

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for July 12, 2010
Wu Hsing Tao School, Seattle WA

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

Excused: Stan Sorscher, Mark Trumbauer (leave of absence), Adrian Whorton

Guests: Kerry Ruth, SR 520, I-5 to Medina Project Engineering Manager; Michael Horntvedt, SR 520 Transportation Manager; Kristen Dean, SR 520 Communications; Peter Eglick, Linn Blakeney, Betty Bottler, Shirley Cummings, David Dale, Rose Marie Dale, Dirk Hein, Wu Hsing Tao School; Fred Hoffer, Kate Hokanson, Rei Ravenholt, Matt Shanahan, Story Swett, Rolfe Turnure

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. and was followed by introductions. Trustees and meeting attendees expressed appreciation to Dirk Hein, Director of the Wu Hsing Tao School, for the school's commitment to the community in allowing LCC to use the school's conference room for the meeting. Mr. Hein stayed for the SR 520 presentation.

SR 520 Presentation:

WSDOT representatives:

Kerry Ruth, Westside 520 Bridge head engineer

Michael Hornvedt, chief traffic modeling entire SR 520 corridor

Kristen Dean, communication and note taking for WSDOT SR 520

Kerry Ruth presented a visual schematic of the most current plan for WSDOT's "preferred alternative" for the replacement of SR 520. She began with the description of the three segments of the project including the new expansion of the Eastside HOV lanes and lid improvements. Then she stated that the Pontoon replacements firm has been selected to fabricate them in Grey's Harbor, Washington.

Next Ruth explained the pathways for the Westside of the new bridge. Questions were asked about the height of the bridge off the waterway compared to existing. She did not know the existing (audience guessed 10 feet), but she stated that the new bridge is 20 feet high. When asked about how it compares to the I-90 bridge, she did not know.

Michael Hornvedt presented the various routes for vehicles through the western interchanges. He was asked about travel wait times on Montlake Boulevard. His answer was that the Preferred Alternative is better than the "no build," and no additional backups were foreseen.

When asked if these routes can accommodate new growth in northeast Seattle, estimated to be an additional 3800 vehicle trips (University Village Expansion, QFC apartments and retail addition, Seattle Children's Hospital 1.5 million additional square

feet of development and the new recreation at Magnuson Park, he said "it was included in the model."

The audience pressed for details, but none were presented. When asked about the shared off-ramp from the Eastside at the new Montlake Interchange, Hornvedt indicated that the double exit ramp should suffice when the ramp nearer the Arboretum is removed.

Questions were asked about different designs that are being studied. Ruth stated that this is the one they are vetting. McAleer stated that three were actually proposed and in the SDEIS, but the tunnel option Plans L and M were not being adequately studied at this current time.

Kerry Ruth was asked about noise protection and mitigation . She stated that "all of the new techniques will make the bridge quieter" in the Preferred Alternative. McAleer noted that these noise reduction techniques are not in the drawings that were presented in the SDEIS. Ruth admitted the Federal Highway Department would only accept 15 foot noise walls as proven noise reduction, so other devices are not in the plan, and "could be added, but yes, are not currently shown in the plans in the SDEIS" and there are budget issues.

Ruth noted that only the 2 segments from the HOV Eastside Project and Pontoons were "funded." The State is short by \$2.0 billion. Thus the latest "plan" that is being built is a "partial" bridge, stopping the new six lanes at the Western High Rise.

Neighbors asked about "then what?" She stated that "temporary" bridges will be used to funnel the six lanes (plus shoulders) into the existing four lanes. She was asked about bicyclists and pedestrians who are only allowed in the six lane configuration—"where do they go?" She stated that they "are still working that out." There were objections to moving the massive Eastside traffic jams to the middle of Lake Washington and that this did not make sense.

Ruth stated that the SR 520 timetable was to start the construction in 2012 after a record of decision is made with the eastside and pontoon segments. Completion is estimated by 2014. The new bridge will be built parallel and to the north (closer to Laurelhurst).

Kerry Ruth mentioned that there are three workgroups currently working on details of this new plan. This was required by Senate Bill 6392. The Seattle meeting will be held on July 22nd. (McAleer and Amick will attend and speak on behalf of LCC)

The final EIS is expected to be completed by December of 2010 in order for final approval to be made by the Governor.

ADMINISTRATION

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the yearend financial summary that was distributed at the Annual Neighbors Meeting, the balance sheet as of June 1, 2010 and other written reports.

Minutes: The board reviewed the April 12 and May 10 minutes. MOTION by McAleer seconded by C.Lassen to approve the April 12 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.* MOTION by Weissman seconded by Dexter to approve the May 10 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously with Wright abstaining from the vote.*

Election of Officers: MOTION by Weissman seconded by McMullen to elect Hale as president, McAleer as vice president, Dexter as treasurer and Sorscher as secretary. *Motion passed unanimously.*

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Pet poisoning: Richard Ettinger reported that on 5/16 his family pet was fatally poisoned in its backyard. A toxicology report found that the pet ingested a deadly toxin known as brodifacoum. D-con pellets (to control rats) were found in his backyard. He is still trying to determine the source of the poison so other pets are not harmed and is encouraging neighbors to maintain poison free zones with no herbicides or pesticides.
2. Activity at the Playfield: On 5/19 a neighbor reported to Crime Prevention that there is activity in the park nearly every morning between 2 and 4 a.m. Often, there is loud noise blaring from car radios. The neighbor suggested private security patrolling.
3. No parking signs? A neighbor in the vicinity of East Laurel Drive has pointed out on 5/20 that there used to be “no parking this side” signs along East Laurel Drive from where the turn is from West Laurel Drive to the joining of 55th Avenue NE. The signs used to be on the east side of East Laurel Drive and could have been removed with recent construction projects. Larger vehicles often drive onto the parking strips and sidewalks. LCC will follow up on this.
4. Montlake Bridge openings: Dermot Noonan emailed on 5/26 and thereafter suggesting that there be coordination between the viaduct project and mitigating when and the amount of times the Montlake Bridge opens during construction. LCC has worked off and on with the Coast Guard to limit openings to the half hour and prohibit them during rush hours. This generally works for awhile and then openings become sporadic. LCC will continue to work on this.
5. Rental housing inspection ordinance: Heather Newman emailed on 6/07 to express appreciation for LCC’s efforts in the recent passage of the City’s rental housing inspection ordinance. LCC has worked on getting this passed for many years.
6. Speeding on NE 41st, 43rd NE and Surber: Greg and Wendy Harper who live on 43rd Avenue emailed on 6/08 about longstanding problems with speeding on these streets. The frequency of cars racing down the boulevard has increased and

tempers flare between residents and speeders. The Harpers would like these problems to be elevated to a priority and solutions found. LCC will follow up.

7. Median overgrowth: On 6/15, Kate Hokanson contacted LCC about overgrowth on the median along Sand Point Way at 40th Avenue NE. In making a right hand turn from 40th, there is little visibility due to trees and high grass. LCC made inquiries and the weeds and tall grass have now been trimmed back.
8. Blocked speed sign: In mid-June, Linda Portnoy contacted LCC concerning a blocked speed limit sign at the corner of 47th Avenue NE and NE 54th. She sent photos. She suggested that SDOT move the speed sign to the north side of the street so that it is visible to drivers, rather than asking the neighbor to prune or move the tree. LCC filed a maintenance request with SDOT. Pornoy also suggested traffic calming in this area. LCC will follow up on this.
9. Cattails at Waterway No. 1: LCC received several calls from Judith Thornton and Kate Lloyd in the past month and a half. Initially, there was concern that a reef of native cattails had floated into the waterway blocking launching of non-motorized boats and that logs were lying on the large granite rocks. LCC made two trips to the waterway to move the cattails out of the way. The first attempt involved using sticks and poles to push the cattail clump out about 12 feet out of the way. The cattails floated back in and LCC then waded in and pushed out the cattails about 20 feet and to the side a bit. LCC found no logs lying on the granite rocks. At the same time, LCC picked up much of the litter in the waterway.
10. Vandalism at the fire pit: On the weekend of June 19 and 20, trees were vandalized at the Playfield. The broken branches were used to build a fire at the fire pit. The fire pit sign (indicating a permit is needed for fires) has been covered with graffiti. The Parks Department has been notified.
11. Mulch for the NE 41st Street median: On 6/20, Dick Barnum who is LCC's liaison with Heath Landscaping emailed as he had asked Don Heath for an estimate for putting mulch on the two median islands that they maintain for LCC. He said that the soil is bare and encourages people to cut across them to get to the Center for Urban Horticulture. He added that the UW has added mulch to the medians that they are responsible for. The bid is for \$919.80 (including tax).
12. Crime prevention funding cut: On 7/01 a neighbor contacted LCC about loss of funding for the City's six crime prevention coordinators, including Diane Horswill who works with the police department and serves the North Precinct. In the last budget cycle, these positions were paid for by federal stimulus funds which expire next spring. The City's formerly highly effective crime prevention/community partnership program is now all but defunct due to lack of funding. LCC continues to work on ensuring adequate public safety funding.
13. Possible hazard trees on Sand Point/SR 513: On 7/02, John and Eugenia Smith contacted LCC about at least four dead madrona trees leaning toward the traffic light and power lines on the west side of Sand Point Way across the street from City

People's hardware store and the 76 gas station (where NE 54th Street comes into Sand Point Way). This is on SR 513. From what LCC has been able to determine, WSDOT contracts with SDOT to maintain the right of way and that the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department is given responsibility for maintaining SDOT property that abuts Parks property. LCC contacted WSDOT to find out how to proceed and who is responsible. LCC understands that dead trees are a valuable component of any forest grove providing homes to birds who nest in the dead cavities, but is concerned that the trees may have become hazardous. LCC will continue to follow up on this.

14. UW tree removal: On 7/07, John Fox emailed with concerns about possible tree removal at NE 45th and 15th NE at the UW's campus entrance. Fencing has been installed in the new construction area. The UW's landscape architect responded that the project will remove crumbling asphalt sidewalks, the lawn, the campus sign and the *Prunus serotina* (considered a weed tree and often invasive) between the historic piers and NE 45th Street. New concrete sidewalks, ornamental plantings, irrigation, lawn and signage are a part of the project. The architect did not address the future of the 50-foot cedar tree and other large trees that are in the construction area, but later responded that those trees would remain.
15. Waterway No. 1 land swap: On 7/2, Kate Lloyd called LCC about this matter and on 7/09, Judith Thornton emailed some LCC trustees and others stating that a land swap involving the portion of public property under local permit by the northern owners was "off the table." There was actually never any formal land swap proposal on the table. It was an idea that had surfaced as an alternative to payment of annual fees to the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for use of the public property. In February, 2010, LCC and DNR met with Thornton and others in Olympia and at that time she and the others were told that a land swap would be highly unlikely due in part to the difficulty of finding comparable property and the complexity and length of time required to vacate the existing portion of the waterway and pursue the environmental review process.
16. Burglary and identify theft suspects caught: The July 8 *Seattle PI* reported that police arrested a Laurelhurst couple on June 17 as part of an ongoing effort targeting those purported to be King County's most prolific burglars. The couple lives on 42nd Avenue NE and have a 2 _ year old daughter. The police found IDs, checks and bank cards belonging to 16 people, items belonging to five people whose cars were broken into as hypodermic needles strewn around the home.
17. Children's in the *NY Times*: A neighbor sent LCC an article about Children's that appeared in the July 9, 2010 *NY Times*. The article talks about Children's efforts to implement CPI—continuous performance improvements to save money. The article states that the hospital avoided spending \$180 million on capital projects by using its facilities more efficiently. Copies of the article were distributed at the meeting.
18. 43rd Avenue NE: Neighbors along this boulevard street have asked for traffic calming due to the many children on these long blocks and excessive and frequent speeding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Children's SAC: As part of the Settlement Agreement, Seattle Children's agreed to support the inclusion of two LCC designees as members of the SAC. Representatives from Children's and LCC met with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) Director to encourage her to honor the Settlement Agreement as the City Council did and appoint the two LCC designees as voting members of the SAC. LCC thereafter wrote to DON recommending Cary Lassen and Colleen McAleer to serve as voting members of the SAC and Carol Eychaner to serve as an alternate. In addition to letters from Children's and LCC, the following community groups wrote to either DON or the City Council supporting appointment of LCC's designees: Northeast District Council, Seattle Community Council Federation, Seattle Displacement Coalition, Hawthorne Hills Community Council, Windermere North Community Association, University District Community Council, University Park Community Club and the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association.

Currently, there are vacancies for two voting members on the SAC and two alternates. The Council resolution authorized the DON director to reappoint CAC members to serve on the SAC and to fill vacancies without going back to the Council if she first picks alternates and does not "*substantially alter the balance of interests, expertise, and experiences represented on the Advisory Committee.*" As it stands now, there are 5 voting reps from Laurelhurst—and the Council resolution called for a majority—at least 8. Despite the ten letters from community groups and the hospital, DON has decided to advertise for SAC members.

On June 23, DON sent out a notice requesting applicants to serve on the SAC. Special consideration will be given to applicants in what DON considers "high impact areas"—within 1200 feet of the hospital, in the western section of Laurelhurst and in the eastern section of Bryant (approximately from 44th to 37th Avenue NE and NE 52nd to NE 43rd Streets). Persons with architectural or design training are also desired.

2. Children's MUP application: Children's plans to present its MUP application to DPD on July 13. They offered to provide thumb drives of the application to LCC's informal committee. LCC has requested four or five hard copies of the application because the disk copies make it extremely difficult to review. The text is too small and it's hard to address the measurements and get the entire picture of the project. The next meeting informal meeting with Children's is tentatively set for July 28.
3. Keeping NOAA in Seattle: LCC signed onto a letter by local public officials and community groups urging U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke to intervene and seriously consider use of existing federal facilities in Seattle for NOAA's marine operations center Pacific homeport in light of the Department of Commerce's Inspector General Report. The letter and the Inspector General report criticizing the manner in which Newport, Oregon was selected and the higher costs are included in the correspondence packet.

4. Biosafety Standards: The City Council passed Resolution 31217 urging the State to establish consistent statewide standards for biosafety laboratories. This is an important first step to setting up standards for biocontainment facilities. LCC has worked on this issue for several years ever since the UW sought to establish a Level 3 facility on its campus near neighborhoods and bodies of water. These facilities often contain the most dangerous infectious disease agents, such as Ebola, smallpox and avian influenza. The LabWatch press release on the Council's action is included in the correspondence packet.
5. Annual Neighbors Meeting: Over 40 neighbors attended LCC's Annual Neighbors Meeting on June 23rd at the Community Center. Neighbors heard an interesting update from Dr. Tom Hinckley from the UW's School of Forestry and got their questions answered about the upcoming tolling on SR 520. There was a brief presentation on Children's expansion with their model on hand for neighbors to view. Finally, there was an informative presentation about emergency preparedness. Trustees were reelected and Kevin Chang, Kathryn Kelly and Seth Lassen were elected to the board. Great Harvest Bread Company provided delicious cookies and Starbucks, University Village II Store (by Crate and Barrel) donated the coffee. QFC provided a gift certificate for groceries for additional refreshments.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: McMullen and C. Lassen reported that there had been two car prowls in the last couple of weeks. A more comprehensive report will be provided next month.

Executive Session: The board convened in executive session at approximately 8:15 until 9:25 p.m. to discuss legal matters with its attorney and Children's non-compliance with the Settlement Agreement between LCC and the hospital. The following motions were passed.

MOTION by McAleer, seconded by Wright, that LCC engage Peter Eglick to write a letter and notice to Children's counsel regarding Settlement Agreement noncompliant issues, and further that Eglick prepare an official letter that LCC would send to Children's with specifics and suggestions on amendments to the Agreement. *Motion passed 8-1 with 2 abstentions (Chang and S. Lassen).*

MOTION by Dexter, seconded by McAleer, that LCC approve expenses as proposed by Carol Eychaner (on page three of the handout). *Motion passed unanimously.*

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:25 p.m.