

LCC Trustees Meeting
Wu Hsing Tao Institute, on the Talaris campus
December 13, 2010

Attending: Kevin Chang, Kirsten Curry, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Marian Joh, Kathryn Kelly, Cary Lassen, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Len Nelson, Mark Trumbauer (leave of absence), Adrian Whorton (leave of absence)

Guests: Christopher Williams, Acting Parks and Recreation Department Superintendent.

Also from Parks and Recreation: Barb Wade, Sue Goodwin.

From ARC: Bill Keller.

Neighbors: Christi Nagle, Jim White, Susan Marten, Angie Johnson, Alan Hovland, Peter Buck, Linda Luiten.

CALL TO ORDER: Jeannie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Community Center Update: During the recent City Council budget process, LCC was successful with the assistance of many, many neighbors in increasing the Mayor's community center hours from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week.

Under the Mayor's proposed 2011 budget the Laurelhurst Community Center would have ceased to operate as a community center and would be transformed into a satellite program site for senior programs and office space. Drop-in hours would have gone from 53 hours/week (46 in summer) to 15, but the focus would be on programming for seniors and special populations—rather than families, children and our seniors. The City Council had the final say on the budget and increased hours to 30 per week.

Although some members of the City Council had concerns about conversion of community center space to office space, the Council only addressed this at the Greenlake Community Center. At Laurelhurst, the lower level activity room is in the process of being converted to office space for the Park Department's Lifelong Learning Program. This eliminates one of two of the activities rooms at the Laurelhurst Center. The changes also mean that Laurelhurst would have no special activities such as the annual salmon bake, the Easter egg event and other treasured events.

Typically, the lower activities room has been used for preschool enrichment classes, art classes, cpr/first aid, yoga as well as rentals. With 30 hours, as opposed to the 15 proposed by the Mayor, there will be a bit more flexibility to keep the Laurelhurst gym doors open during most program and drop in time as well as limited morning programs at the center. Likely, the Center will have to figure out a way to use the 30 hours between the two locations.

In addition to the loss of the lower level activities room to office space, Laurelhurst still is concerned about the loss of permanent staffing at the center.

Acting Parks Superintendent Christopher Williams updated LCC.

He spoke of a limited-use model, at the Laurelhurst Community Center. The large meeting room is scheduled to be converted to office space. Dena Schuler, who is the coordinator at the Center, is moving to Laurel Heights. Dena would be replaced by part-time staff.

By way of background, Superintendent Williams said that, as a child, he was bussed to Laurelhurst Elementary School. Christopher reviewed the budget situation. The City is \$67 million over budget. Parks needs to cut as much as \$13 million from its \$84 M budget. That \$13

M figure exceeds total funding for community centers, environmental centers and 2 other facilities. Cuts are spread across the organization. Line employees and managers are being laid off. A 6-year levy funds some of the parks development which provides some buffer from cuts.

Over time, Parks Department has acquired more and more property and assets. In the last decade, Parks Department has taken about \$20 million in budget cuts. About \$19 million more revenue is needed to care for the assets controlled by the Parks Department. Maintenance cuts will mean some assets will not be maintained. The City is thinking about priorities and is looking at creative funding options. More cuts are probably coming in the future. Revenue reductions will compound, year to year.

Converting recreation space to office space makes Christopher's stomach hurt. MOHAI will occupy the Armory Building at South Lake Union, displacing Parks employees who use that space. About 60 staff people need new work space. The Department figures 5 staff per Community Center. The options for next year are limited-use model or closing the center. Limited-use is a reduction in hours. Residents can register online for programs, or use the 30 hours per week of drop-in time. The drop-in time includes time for the gym at the Elementary School.

The Parks Department will work with the Local Advisory Council. Parks will bring a draft plan to the Advisory Council. Barb Wade passed out a draft schedule. Sue Goodwin spoke briefly about the planning process. Barb explained the codes and activities shown in the schedule. From 9:30 to 12:30 = 15 hours over the week. The schedule shows 30 hours of activity at the Community Center, not including the gym. Another 30 hours of activity is scheduled in the afternoon, mostly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, for drop-in time, and fee-based pottery classes. For instance, at the beginning of the pottery class on Tuesday afternoon, people can drop in, even though the drop-in time starts later in the day.

Q: How does Laurelhurst compare to other neighborhoods?

A: The Parks Department has one way of counting use for comparing neighborhoods. Another source is registration for fee-based programs. Al Hovland said that Laurelhurst scores high in registrations for fee-based programs. Some Centers are used almost entirely for drop-in activities. Laurelhurst and Green Lake have no child-care programs.

Time at the gym is counted separately.

About 60 office spots will be lost at the Armory, and some other groups will need new space. ARC will go to the facility at 82nd and Densmore. Staff for the Senior Adult program there will be displaced to Laurelhurst Community Center - 10 staff people, total, will move to Laurelhurst. We will lose our professional staff.

Q: A Statement of Legislative Intent set priorities. What happened to those priorities?

A: Some of the neighborhood centers will survive. Maybe some of the more active and better-organized neighborhoods will take over some programs.

Q: What will our part-time staff do?

A: Provide some programming for senior adult activities.

Q: Cost of Easter Egg hunt? Can we do that ourselves?

A: Parks Department will get us a price.

Q: Can we compare the new schedule with the proposed one, day for day? It looks like the gym schedule is not changing noticeably.

A: Advisory Council can go through this in detail - 1/20 at 7 PM.

Q: Community involvement?

A: Entry point for residents to run programs - at the end of January, Parks will host a large public meeting. The methodology will be explained there. This will involve 9 project advisory teams. We will look at best practices from other cities, partnership models. Staff recommendations will come out in April. Then, Parks will hold 3 geographic meetings to hear public reactions to recommendations. The final draft proposal will go to City Council in May in a public meeting.

Everyone thanked Superintendent Williams for coming to our meeting and speaking to the group.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Parks: Al Hovland encouraged everyone to become involved in the public meetings that are part of the City comment process. Younger families have the most to lose, and should be particularly active.
2. Video signs: Colleen McAleer heard from a neighbor about signage for Frank Russell's office downtown on the waterfront. The Video billboard at 5 corners set limitations on video billboards, and those rules seemed to have helped set conditions on the Frank Russell sign.
3. Sidewalk encroachments: On 12/02, neighbor Neil Wright emailed to express concerns about so many sidewalk encroachments by homeowner landscaping. LCC contacted SPD and DPD and will update its flyer to encourage neighbors to comply with the Code requirements. There are hefty fines from DPD if owners do not keep sidewalks clear. LCC's flyer lets neighbors know about the Code requirements and the fines and encourages them to be good neighbors. Twice a year, LCC also provides this information in its newsletter.
4. Monthly trustee meeting: Russ Amick emailed on 12/10 to inquire about the location of this month's meeting and to see if the community center issues would be on the agenda. Information was provided. On 12/07, Kate Lloyd emailed the Laurelhurst Blog to ask that they publish information about the waterway agenda item and appearance of a rep from DNR. The Blog was notified that that agenda was postponed due to the appearance of Acting Parks Superintendent Christopher Williams and the shortage of time at the December meeting for the waterway item.
5. Teens crashing parties in the neighborhood: A neighbor in south Laurelhurst reported that there have been several incidents at their home where their teenage kids planned a modest get-together only to have the events crashed and ruined by a group of uninvited Roosevelt High School kids (their kids go to Blanchet). What happens is that 20-30 kids show up in mass and try to take over the party. These kids are described as being rude, destructive and loud. It is suspected that the core group is from Laurelhurst. What happens is that the uninvited kids appear and the parents force them out, but the kids then gather on the street and are loud and obnoxious and eventually leave until they find a new destination. This reporting neighbor wants his own neighbors to know that the ruckus was not caused by his own kids or their friends and that once the word gets out, the kids will move to other locations. The Crime Prevention Committee will alert the private security patrol to this problem.
6. Stolen packages: In response to LCC's e-newsletter, neighbors Wes and Mary Lou Wager emailed on 12/10 for further information which the Crime Prevention Committee provided. Lassen reported that another neighbor in the Ivanhoe area reported another

stolen package. Lassen added that the initial reporter subsequently said that they believed three other packages had been taken over the course of a week. Tracking is underway with UPS. Richard Ettinger wondered if folks were following delivery trucks. He suggested communicating with UPS and FedEx to reduce visibility of delivered packages.

7. Community Center: Several neighbors emailed LCC letters they had written to councilmembers thanking them for increasing Laurelhurst Community Center hours from 15 to 30 per week, including Margo and Tom Wyckoff, Helen and David Belvin and Kane Fenner. Neighbors, including Robert King and Myriam Muller forwarded responses received from councilmembers about letters they had written supporting funding for the community center. Other neighbors, including Kathleen Turn, send LCC copies of letters they had sent to councilmembers explaining the many issues, including eliminating permanent staff. On 11/30, LCC responded to neighbor Margie Rose about programming in the lower level activities room.
8. Shoreline street end/waterway on NE 55th: Folks from West Seattle visited Laurelhurst over the weekend and experienced the shoreline street end/state waterway at this location and asked for background information. Liz Ogden's report on shoreline access areas in the neighborhood was provided.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Minutes from November were reviewed, with 2 corrections. On page 2-3, the reference to a suspicious delivery truck was clarified. On page 4, "\$1 per paid" was corrected to read "\$1 per pair." **Motion** by Collen, seconded by Cary Lassen, to approve the November minutes with the two changes. **Motion passed** without objection, with Kirsten Curry, Brian McMullen, Leslie Wright, Marin Joh, and Emily Dexter abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the monthly treasurer's report that was included in the agenda packets. Emily will prepare a budget for 2011. She will distribute the draft for comments. If anyone foresees new programs, this is a good time to let Emily know. Discussion of how neighbors can comment on programs for the budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please see NEDC announcement handout.

1. Thank you: Thank you to Don Torrie for coordinating distribution of the agenda packets and to Len Nelson for assisting.
2. Open House at Laurelhurst Community Center: Thursday December 16th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Neighbors are invited to attend an open house at Laurelhurst Community Center on Thursday December 16th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come and wish the current and previous staff a fond farewell. There will be cake and punch. Come show your support for the staff that have worked hard to provide recreational opportunities including the Salmon Bake, Egg Hunts, Halloween Carnivals, Basketball Leagues, Soccer Leagues, Camps, Art Classes, Tennis Lessons and much more. Members from the advisory council will also be in attendance and want to continue to collect input and ideas from neighbors.
3. Evening of Miracles: Friday, December 17th and Saturday, December 18th at Wu Hsing Tao School. \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Enjoy stories of wonder through music, dance, poetry, and storytelling! Explore miracles of science, art, religion, and medicine - all in one night! Doors open/refreshments at 7:15 p.m. and the performance starts at 8.
4. Christmas Ship: Monday, December 20, 8 to 8:20 p.m., Laurelhurst Beach Club 51st Avenue NE and NE Laurelcrest Lane and Wednesday, December 22, 8:20 to 8:40 p.m.

Magnuson Park Beach. Gather your friends and enjoy the bonfire, refreshments, hear the choir, and see the Christmas Ship.

5. CUCAC meeting: The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to look at student housing, the stadium renovation, presidential search committee, and SR-520 interchange.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Some packages were stolen from doorsteps. Brian met with Scott from our patrol. He encouraged neighbors to call 9211 when they see suspicious activity.

The Fire Chief said fire training uses neighborhood sites and Laurelon Terrace will be a case in point.

The highest prowl areas in the city are Green Lake and Northgate. Do not lock packages in your car. Thieves watch people put things in their car, then they break into the cars where they know something is stored.

Socks, Hats and Gloves: Cary Lassen reported that neighbors again donated generously this year to the SPD North Precinct Sock Drive, contributing 520 socks, hats and gloves for those in need. The University District came in first again this year with a total – hold on to your socks – of 3,430! Congratulations to the U District! As the newsletter will report, the U District cannot top the beautiful hand-knitted hats and scarves made by Laurelhurst neighbors. One anonymous, very talented knitter made the sweet, hooded baby sweater featured in the photo. Sergeant Dianne Newsom of the Community Police Team sends her appreciation, too. She said if we ever find the identity of the person who made the sweater to “thank her for me.” Does anyone know?

CleanScapes Update: Cleanscapes: Maggie would like to publicize the CleanScapes programs.

SR 520 Update: When a project takes out recreational land, Federal rules require replacing it with comparable land. For SR 520, the Bryant Building near Aqua Verde, at UW will be torn down and replaced with green space. Discussion about whether that use is comparable in terms of location and character of the open space.

Rapid transit will be in the form of busses on the bridge - adding about 40 busses to the inventory of busses.

Traffic calming: Cross walks will be enhanced on Lake Washington Blvd in the Arboretum, by raising the crosswalk and installing a speed sign, showing car speeds. Traffic lights may be re-timed. The City is considering tolling Lake Washington Blvd through the Arboretum at certain times of day. The City may not have the authority to do that.

Health impact study and noise mitigation? Reports should be released soon, analyzing quieter asphalt and quieter concrete. Colleen discussed the situations where 4-foot noise walls are effective and where taller noise walls are appropriate for absorbing traffic noise.

Waterway #1: Emily and Jeannie provided background information about the Laurelhurst shoreline street ends and state waterways. Regarding Waterway No. 1, in 2008, LCC entered into a Right of Entry Agreement with the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to restore, enhance and maintain Waterway No. 1.

The northern adjacent property owners have now decided to end their private use of public property rather than move forward with state permitting. The owners will remove the hedge at

their own expense. The landscaping committee will meet in February - work with DNR to come up with a plan. DNR has approached LCC about extending the Right of Entry Agreement to cover the new area. The new area will add 2400 square feet and 26 feet of new waterfront will revert to public use.

Motion by Emily, seconded by Jeannie that LCC reaffirm its position on Waterway No. 1, support for existing laws and regulatory processes regarding private use of public property, and that LCC will pursue an amendment of the Right of Entry Agreement to reflect changes to the northern portion of the waterway due to private use permits being vacated by current permit holders, and further that LCC work with interested neighbors and state and local agencies on a plan for the new portion of the waterway that will be open to the public. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Emily reviewed the Committee report with background information about the Laurelhurst public shoreline access areas—material included in the agenda packets. There are six public shoreline street ends and three state waterways in the Laurelhurst neighborhood. LCC's position has always been that the best use of public rights of way such as neighborhood waterways and shoreline street ends is for public enjoyment and access.

The challenge has been to address the existing private uses of public property by adjacent property owners to provide maximum public access consistent with existing laws and regulatory processes. It is important to LCC that that all adjacent property owners of shoreline street ends and waterways are treated similarly and fairly.

LCC's goals are to work with interested and affected neighbors to develop consensus on design issues, respecting the privacy of adjacent homeowners and the policies of state and local regulations. This is something that LCC did in developing the Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Plan in 2005 with the assistance of SDOT and DNR. (See project description below.) LCC's plan is to continue work with neighbors, SDOT and DNR on implementation of the Plan and to pursue additional planning efforts for the vacation of the permit on the northern boundary, which will greatly expand public access on the site.

It was noted and there was agreement from the board that it is inappropriate to refer to permitted uses of public property as "encroachments." Using the word "encroachment" connotes a trespass, illegal or unauthorized action. The private uses of public property at Waterway No. 1 are permitted and authorized by SDOT. The private use of public property on the southern edge of the waterway is authorized by DNR. The northern adjacent property owners were in the process to get state authorization for their use of public property through a lengthy, complex process and instead decided to remove their laurel hedge.

Livable Streets: Cary says the livable streets workshop is still being developed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher

MEETING ADJOURNED: