

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for May 10, 2010
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Cary Lassen, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Len Nelson, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman

Excused: Marian Joh, Stan Sorscher, Mark Trumbauer (leave of absence), Leslie Wright, Adrian Whorton

Guests: Karen Ko, Ed Wilson, Susan Marten

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Review of these items was deferred.

Changes to the Agenda: Add Children's – results of Design Guidelines, SAC composition; meeting logistics

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Spring clean: LCC received a number of phone calls and emails in response to the neighborhood Spring Clean effort. Some neighbors wanted to volunteer; some had ideas for other projects and some wanted to partner with LCC on neighborhood cleanup.
2. Montlake congestion: Ed Wilson addressed the board about Montlake congestion issues.
3. Viaduct closure: In response to calls from neighbors, LCC will verify the detour route for the viaduct closure.
4. Waterway No. 1: Judith Thornton emailed the board on 5/10 about LCC's comments on her application to designate the waterway as historic. Thornton interpreted LCC's letter as opposing the designation. All LCC said in its letter is that facts should be verified and that the adjacent property owners should have an opportunity to comment. A few examples were cited in the letter where additional information was needed. Some of the information in the nomination was anecdotal and did not seem relevant as to whether the waterway should receive an historic designation. LCC's historian, Christine Barrett, responded to LCC's letter by saying, "Nicely stated." LCC's letter is included in the correspondence packet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please see the NEDC announcement handout.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Cary Lassen briefed the board on her recent meeting on bikes with representatives from Seattle Children's, SDOT and Cascade Bicycle Club. SDOT said that traffic calming going down NE 45th is needed. The average speed is 39 mph. Safety measures must be implemented before the Southwest Garage is built. The group looked at 38th from Five Corners to NE 45th. Reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph was discussed.

Other measures could be considered to reduce speeds, but funding is scarce. Chang suggested signal timing at the site of the recent pedestrian accident. Improving the crossing at 40th is a priority

Crime Prevention: McMullen distributed the monthly crime log of crimes in the neighborhood. There have been five new police reports. The windows of two cars were smashed (4700 block of 47th Avenue NE and 3900 block of 50th Avenue NE). Juveniles have been arrested for incidents where the homeowners were at home and asleep after a neighbor called to report a license plate number.

The private security patrols are now being staggered six nights a week. The five-hour shifts are either 8 p.m.-1 a.m. or 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

LCC received reports of “can pipes” being distributed within a half a block of the school from a rental house owned by Children’s. These cans contain marijuana and have holes on both ends. The location and license plate number was provided to Children’s.

SR 520 Update: McAleer briefed the board. The governor has selected a “preferred alternative” for SR 520. This means that WSDOT will proceed to the final evaluation of the impacts on fish, etc. and can make more detailed construction plans. A final EIS is expected to be published by year’s end. The tree workgroups will continue to work on transit connections, mass transit on 520 and the arboretum issues.

The alternative selected by the governor would have six lanes, including two HOV lanes. The project could still be stopped due to lack of funds and unresolved issues. The state is at least \$2 billion short of the \$4.6 billion construction costs.

With the new alternative, the Arboretum has gotten what it wanted—no ramps from Lake Washington Boulevard to the Arboretum. This means more than 15,000 cars a day directed onto surface streets with no plan to mitigate the impacts. The picture of the Montlake lid was enlarged, but all lids will be built only if funds are available. The lid at I-5 and Roanoke was taken away—thus leading to a new lane from 520 to the express lanes, rising high over the existing I-5, creating noise, blocking views from Capitol Hill and adding pollution.

Bike and pedestrian trails were improved and the Montlake intersection made friendlier to bikes and pedestrians. At the new UW rail station, pedestrians and bikes will have their own lid on a level above Montlake Boulevard, which will be sunken below the current grade.

The new plan removes one of the three reasons why light rail would not work. The east and westbound lanes are now separated enough that light rail would function. There is still not a plan on what to do with light rail as it approaches Seattle. The floating bridge still can’t support light rail unless it has extra stabilizing pontoons stuck out from the sides, adding to the pressure for lanes 7 and 8.

MOTION by McAleer, seconded by Weissman, that LCC support SR 520 replacement to accommodate light rail at minimal expense with no capital investment before it is needed to comply with state law. *Motion passed 6-2, 3 abstentions (Hale, McMullen, Chang).*

CUCAC: Kirsten Curry briefed the board on CUCAC and its plan to discuss CUCAC priorities at its May 11 meeting for the next two years. CUCAC has identified a few priorities that are outlined in the draft CUCAC annual report that was sent to trustees. These include:

- Review of the effects of UW acquisition and leasing; there was supposed to be a review lead by DPD with participation of Parks, Office of Economic Development, Human Services and SDOT, but it doesn’t look like this happened. CUCAC urged that the City do this or undertake a modified similar process.

- Review of the impact of SR 520 in the area around the Montlake triangle. It is possible after CUCAC review that one site from the UW's master plan should be removed. Also, the recently announced alternative for SR 520 would influence the area around the triangle garage and CUCAC would like to be involved in that discussion.
- Review of open space and landscape planning. The master plan made commitments to augment current open spaces and identify opportunities and this has not happened.
- The effects on the neighborhood of UW expansion outside the immediate Seattle campus areas (South Lake Union and Northwest Hospital, which the UW has purchased) including the cumulative impacts of expansion.
- Planning for changes in the west campus area as a result of the construction of new student housing. Part of this is extending the UW's student conduct code beyond its major institution boundaries to alleviate any negative student behavior north of 45th. CUCAC would like a major effort to integrate UW development to the area bounded by I-5, NE Pacific, NE 45th and 15th Avenue NE.

The board suggested adding increased focus on bicycle and pedestrian safety, possible enhanced connections to the Burke-Gilman Trail and light rail. It was suggested that shuttle options be explored with U Village, QFC and Children's to reduce vehicle traffic on Montlake Boulevard, as well as other options such as bike-sharing.

City's Spring Clean Project: Emily Dexter briefed the board on LCC's "Spring Clean" efforts as part of the City's annual program.

Children's Hospital:

1. Draft design guidelines: LCC's land use consultant review Children's draft design guidelines and pertinent sections of other master plan documents. She prepared draft and final written comments on LCC's behalf and attended two meetings with the LCC subcommittee and a meeting with Children's prior to finalizing her comments on behalf of LCC. For the most part, Eychaner's comments were included in Children's revised draft design guidelines. DPD will now review Children's submission.
2. Standing Advisory Committee: The Children's/LCC Settlement Agreement says that Children's will support the inclusion of two LCC designees as members of the SAC. LCC was informed that there are two vacancies on the committee and that the DON staff person has recommended that they go to the two LCC designees. The DON Director, Stella Chao disagrees and refuses to allow two LCC designees to be appointed. Today, reps from Children's stated that they have met with DON to review the provisions of the Settlement Agreement. They did not provide any information to LCC about what was said regarding the SAC appointments. Tomorrow, McAleer, Lassen and Hale will be meeting with Chao, representatives from Children's and maybe someone from the Mayor's office to discuss the situation. The first SAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 19.

Planning for the Annual Neighbors Meeting: After the trustees decided that Emergency Preparedness would be good topic for the Annual Neighbors Meeting, LCC was in touch with folks at the City. JoAnn Jordan describes the SNAP program as: "Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare (SNAP) is an interactive, fun and informative program that starts with a focus on personal and family preparedness. The instructor will then guide participants through a simple planning process, designed to help neighbors collectively prepare to take care of problems in their neighborhood following a disaster. This is powerful information, delivered in a

way that is practical, achievable and beneficial.” View Ridge and University Park have had very successful similar programs at their community meetings.

LCC has been in touch with the community center about using the multi-purpose room. The dates that work for the Emergency Preparedness people and the community center are Wednesdays, either June 16 or 23.

There are also two possible other topics of the annual meeting. If the date works out with WSDOT, we’ve been invited to have a short presentation about tolling on SR 520 to educate neighbors. The tolling will be electronic (no tollbooths, no stopping or slowing to pay the toll). Users will need to understand the different payment options and how the tolls vary by time of day. We also usually have folks from the Center for Urban Horticulture to update us about what is going on over there.

Community Center Advisory Council: Torrie briefed the board noting that the number of concerts in the park this summer has been reduced from five to two.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:45 p.m.