

Laurelhurst Community Club  
Minutes for May 11, 2009  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

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

Excused: Heather Newman, Don Torrie

Guests: Cole Palea, Shelby Tarutis

Cole Palia, from Reed Painting, spoke about community service projects to paint curbs, posts, and common areas, clean moss, and wash off winter dirt. Cole asked how we could work together to get this going. SDOT would want to approve crosswalk painting, for instance. Cary Lassen suggested painting over graffiti at the school, for instance, or pressure-washing at the school. Perhaps we could sponsor a Children's Hospital - "paint out cancer" fund-raiser. A posting on the Laurelpst web site suggested a paint-out graffiti project in the neighborhood.

Reed Painting donates to Children's for each repainting customer. Cole sees this as a service to the community performed by Reed. Cole said he was open to any suggestions we could pass along.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board January 2009 minutes. Regarding the sledding accident at NE 45<sup>th</sup> St at 55<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, the incident involved two girls, not a boy. **Motion** by Liz Ogden, seconded by Emily Dexter to approve the minutes as amended. **Motion approved.**

The Board reviewed the minutes for the April 2009 meeting. The hawks are red-tailed, not blue-tailed. **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Colleen McAleer to accept the minutes as amended. **Motion approved** unanimously.

Proposed Bylaw Changes: The bylaws committee has recommended seven changes to the bylaws. Copies of the changes were distributed in the packets.

The first proposed change addresses membership of businesses, churches, institutions, etc. in LCC. The current bylaws are silent in this regard, however, for years these groups have paid dues and it is likely that they consider themselves members of LCC. LCC's membership brochure states that these groups are members. Under the current bylaws, all those residing or who own residents within LCC's geographic boundaries are considered LCC members. There are also two minor housekeeping changes to Article 1, Section 4, that would clarify past practice.

**Motion** by Mark Trumbauer, seconded by Mark Holden, to accept the first proposed change in the bylaws. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The second proposed change clarifies the procedure for election of the board of trustees in Article V, Section 3. The current provision states that ballots listing the nominees are prepared and cast at the annual meeting. The practice has been when elections are non-contested there has been a voice vote. New language, based upon the bylaws of the League of Women Voters has been added to specifically allow a voice vote where there is only one nominee for each office.

Nominations must be submitted to the nominating committee, and nominations close 10 days prior to the annual meeting. The newsletter will explain the process to neighbors beforehand. Discussion about ballot versus voice vote. **Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Mark Trumbauer to accept the proposed language. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The third proposed change clarifies membership for the purposes of voting at the annual neighbors meeting. Language is added to state that voting LCC members within LCC's geographic boundaries who are over the age of 18 and reside or own residences may vote. Language is also added to say that businesses, churches, etc. are nonvoting LCC members. To avoid confusion, a specific provision is added prohibiting cumulative voting. Cumulative voting allows members to cast all of their votes for one person, rather than voting for each individual candidate.

**Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Mark Trumbauer to accept the third proposed change to the bylaws. **Motion passed** 9 in favor, 1 opposed with Mark Holden abstaining.

The fourth proposed change establishes a procedure for removal of trustees. The state nonprofit law provides says that the articles or bylaws may contain a procedure for removal of directors. If there is no provision in the articles or bylaws, then the state nonprofit law applies. That law says that a director may be removed with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the membership. The proposed bylaw is modeled after the bylaws of People for Puget Sound. The proposed language provides removal by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote for acting against the best interests of the Club. Two weeks' notice is required, and the language calls for a hearing and provides the right to argue against removal.

**Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Mark Holden, to accept the fourth proposed change to the bylaws. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The fifth proposed change addresses LCC's membership list. It tracks the state nonprofit law and is based on the bylaws of the ACLU. A sentence is added to require any member requesting inspection of the membership list to provide a written statement of the purpose and how it relates to membership interests. Membership lists cannot be sold or used by members.

**Motion** by Liz Ogden, seconded by Colleen McAleer, to accept the fifth proposed change. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The sixth proposed change establishes a procedure for calling special membership meetings. A special meeting can be called by the President or Board of Trustees, or upon the request of 200 voting LCC members. Thirty-day notice is required.

No procedure is included in the state nonprofit law, although the law provides that one-twentieth of the members may call a special meeting. The proposed bylaw change is based on the bylaws of People for Puget Sound.

**Motion** by Leslie Wright, seconded by Emily Dexter, to accept the sixth proposed change. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The seventh proposed bylaw change clarifies existing practice in submitting trustee nominations to the chair of the nominating committee.

**Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Colleen McAleer to accept the seventh proposed change in the bylaws. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Strategic Planning: To ensure that LCC has a working board, those contacting the nominating committee will be provided with the “trustee responsibilities” handout and information about assignments where volunteers are needed. Trustees are needed to serve as CUCAC rep, alternate to other groups where LCC provides a representative, work on sidewalk safety and crime prevention and assist with other matters.

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Gun incident: Neighbor Jill Carlson called me 4/14 to report that someone shot out a window on the second floor of her house in the last day or two. The metal BB was about 4-5 mm in diameter and could have hurt someone had they been in the room. She called 911 and the police will be investigating. She also left a voice mail on the private security phone. The Carlson’s live in the vicinity of 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 39<sup>th</sup>. SPD was notified.
2. Thanks! On 4/19, neighbor Casey Corr emailed to thank LCC for its April newsletter. Corr added that his personal wish about the fire pit on the west side of the playfield is to bring it back to what it was when he lived down hill from the pit. He would like it to be a delightful place for views of the Olympics, hot dog roasts and singing to a guitar. This is something that has transpired in the last year!
3. Interest in volunteering: On 4/23, neighbor Shelby Tarutis emailed expressing interest in volunteering opportunities with LCC. She was invited to the May LCC meeting and put in touch with the nominating committee.
4. Hearing Examiner decision on Children’s: Maryann Spangler emailed on 4/24 to congratulate LCC on its partial victory before the Hearing Examiner on LCC SEPA adequacy appeal. On 4/25, neighbors Roy and Carol Amundsen emailed to thank LCC, its attorney and consultants for work on the SEPA appeal. Geof Logan emailed on 5/04 congratulating LCC. Neighbor John Fox who testified before the hearing examiner emailed on 4/21 to express thanks as did the president of the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association, arborist Michael Oxman, the head of the

Ravenna Creek Alliance, the head of Parks and Open Space Advocates, Seattle Community Council Federation vice president Rick Barrett, Kery Murakami from the *Seattle PI*, Lynn Ferguson from the North Windermere Community Council, Chris Lemman from Eastlake, Irene Wall from Fremont, neighbors Jennifer Biely, Adrian Whorton, Grace Yuan, Cheryl Kitchin, Elizabeth Nelson, Michael Perlman and Miriam Muller. On 4/23, Dan Nolte from Councilmember Sally Clark's office emailed his congratulations. In his message he said "With such a high burden of proof, and what I hear is a very complicated process, it's a testament to your efforts." The Laurelpast web site ran a survey on the issue. They received 70 responses; 3 supported the initial design by Children's, 12 support the current plan, 37 support LCC's position, and 18 want no expansion at all.

5. Break-ins: On 4/28, Karmann Kaplan reported a 4<sup>th</sup> car break-in in the neighborhood in the past couple of prior weeks. Cars have been broken into and in some cases it appears the car door was unlocked. Mark Trumbauer reported both of his cars were broken into. Maggie reported a purse stolen from a car stolen in front of Sand Point business district. Liz mentioned bicycles stolen from various areas.
6. Chamber mailing list: In this month's U District Chamber of Commerce newsletter, there was an article inviting LCC to join its email newsletter list.
7. Mail theft: On 5/01, Patricia King who lives on the 3800 block of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE emailed to report mail theft from her family's standard mailbox, which occurred eight days earlier. The lost mail included \$48 worth of bus passes from King County Metro. The "No Solicitors" sign was taken from their steps. They now have a locking mailbox approved by the U.S. Postmaster.
8. Hearing Examiner's Decision: Several neighbors congratulated LCC on the favorable decision on the expansion of Children's Hospital. None of the trustees received complaints. The Laurelpast web site ran a survey on the issue. They received 70 responses; 3 supported the initial design by Children's, 12 support the current plan, 37 support LCC's position, and 18 want no expansion at all.
9. Lisa Gurry: University Herald had a story about a neighbor, Lisa Gurry, who was one of 30 women named mother of the year by Working Mother magazine.
10. Chicanes: SDOT will install chicanes near the Villa Academy that will eliminate 8 or 9 parking places.
11. Cars towed: Brian McMullen got two calls about street parking, because their car was towed. Another neighbor complained about cars being parked for a long time, and getting stickered.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tree removal: The city has removed a cottonwood tree at Blakeley Crescent Park at the request of Silver Cloud Inn, which thought one of the branches might fall on a tree in

its parking lot. LCC, Ravenna Springs, Hawthorne Hills and the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association were the prime movers in creation of this park. It has been recommended that the City replace the tree with an American sweetgum tree. The City's policy is to replace two trees for every tree cut down.

Annual Neighbors Meeting: The date is set for the Annual Neighbors Meeting—Wednesday, June 17, 6:45-9 p.m. at the community center.

Loss of community center funds: To close the budget shortfall, the Mayor is proposing taking \$1.2 million in funds from the community centers—about a third of the budget for each center. This would be about \$30,000 per year for two years in Laurelhurst. The Laurelhurst Advisory Council did not weigh in on this decision and in fact was not asked for its opinion. The Associated Recreation Council (ARC) did approve the Mayor's decision. According to the rules governing ARC, the money must be dedicated to park purposes. There is no information as to whether the money will be used for park purposes or added to the general fund.

Survey results on LaurelPost: As of today, 70 people responded to the LaurelPost poll on Children's Hospital proposed expansion. Three people or four percent support the original plan with 240 foot towers. Twelve people or 17 percent support Children's current plan. Thirty-seven people or 53 percent support a less expansive plan. Eighteen people or 26 percent support expansion at a location outside of Laurelhurst.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen passed out a map with activity for the month marked by street. Car prowls are way up in April. Jeannie reported personal threats after negative stories in the Stranger. Jeannie has talked to Diane Horswell about taking precautions.

NE Police meeting. Tom Carr spoke about domestic violence. Graffiti patrol may be funded by stimulus money. People feel unsafe, and graffiti gives a negative feeling to the neighborhoods.

Annual Meeting Planning: Maggie, Liz and Mark Holden will work on refreshments. We are soliciting candidates for Good Neighbors. Discussion about City officials to invite.

SR 520 Update: The Legislature funded early tolling and pontoon construction. Colleen will talk about the process at the annual meeting.

DADUs: On May 6, the Mayor transmitted his proposed legislation to legalize detached accessory dwelling units in single family zones citywide to the city council's land use committee. These units were legalized in southeast Seattle in 2006 and the measure was very controversial at the time. Concerns at that time were raised about duplexing of single family neighborhoods and allowing tandem parking to satisfy the off-street parking requirement. It was suggested that parking issues be addressed as DPD routinely rubberstamps parking waivers. Some groups, including LCC, thought that DADUs should only be allowed as a conditional use, rather than being allowed outright.

Some, including LCC, were concerned about the conversion of garages and sheds into DADUs.

NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct West Approach Replacement: As part of the Bridging the Gap measure approved by voters in 2006, improvement to the 45<sup>th</sup> viaduct will be made. SDOT is considering two construction phasing options:

- Preferred Option: Full closure, no pedestrian access and up to a 4-month intensive construction period.
- Alternative Option: Partial closure, one lane open in each direction, no pedestrian access and a 12-18 month construction period.

The project team is currently gathering input from the local community to inform the final decision. Additional information about the project will be available in the future. For now, it is known that there will be major impacts to Ravenna Woods, an area adjacent to the viaduct purchased with funds from the Neighborhood Matching Fund in lieu of construction of a large boarding house on that site.

Executive Session at 9 PM. End Executive Session at 9:15 PM.

Emily Dexter will meet with other neighborhood groups to talk about Magnuson Park. City budget cuts will affect involvement by community groups. Construction will start soon on wetlands. Emily is wondering about what happens next in the Park development.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher