

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for July 13, 2009
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Emily Dexter, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright, Cary Lassen, Mark Trumbauer, Jeannie Hale, Marian Joh, Stan Sorscher, Adrian Whorton, and Kristen Curry.

Guests: Kjristine Lund, Ferry District Executive Director, Kris Faucett, Ferry District, John Combs, Len Nelson,

Jeannie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Passenger ferry: Informational materials from the King County Ferry District are included in the agenda packets. Kjristine Lund, Ferry District Executive Director, briefed the group about possible locations for water taxis. Alternatives under consideration are Madison Park and the UW.

King County created a ferry district. The state is divesting some routes - Vashon Island, for example. The ferry district is separate from King County. It will be funded by property tax at the rate of 5.5 cents per thousand valuation. Ultimately, the district could have 7 routes. The first is a water taxi from Seattle to West Seattle Seacrest Park, which will run from April to October. The district hopes for 38% farebox recovery. Water taxis tend to have high recovery. The second route will run from Vashon to Seattle. The district is currently using Argosy Cruise boats. They would like to lease catamarans with capacity for 149 passengers.

Five other routes are being considered as demonstration routes on Lake Washington and Puget Sound. They would provide service between Kenmore, Kirkland, and Renton, to UW or Leschi. A shuttle would run between Seattle and Leschi. On Puget Sound a ferry would run from Des Moines to Kingston and Whidbey Island. Argosy already uses the Waterfront Activity Center at UW on games days.

Questions and concerns:

Q: Scooters and bicycles?

A: Bicycles OK, not sure about scooters - fuel is an issue.

Q: Coordination with Metro service?

A: We must contract with private services for shuttles. The new ORCA pass will work on the ferries.

Q: Bridge openings?

A: Not required by Argosy boats. Ferries must run at reduced speed from Webster Point to the dock - 7 knots. Catamarans could go up to 25 knots.

Q: What is your measure of success?

A: Good thought. So perhaps $\geq 25\%$ farebox recovery. Or maybe a certain percent of capacity of the boats.

Q: Private contractors versus county employees?

A: Mandated to use organized labor. The district is currently using private vendor for West Seattle.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Review of the May and June 2009 minutes was deferred until the next LCC meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marian discussed the special appeal, and contributions from neighbors. Through the end of June, we've received over \$25,000. Money is still coming in. Hartford, LCC and Peter Eglick settled on our insurance for the Dixie Wilson lawsuit. We paid the deductible, and Hartford paid a little over \$20,000, and Peter Eglick took a small discount on his standard rates. Marian will look around for another insurance provider.

Our balance is about \$47,000, although \$34,000 is committed to the security project. Our fundraising target is in the range of \$50,000.

The median on 41st St. is landscaped in three sections - Talaris is responsible for the part along its boundary, LCC takes care of another section, and UW is responsible for the part along Mary Gates Way. Jeannie will write a letter to UW regarding UW's obligations to maintain the median on Mary Gates Way to the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Review of the Conflict of Interest policy: Stan Sorscher discussed LCC's conflict of interest policy,. We are required to review of the policy at the first meeting after new trustees are elected or appointed. Sorscher coordinated review of the policy.

LCC's policy prohibits trustees and committee members from participating in portions of meetings where the person has a direct or indirect financial or private interest that may be seen as conflicting with the interests or concerns of LCC. The policy defines the circumstance under which a potential conflict of interest may exist. These include when a person has a parallel and conflict between board responsibilities and employment and there is an appearance that the board member is advancing personal or employer interests by virtue of the board position. Another circumstance is when a board member has allegiance to another organization or entity and there is an appearance that the interests are competing. The other circumstance of a conflict is when the person has a private or personal financial interest, direct or indirect that is incompatible with the proper discharge of LCC responsibilities that would impair independence of judgment.

LCC's conflict policy requires disclosure of any appearance of a conflict of interest and sets forth the procedures on how to address the issues.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Private security: On 6/22, an neighbor inquired about the cost of hiring security to patrol the playfield and fire pit area regularly at night.
2. Egging: On 6/25, it was reported that a vehicle was speeding through the neighborhood and the occupants were throwing eggs at children and neighbors on foot. The eggers wore bandanas covering their faces. Police were called. The south playground was littered with egg remains.
3. Red light runner cameras: On 6/25, it was reported that a group of drivers, including some from Seattle, have filed a lawsuit against cities with red light runner cameras saying the fines are too high. The red light runner cameras have been highly successful in ticketing those running the red light and in promoting pedestrian safety.
4. Suspicious solicitor: On 6/26, a neighbor reported that in the last few weeks a 30ish, clean cut, white male with blonde hair and a white polo with GE on it has been going door to door selling security systems. Some accounts say he carries a laminated badge and has a permit registered with the city, others think his credentials are not legitimate. Neighbors have said this person can be quite aggressive and persistent in trying to get answers to his questions.
5. Car break-in at CUH: On 6/27, Connie Sidles reported that a birder friend had his car broken into at CUH on the morning of 6/25. He had locked his car around 7 a.m. and someone came by shortly thereafter, broke in and stole his backpack that was on the carseat. The incident was reported to the police.
6. Traffic circle on 50th Avenue NE: LCC received email exchanges from neighbors on 7/01 and 7/02 about the lower traffic circle on 50th Avenue NE. There is confusion about which way drivers are supposed to navigate around the circle. LCC has researched the issue (thank you, Cary Lassen) and will provide information to neighbors in a future newsletter. This traffic circle is a high priority in the North Laurelhurst Transportation Master Plan.
7. Community service painting projects: Reed Painting Company contacted LCC on 7/01 to inquire whether LCC has learned of any painting and pressure washing projects in the neighborhood that is could undertake at no expense. LCC contacted St. Stephens to see if they would like their load zone and no parking zoning curb painting redone as the paint has just about worn off.
8. Illegal parking: On 7/8, Heather Newman reported that residents at the University's married student housing in her area have resumed parking at the end of her street illegally. The parking also blocks access to her garage. LCC will follow up with the UW. This issue surfaces periodically and the UW routinely contacts residents about the problem.
9. Parking strip behind business district: On 7/8, Heather Newman reported that the parking strip all along the back side of the business district is overgrown and needs attention.

10. Noise by Husky Stadium: On 7/9, it was reported that there had been very loud noise emanating from the area north of Husky Stadium across from University Village. Upon investigation, it was learned that the culvert or pipe that runs underneath the road where Ravenna Creek is has over time collapsed. The crew is in the process of building a dam upstream and downstream to then replace the culvert.
11. Fireworks: Cary Lassen reported on 7/10 that at 12:45 a.m. kid's set off fireworks. They caught the bushes on fire next to her neighbors' house. The explosion woke neighbors and upon seeing flames, neighbors rushed out and put out the fire with hoses. The flames reached the roofline. The fire was out by the time the fire department arrived. A police report was filed. It is suspected that the fire was caused by a "sparkler bomb." According to police, kids have been blowing up mailboxes.
12. Children's proposed master plan: Calls and concerns from neighbors regarding Children's proposed master plan will be reported at the next LCC meeting.
13. Ivanhoe: John Combs raised concerns about traffic on Ivanhoe.
14. Schools: A neighbor asked Jeannie Hale about school boundaries for high school.
15. Traffic cameras: Jeannie Hale will write a letter to SDOT expressing support for the traffic cameras at five corners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you: Thanks to Don Torrie for distributing this month's trustee agenda packets.
2. Thank you: Special thanks to Cary Lassen (and her husband) for picking up and putting out LCC's very heavy sandwich board to advertise the annual neighbors meeting.
3. Children's Hearing: Seattle Children's master plan and SEPA appeal hearing will take place at 9 a.m. on July 14 at the office of the Hearing Examiner, 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4000.
4. Concerts in the Park: For the next three Thursdays, beginning on July 16, there will be free concerts at Laurelhurst Playfield at 6:30 p.m. Pack a picnic and enjoy 2 Scoops Combo, Emerald City Jazz Ensemble and the Anzanga Marimba Ensemble. The July 30 event is the Laurelhurst Annual Salmon Bake, which includes delicious food a kids carnival and face painting.
5. Laurelhurst Gym: For the first time the Community Center is offering some Open-Gym times at the Laurelhurst Elementary School Gym during school vacation. Please call the community center at 684-7529 to confirm.

6. Tour the Union Bay Natural Area: Neighbors are invited on Sunday, July 19 from 3-5 p.m., rain or shine. Kern Ewing will brief attendees about the history of the 74-acre site and conduct a tour for folks to see the vast array of wildlife.

REPORTS/ACTION:

CUCAC: Kristen Curry volunteered to represent LCC at CUCAC meetings. **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Emily Dexter to designate Kristen Curry as LCC's representative at CUCAC meetings. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Crime Prevention: WE had 3 car prowls and a fireworks fire in the latest reporting period. The city-wide Block Night out will be August 4, but other nights are also OK if Aug 4 is not convenient.

Lake District: Nutria are under control, but the backwaters are getting milfoil and algae. A Lake Union Bay Management District is being proposed. It will try to raise grant money from lake management grants, and the District may assess property owners from Surber Drive, around the lake front - approximately \$150 per year. Residents must vote for the district, and City Council must approve. Richard Conlin and Sally Clark canoed in the area to see it for themselves.

Motion by Colleen McAleer, seconded by Don Torrie to endorse efforts to create a lake district to enhance the environmental attributes of the lake shore. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Magnuson Park Update: A new committee will be formed by the Parks Department to guide stewardship of Magnuson Park. The intention is to emulate the Arboretum Association. Neighborhoods will have limited input into the committee. Discussion about makeup of the committee. Emily may compose a letter to Parks Superintendent.

NE 45th Viaduct Replacement: At LCC Annual Neighbors Meeting, Michael Ward of the Seattle Department of Transportation, who is project manager for the NE 45th Viaduct Replacement Project, briefed neighbors on the project. He answered questions and asked neighbors if they would prefer viaduct closure for four months or partial closure for 18 months with one lane in each direction and no pedestrian access. **Motion** by Stan Sorscher, seconded by Maggie Weissman to support the viaduct option with a 4-month closure schedule. **Motion passed** with 12 votes in favor, and 2 opposed.

Housing Levy: Dexter briefed the board on the housing levy that will be on the November ballot. The group reviewed informational materials included in the agenda packets. Under this levy, construction would be gathered around light rail routes. LCC has endorsed housing levies in 1981, 1986, 1995 and 2002 and neighbors have overwhelmingly supported these levies. **Motion** by Cary Lassen, seconded by Adrian Whorton to Support Housing levy ballot initiative. **Motion passed** without objection.

DADU: LCC will write a letter opposing detached accessory dwelling units.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM
Minutes by Stan Sorscher