damage to a brick retaining wall recently occurred on Surber Drive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Please see the NEDC announcement handout.
2. Save Union Bay Association Community Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m. Laurelhurst Community Center, 4554 NE 41st Street. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the \$30,000 grant the group received from the Department of Ecology to develop an Integrative Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan, to describe the timeline and process of planning, to determine if anyone is interested in joining the Steering Committee, and to answer questions. There will also be an update on the nutria program and discussion with 520 WSDOT about mitigation. Susan Holliday is the contact and can be reached at susanholliday@mac.com.
3. Seattle Children's Hospital Draft Design Guidelines and Upcoming Design Commission Meeting: April 15, 2-3 p.m., Boards and Commissions Room, L280, City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue. The Commission will review Seattle Children's draft design guidelines. Time for

public comment will be limited depending on the number of attendees who wish to make verbal comment. Written comments may be submitted to Design Commission staff by Monday, April 12, 2010. Written comments will be available to commissioners prior to the meeting, but will not be read during the meeting. Following public comment, the Draft Design Guidelines will be sent to DPD for final approval. Draft design guidelines are available at <http://masterplan.seattlechildrens.org/>.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Cary Lassen will be heading up a committee to work with Children's bicycle and transportation coordinator, SDOT and others on develop recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements in the area. As a starting point, LCC has already reviewed and commented on the Sand Point Pedestrian Study, the Bicycle Master Plan, the Pedestrian Master Plan, the University Area transportation study and other studies. Trustees interested in working on this committee should contact Lassen. Lassen will meet with David Hiller from Cascade Bicycle Club and a rep from Children's for meeting on bikes in the vicinity.

Lassen reported that there had been 14 accidents between Five Corners and 38th Avenue NE (by the Springbrook Building) according to statistics provided by SDOT. LCC supports reducing the speed limit to 30 mph. Flashing lights at the crosswalks were suggested. Concern was raised about sidewalk signage that interferes with pedestrian access and safety.

Crime Prevention: McMullen reported on the recent crime wave in the neighborhood. Incidents have been principally car prowls occurring at night. Rumors have been circulating that there is an electronic device that unlocks cars and at the same time turns on television sets. SPD said this is not probable. Neighbors have been reminded to keep cars locked and not leave a house keep hidden outside the house. There have been 10 car prowls in Laurelhurst in the last month. One juvenile was arrested for an in-home burglary.

Lassen reported that at the North Precinct Advisory Council meeting, there was a budget discussion relating to public safety funding.

SR 520 Update: On April 6th, McAleer attended a public meeting called by Mayor McGinn at the Bertha Knight Room at 6:00pm. The purpose was to hear and comment on the findings of Nelson/Nygard Consultants in regard to the feasibility of light rail on the existing SR520 WSDOT "preferred" plan. The Mayor and consultants were present, and much information was detailed on the bridge design. McAleer supported the capacity for light rail in the future (for LCC), but very specifically stated that it would not be acceptable to run a bridge from the existing high rise to the University of Washington through Union Bay. The only option that LCC could support would be a tunnel under the surface. Madison Park and Montlake agreed with this concept, and also objected to any bridge over Union Bay for light rail.

On April 8th, McAleer and Jean Amick participated in the City Council hearing (at City Hall) for public comments on the "preferred " alternative proposed by WSDOT. Members of the Coalition for a Sustainable SR520 commented on how it lacks the solutions as a transportation system at the detriment to adjacent neighborhoods, takes away parklands, and creates more noise, air and water pollution. McAleer noted that the WSDOT plan for sound absorption is flawed in its one side of the bridge only design. She also noted that the traffic flows will worsen for NE Seattle

LCC will be submitting the official response to the SDEIS on SR520 that was published in January of 2010. Stakeholders were given an extension to file comments due to the 1400 pages in volume that had to be reviewed.

LCC in conjunction with the Coalition for a Sustainable SR520 hired a traffic consultant, Ross Tilghman, to prepare comments on behalf of the impacted Seattle neighborhoods. Colleen McAleer worked with Jonathan Dubman of Montlake CC to prepare the remarks. LCC approved \$3700 in fees to cover approximately half of the cost incurred by the Coalition. Colleen will be submitting a complete response for LCC by the deadline, April 15, 2010.

Neighborhood Street Fund/Cumulative Reserve Fund (NSF/CRF): At its April meeting, the Northeast District Council (NEDC) ranked this year's NSF/CRF project applications. The Laurelhurst traffic circle at NE 50th and 44th Avenue NE came out number one. The Yesler Swamp project came out number four and the curb median by Laurelhurst Elementary School at 47th NE and 50th Avenue NE came out number five. A project to address pedestrian, bicycle safety and traffic calming on NE 50th Street between 40th Avenue NE and Sand Point Way was ranked number two. SDOT and the Parks Department will evaluate the engineering feasibility of the top five projects.

The projects and ranking are as follows:

Number	Description	Points
1. 2008-378	NE 50th Street/44th Ave NE—Install traffic circle that is a high priority project in the North Laurelhurst Transportation Management Plan. (This project had 60 points in 2009, tied for 2 nd place ranking in April 2009; the 1 st place project was funded as were the other two 2 nd place projects out of 8 submissions.) Cost: \$15,000 as reviewed and approved by SDOT.	50
2. 2010-___	Address pedestrian, bicycle safety and traffic calming on NE 50 th Street between 40 th Avenue NE and Sand Point Way NE. This is a popular route for neighbors and homeowners who live in the southwestern part of Hawthorne Hills in order to make a left turn onto Sand Point Way NE as there is a right turn only on 40 th Avenue. Solutions would positively impact the Burke Gilman Trail, employees of Children's Hospital who exit the BGT at this street, folks who live in the Ronald McDonald or Kids Bowling for Kids residents at the Burke Gilman Housing walk along this street to get to the hospital. Parking and a disconnected sidewalk need to be addressed and a solution found for safe bicycling, walking, and parking.	49
3. 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. (This project had 52 points in 2009, ranked 3 rd —really 5 th as three projects were tied for 2 nd place with 8 submissions.)	45
4. 2010-___	Yesler Swamp Project, located by NE 41 st Street, Surber Drive NE and the shore of Union Bay. This project would involve design and construction of a trail through the area to provide public access, ecological restoration and educational opportunities for the public.	37
5. 2007-261 2010-___	Install curb median and pavement markings similar to those at 47th NE & NE 50th. 47th is a series of long blocks with no traffic control or calming devices located between NE 50th St. and Sand Point Way. The North Laurelhurst Transportation Management Plan recommends one additional	31

	median located just east of NE 54th St. to calm traffic on this long block. (Because of a change in NSF rules, this project was not automatically rolled over to 2009; it was submitted in 2006, 2007 and 2008.)	
6. 2009-192	62 nd Ave NE from NE 68 th St North to NE 74 th St.—Add handicapped parking (load/unload) area front of 6940 62 nd Ave NE.; repaint no parking zones in front of building #3; add crosswalk at intersection of 62 nd Ave NE and NE 68 th St.; repaint crosswalk in front of 6940 62 nd Ave NE #5; install 20 mph speed limit signs on 62 nd Ave NE, from NE 65 th St to NE 74 th St. as proposed by Friends of Magnuson Park. (This project had 40 points in 2009, ranked 5 th really 7 th due to higher priority tied projects out of 8 project submissions.)	11

Spring Clean Project: Emily Dexter has agreed to coordinate Spring Clean for Laurelhurst this May. Under the program, the City agrees to provide planning assistance, gloves, safety vests, disposal bags, transfer station passes, and waste pick ups. The purpose of the program is to encourage neighbors to become community stewards. The most recent community newsletter includes an article about the program. Weissman will be the lead on a sewer lid stencil project for her part of the neighborhood. Other projects include work parties to clean up the traffic circles in the Town of Yesler, the NE 41st Street median and pedestrian refuge island and Waterway No. 1.

SUN Park: The SUN Park is entering its second year of completion with hundreds of neighbors of all ages enjoying the park each day, either by driving by or walking through it. Steering Committee co-chairs have asked LCC for a \$2,000 donation to be used for maintenance purposes (compost delivery, summer irrigation and improvement to the gravel path). Because of concerns about future expenses associated with enforcing the Children’s/LCC Settlement Agreement, it was decided that LCC would postpone funding community projects until a budget can be developed.

Children’s Hospital:

1. Draft design guidelines: On April 15, Seattle’s Design Commission will consider and possibly act upon Children’s draft design guidelines. The draft guidelines address site design (sidewalks and walkways, public entrances and access points, parking, vehicle access and parking, landscaping and screening, etc.) and architectural character (height, bulks and scale, roof tops, architectural elements, etc.). LCC has retained land use consultant Carol Eychaner to prepare comments on LCC’s behalf.

With only two weeks notice of the Design Commission meeting, LCC contacted the Design Commission staff to ask if the meeting could be postponed to allow Laurelhurst neighbors to get involved in the process. The Design Commission staff said the Commission’s consideration of the draft guidelines could be postponed if Children’s agreed. Children’s is anxious to get the process moving and did not want the April 15 meeting postponed. The NEDC wrote a letter (included in the correspondence packet requesting a 30-day postponement, but had not to date received a response.

On April 2, Lassen, McAleer and Eychaner met with representatives from Children’s at City Hall to discuss the draft guidelines. Children’s architect was at the meeting and it was helpful to have that perspective. On April 6, an LCC committee including Lassen, McAleer and Hale met with Eychaner to go through the draft guidelines and provide direction to Eychaner.

2. Standing Advisory Committee: In the past few months, Children's has been meeting with those who served on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to see if they would be interested in serving on the Standing Committee Advisory Committee (SAC), which will monitor implementation of the master plan. Last week, the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) wrote to CAC members to see if they would like to serve for an initial two-year term. Although re-appointment is not automatic, DON sought to assess interest. The Major Institutions Code outlines the process for setting up the SAC.

The letter to CAC members indicates that the first SAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 19th. The letter goes on to state that the time commitment is considerably less than that required for serving on the CAC. There will be an initial round of meetings to review Master Use Permits (MUPs) and other issues relating to plan implementation. After that, there will be one to three meetings a year.

Under the Settlement Agreement with Children's, Children's has agreed to support two LCC designates to the SAC.

QFC/U Village lawsuit: In mid-February, QFC filed a lawsuit against University Village for violation of its development agreement that would result with the U Village proposed expansion. QFC claims that the U Village project would result in obstruction of visibility of the QFC grocery store frontage and signage (due to the large garage that would be built against the viaduct). QFC also cites ingress and egress impacts, parking impacts and the increase in volume of traffic that will affect QFC deliveries. U Village responded to the complaint on March 22, 2010. They basically deny all of the allegations or state that no response is necessary because legal conclusions are required. U Village states that QFC is not entitled to relief and/or that QFC is barred from relief because in their view they say the complaint does not state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

Copies of the complaint and response are included in the agenda packets. LCC will continue to monitor the lawsuit.

Planning for Annual Neighbors Meeting: The Board decided to have emergency preparedness as a major focus of the annual neighbors meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:10 p.m.