

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for November 10, 2008
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending:

Jeannie Hale, Liz Ogden, Colleen McAleer, Don Torrie, Stan Sorscher, Emily Dexter, Cary Lassen, Mark Trumbauer, Brian McMullen, and Maggie Weissman

Excused: Marian Joh, Heather Newman, Leslie Wright

Guest: Nancy Field, Field Associates

QFC Redevelopment: The presentation from Lorig Associates about QFC redevelopment has been postponed. The plan includes structured parking, a garage at the north end of QFC in place of the existing parking lot. There would be two levels of parking with the first level slightly underground. There will be three or four levels of housing (apartments for rent) on top of the garage and some additional retail integrated into the garage, including an extensive food court area. The plan is to add 300 units of market rate housing. They are not requesting any variances or zoning changes. The proposed project does not include gas pumps—a plan from a few years ago. There is an Early Design Guidance meeting on the project on December 15.

Development in the area at Childrens, plus many new housing units, plus increased traffic at Magnuson Park would all have cumulative effects on traffic.

Children's Hospital: Nancy Field described her study of beds needed in the expansion at Childrens Hospital. Nancy's original estimate was based on 2006 CHARS data reported to the State Department of Health. Children's study was based on internal data. We now have 2007 CHARS data to update Nancy's study.

Since January, CHARS data for 2007 became available. Nancy is trying to explain the difference between her results and Children's. One factor is the age profile used - ages 0-14 or "all ages." Step 12 adjustments can account for large changes.

Nancy presented her projections and projections computed by Children's - they are different by about 40%. Nancy accounts for about 18% of the difference from age profiles. Another 13% can be attributed to Washington State children who actually seek treatment in Oregon, but Children's takes credit for those Washington children anyway. The rest of the difference, Nancy attributes to population differences.

In the end, the State DOH will go through Children's spreadsheets and boil it down according to their rules and DOH produce their own estimate. However, the staff is not very strong, and their adjustments may not be 100% credible.

Large hospitals have more manageable statistics, when it comes to overcapacity; the larger the facility, the less variability, relative to average utilization. A small facility should plan for a relatively low utilization, to leave headroom for peak times. A larger hospital can run at 80% and still protect against peak usage. Children's wants to plan for

60-65% average utilization. The State Health Plan uses 80% occupancy for hospitals of 300 beds or more. Nancy would hold the line at 75% occupancy.

All beds are categorized as "short-stay." With 195 pediatric psych beds, Children's said they would use 100 for medical surge. That sounds curious. We understand the next version of their plan will provide 145 psych beds.

When Children's sees Nancy's numbers, they will make criticisms or one kind or another. Nancy believes her analysis is defensible. This could become a subject of discussion in the CAC. Of course, Nancy would ideally be in the meeting to explain it all. Nancy mentioned that Swedish is working on a similar project on the East side. Swedish may contribute their analysis of the Children's project, and that might also be useful for CAC participants. Jeannie would prefer a short written summary.

The CAC will be finalizing their recommendations in the next few days. Neighbors can go and make common sense observations.

Any resident in the service area can assert standing in the proceeding as an affected party - Jeannie for instance. This would give that resident appeal rights all the way to the Supreme Court.

Within the growth plan, Children's will convert approximately 20 existing rooms to single-patient. This will be a lot of construction without expansion. One might expect economies of scale for larger hospitals. Nancy has a chart showing comparable hospitals of various sizes to get a sense of economy of scale. Children's is the largest, but the area per patient is three or four times above the trend. Most larger hospitals in the chart do seem to have less floor space per patient, suggesting that economies of scale do exist. Children's departs from that generalization, being well above the trendline.

Discussion about strategy - political, legal, hearing process, CAC, public campaign, coordinate and share information with other hospitals in the area.

If Nancy writes a short paper, Jeannie expects to email it to the CAC, and copies will be available at the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Changes to the Agenda? SR 520? Neighbor Appreciation Day?

Minutes: The board reviewed October 13th minutes. Corrections: Cary's name, and adding a question about foot traffic. **Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Maggie Weissman to accept the minutes as corrected. **Motion passed** without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Joh could not be at the meeting. She sent a report to Jeannie Hale that there has been little activity in LCC accounts.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. U Village: In a note postmarked 10/14, Margaret Holton expressed concern about U Village expansion and the fact that the development atop a peat and swampy area. She recalled the Village putting sheets of polystyrene several years ago during construction. She observes that the parking lot west of QFC is visibly sinking, evident by the cracks in the asphalt. She is concerned about traffic on 25th and also believes new parking spaces at the Village should be standard sized.
2. Boat and trailer parking: On 10/20, R. Brad Siefried contacted LCC about the article in the October newsletter requesting clarification on where detached boats and trailers can be parked. He pointed out that attached boats and trailers can park on the streets and must following regular parking rules. Wright responded. After that communication, Ogden provided additional information.
3. YMCA facility at Magnuson: On 10/23, Mike Wayte contacted LCC about his plans to get involved in a project at Magnuson Park for an athletic facility for the YMAC. He is interested in an aquatic facility with multiple pools that could serve all age levels. The facility would include fitness facilities, indoor basketball, racquetball, squash, track, a skate park and a hockey rink. Wayte was invited to attend a future LCC meeting and was put in touch with the Seattle Pools group.
4. Boarding house: A reporter from *The Seattle Times* contacted LCC on 10/23 about the legal action filed against the owner of the illegal boarding house in the neighborhood. LCC sent the reporter a copy of the complaint filed in court by the City in July and provided additional information.
5. Low flying helicopter: On 10/23, a low flying and very noisy helicopter was reported in the neighborhood. It was asked whether this was consistent with Children's policy of using the helicopter only for seriously ill Children and whether it was consistent with any policies governing Graves Field landings. The helicopter appeared to be going from the UW to Children's. Trumbauer followed up regarding landing patterns as the flight in questions overflow the student housing and homes on NE 43rd at a very low altitude. It was his understanding that flights to Graves Field would be over the University Village for a south wind and over the University Slough for a north wind. Trumbauer received an initial response indicating no flight at the time in question and continues to follow up.
6. Crows: On 10/28, Richard Ettinger emailed and sent a photo of many crows on the Husky parking lots after an event at that location. He said that the garbage left overnight and the crows are feeding heavily until the next day. It seems possible that large numbers of crows remain in the area as a result.
7. New Street Lights: On 11/05, Seattle City Light installed two new street lights at the intersection of NE 41st and Surber, greatly improving visibility for pedestrians and bicyclists out after dark. This was an extremely dark area with little possibility of seeing pedestrians crossing Surber through the pedestrian refuge island. Thank you, City Light!

8. Private Security: On 11/06, Jean Amick emailed about including the Playfield and Beach Club in the private security project. She expressed concern that private patrol at the Playfield may diminish the police department's coverage. She also asked if the Community Center or LCC would pay the cost and how much the Beach Club would pay. Amick also had questions about the new boundaries of the program and procedural matters. McMullen responded.
9. Children's: On 11/06, Stacy and Frank Graves "cc"ed LCC on a message to a Children's CAC member after having viewed the model at the library. Stacy Graves reported information that had been provided by Ruth Benfield at the library, which turns out to have been incomplete and misleading. Based on the models and the information (and lack of information) that Children's provided, the Graves' support use of the Hartmann site for expansion. They also do not want the hospital campus opened up to the community, as Children's would like to do. They would prefer the hospital stay as closed off as possible from our single family neighborhood. They do not want any paths or access or openings to be available because that will cause people to park on residential streets and increase traffic into the neighborhood. LCC responded to the Graves to correct the misinformation provided by Children's and to outline LCC's position on the issues. On 10/16, Penny MacElveen-Hoehn emailed inquiring whether Children's had compromised on the number of beds and square footage sought. LCC responded.
10. Playground Update: On 11/07, Laurelhurst School reported that construction is under way on the playground, complete with bulldozers and trucks. The school reports that students are adapting well to the new routine. The project is expected to be complete by the beginning of January. Due to the approaching winter the asphalt will be laid in the spring. Fundraising efforts are continuing to pay for the asphalt. Interested neighbors are asked to contact Catty Colee at c.colee@comcast.net. The Laurelhurst PTA contributed \$14,750 and Children's Hospital donated another \$5000 to our project making their investment in the school \$10,000. The school will be unloading and assembling the play equipment as well as laying the wood chips over the holiday break this winter. Volunteers are needed and encouraged to contact Coco Sherman at cocosherman@comcast.net if they are able to help.
11. Sidewalk: Maggie Weissman raised the question of the sidewalk near Katterman's - parking along street is very dangerous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you! Thanks to Don Torrie and Heather Newman for distributing the October LCC agenda packets. The pods are gone from Laurel Village, and the construction is complete.

Children's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings: Children's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings: Wednesday, November 12, 6-9 p.m., Talaris Conference Center, 4000 NE 41st Street. This will be the second committee working session to discuss changes to the alternatives and work on the Preliminary Draft of the CAC's Final Report and Recommendations. Since the Final Documents were delivered to

committee members today, there will be presentations on the documents from Children's staff and consultants, as well as an opportunity for public comment.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen passed out a map showing police reports. Brian has a preliminary patrol area indicated on a map. This would go on the web site when we ask for new subscriptions. Our patrol would not necessarily cover the park. It's not a money matter, but rather a private patrol normally calls in emergencies to on-duty officers. A private patrol is not the right setup for arrests and processing and dealing with the kids. On the beach club side, the patrol would simply observe the area. The general consensus was that our patrol area would not include the park. We can revisit this in a few months.

Blue Sky Cleaners Signage Proposal: Copies of proposed signage at Blue Sky Cleaners in the Spiger Building are included in the agenda packets. Leslie Wright is working on LCC's signage standards. She is out of town now, but wanted to report that she thought the wall-mounted sign looks alright, as it is similar to Avanti's. She asked that it have the capability of being turned off during the city-specified night hours. She said that the materials look as if they want to put a sign over the walkway as well. Enotria wanted to do this, as she recalled, and Wright doesn't recall whether LCC ever got back to them. Regarding the 10 foot-wide sign on the specs for Blue Sky, seemed that it might be larger than LCC prefers.

The City's energy code requires automatic controls and time-switches for shut-off and turning on the lights. In the case of Blue Sky Cleaners, the lights would be on from sunrise to sunset and would be internally lit. Because the City is now enforcing the energy code regarding signage, the owners would have to install an "Astronomical Clock" at the breaker box to control the on/off times for the signs.

The proposed signs are small rectangular signs over the awning and near the door. One is 10 feet long, mounted on the wall. We have no objection to that. A "blade" sign is 5 feet long. Maggie would be happier with a 3 foot blade sign. **Motion** by Stan Sorscher, seconded by Maggie Weissman: 10 foot on the wall OK. 3 foot blade sign. **Motion passed** unanimously. Liz Ogden will check other signs on that block.

Good Neighbor day: We should all think about good neighbors to honor.

North Precinct: Cary Lassen reported that Nick Licata had a very gloomy economic report. South Lake Union development may be delayed. Tax revenues are down. Licata would try to hold the budget for public safety.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher