

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for January 12, 2009
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

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

Excused: Stan Sorscher

Guests: Susan Holliday, Jack McCullough, John Bullard, Ty Bennion, Cathy Dempsey, Chip Lydum, Bob Collier, Susan Marten, Dixie Wilson

Nutria Eradication Plan: Neighbor Susan Holliday from Save Union Bay Association briefed LCC. A nutria looks like a beaver except it has a thin, round, nearly hairless tail like a rat. They are semi-aquatic rodents, weighing an average of 12 pounds, and living in burrows along the lakeshore. They have 2-3 litters a year, averaging 4 young per litter. Nutria feed on vegetation, especially roots and plant stems. They eat 25% of their weight daily. They are changing the shoreline by destroying reeds, cattails, and other plants that provide habitat and prevent erosion. This change has impacted birds, ducks, fish and other species. The destruction can be seen all along the shoreline in the much of Laurelhurst and the University of Washington wildlife area. For the past year, neighbors have reported seeing nutria in their yards, under their docks, or swimming in the lake.

It is estimated that there are about 300 nutria in the area next to the Center for Urban Horticulture in the Union Bay area or Portage Bay. The nutria have destroyed bird nesting habitat. They have also destroyed groundcover, which has contributed to erosion and destruction of fish habitat.

Holliday stated that the Laurelhurst program is modeled after the successful trapping program in Skagit. The federal government was involved in that effort. The Laurelhurst project is a year long effort. Holliday has been working with the State Department of Natural Resources and is coordinating with SDOT. The cost to eradicate the nutria is approximate \$100,000.

Save Union Bay Association is working with the UW and neighbors to restore the shorelines and to implement a nutria management program to decrease future environmental damage. There will be a meeting at Holliday's house on January 22 at 7 p.m.

Husky Stadium Upgrade: Jack McCullough, an attorney representing the University of Washington briefed LCC on plans to upgrade Husky Stadium. John Bullard from the UW distributed informational material.

In February 2008, neighbor Dan Evans briefed LCC about the legislative proposal to obtain extension of local option taxes to raise \$150 million in state funds to renovate

Husky Stadium. Under the plan, taxes used for paying off Safeco Field and the Kingdome would be extended to raise \$64.6 million from King County's food and beverage tax; \$15.2 million from the car rental tax; \$37 million from a hotel/motel tax and \$20 million in deferred sales tax construction costs. Donors would pay the additional \$150 million to renovate the stadium.

The plan is basically the same. There is currently no ADA seating and this will be added. The press box will be taken down and replaced. Wiring will be replaced as it current does not meet code requirements or OSHA regulations. The 1920 era facilities will be replaced. Construction will begin this year.

Chip Lydum from the UW's athletic department stated that there is a three prong partnership with Sound Transit, the SR 520 replacement project and the UW. Work on the EIS will begin soon.

Last February, LCC passed a motion 10-2 to support renovation of Husky Stadium for maintenance safety and ADA accessibility, paid for with matching funds from private donors, plus public funding from existing taxes. LCC unanimously reaffirmed its position in support of the Husky Stadium project. **MOTION** by Newman, seconded by Holden, that LCC reaffirm its support of the project and thank the UW for its interest in working with LCC.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The Board reviewed the November and December 2008 minutes. **MOTION** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Liz Ogden, to approve the December 2008 minutes as corrected. *Motion passed with Heather Newman abstaining.* **MOTION** by Liz Ogden, seconded by Colleen McAleer, to approve the November 2008 as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Joh provided a written financial report and responded to questions.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. **Sledding accident:** A 13-year-old boy had a sledding accident on the steep hill on NE 35th. He had a broken pelvis, multiple broken bones and liver and kidney damage. A 16-year-old girl had bruises.
2. **Private security:** Some neighbors in the Town of Yesler reported that they did not receive the informational materials about extension of the private security project to cover their area.
3. **Trash pickup:** Several neighbors called during the snowy weather to inquire about garbage and recycle pickup. Information was provided.
4. **Complaint:** Dixie Wilson and Susan Marten were upset that they could not stay for LCC's executive session. Wilson was critical of LCC's newsletter. LCC agreed to provide additional information on its website.

5. New chicanes: On 12/19/08, John Hartley and his wife Diane Matlock emailed to say a car ran into the new traffic circle/chicanes over by the Villa when roads were icy. Ogden responded.
6. Crosswalk request: On 12/19, Monica DeMeulemeester sent LCC her crosswalk request to SDOT for a crosswalk at the entrance to Laurelhurst Park at 48th Avenue and 43rd Street. SDOT is working on this. DeMeulemeester stated that after school and on weekends, the area is a heavily used path into Laurelhurst Park, especially for neighbors who live to the east of the park. She added that the primary people who cross are children. She mentioned that due to the lack of parking, people usually ignore the No parking signs on 48th Avenue and they aren't ticketed. This leads to a serious safety issue because children don't have a line of site to traffic because it is blocked by parked cars. She also pointed out speeding problems.
7. Snow issues: On 12/21, Richard Ettinger emailed to suggest that LCC solicit donations to hire a private snow plowing/sanding service to deal with neglected areas—perhaps following the 25 bus route. He also suggested purchasing a “Laurelhurst Shuttle” minivan outfitted with Z-cable chains to help those with pressing needs, e.g. trips to Katterman’s. Another idea he had was to have stockpiles of salt/sand for those wishing to improve sidewalk safety.
8. History question: On 12/29/08 writer Gretchen Roberts contacted LCC for information about a Laurelhurst garden story she is writing for *Old-House Journal* magazine. She wanted information about the types of historic homes in Laurelhurst. Laurelhurst historian Christine Barrett responded.
9. Children’s: LCC received several emails from neighbors concerned about the magnitude of proposed expansion at the hospital.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you! Thanks to Don Torrie for distributing the January LCC agenda packets.
2. Children’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings: At the meetings below, the CAC will finalize its recommendations and report on Children’s master plan and the DPD report. Meeting schedule (all meetings are from 6-9 p.m.):
 - Tuesday, January 20, Dining Room, Talaris Conference Center, 4000 NE 41st Street
 - Tuesday, January 27, tentative, location to be determined
 - Monday, February 2, location to be determined
 Public comment is welcome at CAC meetings.
3. Passionate About Staying in Your Own Home as You Age? Join the “village.” Informational meeting, February 4, 5:30-7 p.m., North East Library, 6801 35th Avenue NE. A grass roots community is now forming that will be dedicated to insuring that as we grow older, we can continue to live in our own home, in the

neighborhood we love. It's called the "Village Concept" and is an innovative, new approach to "aging in place" that is inspiring neighbors to organize, incorporate, and take charge. It is modeled after Beacon Hill Village. Membership is open to all ages. Members pay an annual membership fee which supports the small staff that coordinates the village. The village is forming to serve northeast Seattle (*University District, Laurelhurst, Sandpoint, Hawthorne Hills, Ravenna, View Ridge, Wedgwood, Roosevelt, Meadowbrook and Maple Leaf*). The "village" will be a non-profit organization, run by a Board of Directors that live in the community and are members. For further information, contact Debbie Anderson at 206-527-0241 or anderson.deborah8@gmail.com.

4. Magnuson Park Communications Committee: February 3, 4:30-6:30, Building 406, Garden Room, Warren G. Magnuson Park. The agenda will include an update on the status of the historic district application and breakout sessions to prioritize amenities and improvements to the park.
5. QFC at NEDC: Wright reported on the proposed QFC redevelopment (Project Number 3009681). NEDC is requesting that an EIS be prepared.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: McMullen stated that there was not much to report. There was a garage robbery near where he lives and another a couple of blocks away. The garage door was left open on the latter. Last November and December, there were 14 events. This year, there were two. The snowy weather could have been a factor in the decline. There are 240 subscribers to the private security project so far. Lassen reported that there was a presentation at the NPAC meeting on the Office of Accountability.

Neighbor Appreciation Day Planning: The date will be February 7 this year. Weissman will coordinate planning.

SR 520 Update: McAleer updated the board about SR 520 replacement issues. The Westside project impact plan was completed in December. Tolling is included in a city resolution.

Executive Session: The board convened in executive session to discuss legal matters. The regular meeting was reconvened after ten minutes. **Motion** by Ogden and seconded by Newman to approve Carol Eychaner's expenses as outlined in her memorandum and proposed budget. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.