

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for November 9, 2009
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Jeannie Hale, Leslie Wright, Cary Lassen, Emily Dexter, Brian McMullen, Kristen Curry, Colleen, McAleer, Mark Trumbauer, Don Torrie, Len Nelson, Stan Sorscher, Adrian Whorton

Excused: Marian Joh, Maggie Weissman

Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM.

Parks and Recreation Fee Setting: Eric Friedli, Parks and Recreation Department Policy and Business Analyst, briefed the board on proposed works in progress and a draft proposal for fee setting.

Eric explained that the Parks Department updates fees every 2 years. The City Council approves fees in the City budget. Eric handed out a memo describing fees. An SLI for the Parks Department will include the purpose of fees, a comparison to other jurisdictions, cost recovery goals, price setting policies etc.

A formal policy proposal will be made in the first quarter of 2010. The mayor's budget process starts in late spring.

Cost recovery means how much does the city recover from fees, and how much is subsidized by taxes? For example, community centers have programs and fees for room rentals.

The goals provide guidance about benefit to the community versus benefit to individuals. For instance, a private party such as a wedding would be subject to fees for the full cost, but playfields or basketball courts would have general public value. However, a "select" league is not open to everyone, and may be subject to a fee.

Golf pays for itself plus a capital reserve. The aquarium pays for operation, but not capital funding. Golf and the aquarium are the big revenue generators. Other big revenue generators are reservations for picnic tables, park shelters, and playfields. Parks levies fund some of the capital projects.

Eric referred to on-going internal discussion within parks Department. No dollar target has been set at this time.

A; Neighborhood sliding fees?

A: Two approaches - fees vary by neighborhood, or scholarships for low-income residents.

Q; Demand pricing?

A: The City does not want youth athletics displaced by older groups who can pay more.

Q: Fees for Laurelhurst Community Center? Neighbors donated that land to the City. LCC helped get our Community Center included in the Parks Levy. User fees don't seem to take that history into account.

A: A fee waiver is considered by Superintendent of Parks. About 30% of the Department's budget comes from fees and rentals. The real costs fall into labor and upkeep involved in events at Community Centers.

Q: Fee increases?

A: Some fees may go down, but others will go up. This will all come out of the budgeting process.

Susan Marten revisited a question she asked in October about a letter to the editor written by Colleen McAleer, under the name Colleen McGinn. Colleen explained that she uses her maiden name for business purposes. Colleen and the Puget Sound Business Journal worked this out, and the PSBJ ran a clarification.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Consideration of the October 2009 minutes was deferred until the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was deferred due to illness of the Treasurer.

Changes to the Agenda: Add SR 520 update and CUCAC Report.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Parking: Kevin Wrenn followed up on his 9/24 email about the overflow parking from the Springbrook complex onto 40th Avenue NE in several messages. He would like to follow up on an RPZ in his area. The new rules governing this process call for involvement of the community council. Wrenn has a photography business and must often carry heavy equipment several blocks because there is no parking.
2. Car Prowls: Katie Sands who lives in the vicinity of 49th Avenue NE reported that her car has been broken into twice this month. Nothing was taken either time, just the doors left open and the glove box left open with everything thrown around. This made her think that someone is checking cars on a regular basis in the area. She reported this to the police.
3. DADUs: On 10/28, Demot Noonan emailed to inquire about the status of city council consideration of the proposal to legalize detached accessory dwelling units (DADUs) citywide. LCC responded to let him know of the amendments to the proposal and the likelihood the measure would be passed.
4. Seattle Children's: After the 11/04 e-newsletter to neighbors, Paul Klemond, Miriam Muller and others emailed to congratulate LCC on the well-written piece. On 10/30, Mark Holden emailed stating that he was incredulous at the ads Children's has been running. Marlena Weglin called several times objecting to Children's scare tactics on radio ads. Heather Newman emailed to object to the radio ads.

Lynn Lindsay and Jean Griffin called to last week to give support for LCC's work on reducing the size of the Seattle Children's Hospital master Plan proposal. Dr. Ray Fenner an orthopedic surgeon who worked with Children's for 25 years, emailed to give his recommendation about the expansion plans. He strongly believes that this expansion work not be in the best interests of the patients and the facility could not work on the Laurelhurst Campus site. Dr. Reimmert Ravenholt, an owner of a Laurelon condominium and notable physician working with Children's for 30 years, conveyed that he is strongly opposed to the size of the expansion and taking of Laurelon housing units.

Sarah Mockett and several neighbors called to complain about the signs posted from October 28 until November 5 from the Friends of Seattle Children's. They did not understand the "Keep in Seattle" message, and were inquiring about the volume of signs posted in median strips, and if that was even legal. A couple of other neighbors thought the yard signs meant that there would be something on the November ballot about the issue. Last week, a neighbor forwarded copies of Children's Form 990s filed with the IRS. The two most recent years of filings available indicate that over five million dollars has been spent on advertising.

5. Mega houses in the Town of Yesler: Heather Newman followed up to see if progress had been made on the mega house issues in the Town of Yesler.
6. Tailgate parties: The Talaris street end is public property, but Talaris property is also involved. For whatever reason no tailgaters were there at the most recent game.
7. Wetlands: A neighbor asked about property east of CUH with lots of blackberries. Is it a wetlands? It is definitely wetland, owned by UW. Student projects maintain that area. Kern Ewing and Jean Colley lead hikes in the area.
8. Megahouse: Mark Trumbauer believes the rebuilt house on NE 44th St will probably be a single family home with a rental on the first floor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please see the NEDC announcement handout.

1. Viaduct Replacement Project Open House: Thursday, November 12, 4:30-7:30 p.m., University Presbyterian Church, 4530 15th Avenue NE. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is planning to replace the 468-foot west approach during the summer of 2010. The project is part of the City of Seattle's [Bridging the Gap](#) program, and will cost roughly \$30 million. Come to the open house to learn about the project schedule, design plans, construction impacts and potential detour routes. For further information, contact Mike Ward, Project Manager, at 206-684-8493 or NE45thBridgeRehab@Seattle.Gov or Maribel Cruz, Outreach Coordinator, at 206-684-7963 or go to www.seattle.gov/transportation/45th-bridge.htm. SDOT drove some test piles to measure noise levels. The piles will be removed or cut off below the mud line.

2. Committee Consideration of Children's Proposed Master Plan: November 18, 9 a.m., Council Chambers. The Seattle City Council's Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee (PLUNC) is tentatively scheduled to have an initial briefing on Seattle Children's proposed Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP). No public testimony regarding the merits of the proposed MIMP will be taken at the briefing. People and groups that have filed appeals will have an opportunity to provide oral arguments at future committee meetings. Council meetings are cablecast live on Seattle Channel 21 and Webcast live on the City Council's website.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: This month's report showed car prowls and robberies. Suspects seem to be moving around the neighborhood checking for unlocked doors. We can consider extending the patrol area, adding an officer, and collecting fees from the neighbors in the new area. Approximately 900 homes are in the patrolled area and in the area not yet patrolled. Brian can check with the officers to see if they can staff the larger patrol area.

NEDC: Much of the discussion was about the police officer who was shot. Child abuse and sexual assault unit spoke to the NEDC. Residents can sign up to be notified when a sex offenders move to a new neighborhood. Many sex offenders live in the university district.

Socks, Hats and Gloves! Every Holiday Season the North Seattle Police Precinct asks the neighborhoods to donate new socks, hats and gloves. The SPD then distributes these gifts to shelters and the homeless they encounter living on the streets. The University District Council has pledged 500 pair of socks. Laurelhurst, is challenging the U District to see who can collect the most new socks, hats and gloves. *New warm socks, hats or gloves* in any size for men, women and/or children are welcome and can be dropped of at "THE SOX BOX" located on the porch at 4557 46th Ave NE (corner house with white picket fence across from Laurelhurst Elementary School). This is one month to gather 500 donations.

Request for LCC Support of RPZ: Kevin Wrenn would like LCC's support and assistance in obtaining a Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) on 40th across from Laurel Terrace. Those working in the Springbrook Building use up all the parking spots on the street and he has to haul heavy camera equipment to his workplace as there is no place to park.

An RPZ is typically established on blocks that have adjacent residential uses (houses, apartments, or condominiums) to discourage long-term parking by non-residents. An RPZ may be appropriate where the parking congestion is caused by a nearby business district, or by visitors or employees of a hospital or school.

An RPZ involves the posting of parking time limits or parking prohibitions from which vehicles displaying an appropriate, valid RPZ permit are exempt. Eligibility for an RPZ permit is restricted to residents living on the blocks where the RPZ is established. Eligible residents on an RPZ block may purchase one permit for each vehicle they own,

and one guest pass (whether or not they own a vehicle). The following is a typical RPZ sign although the actual parking restriction may vary depending on the local conditions:



The Director of Transportation may establish a RPZ whenever 75 percent or more of the capacity of the streets available for parking are generally occupied during regular business hours or any consecutive eight hour period during evenings or during any consecutive eight hour period on both Saturdays and Sundays. Another criteria is that at least 25 percent of the vehicles parked on the street are not owned by residents of the designated area. A majority of residents must sign a petition indicating approval of the RPZ. The cost is \$45 per year. The Transportation Department has the discretion to waive any of the criteria if the parking problem will be ameliorated by a RPZ and the public interest would be served.

Motion by Don Torrie, seconded by Mark Trumbauer to write a letter to support Kevin's RPZ application. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Seattle Children's Update: The first meeting of the Council's Planning Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee (PLUNC) to consider the proposed Seattle Children's master plan is now tentatively scheduled for the morning of November 18. PLUNC has been asked to address the tactics employed by Friends of Children's Hospital that appear to be deliberate attempts to subvert the quasi-judicial rules governing the process. The Seattle Community Council Federation filed three objections to the tactics (including radio and newspaper advertising). Today, LCC also submitted a letter on the topic. In the meantime, Seattle's Department of Transportation has been removing the yard signs on public spaces as they were illegally placed. LCC continues to encourage Children's to work together on a compromise.

Colleen McAleer passed out a printout from the City Council web site regarding the process. Three neighborhood groups filed letters objecting to Children's violations of the quasi-judicial process through their advertising campaign. SDOT is removing some of the signs placed improperly.

LCC sent letters to Dr. Hansen asking for informal off the record meetings to understand each other's interests. Dr. Hansen has indicated this might have value and we are making progress.

SR 520 Update: Richard Conlin wrote a letter in support of a lake district for Union Bay. Alternative K has become Alt M; Alt A became A+. The State is required to evaluate only the 3 original options. Additional legislation is required to evaluate A+ and M. Alt A+ includes a ramp into the arboretum. Alt M involves a new tunnel method, using prefabricated sections that can be set in the ground. Digging damage can be minimized, and "fish windows" allow enough time to set the sections - 4 days will be needed. UW wants a big parking garage as part of Alt M.

Tolling SR-520 is at the discretion of the state, but I-90 tolling must comply with federal rules.

CUCAC Report: Kirsten Curry sent trustees a written report of the last CUCAC meeting. She reported on the North of 45th Committee and that groups work on neighborhood cleanup, housing conditions and conduct of off campus students. Curry also reported on the UW's Climate Action Plan and student housing expansion. Three of the four student housing projects are traditional residence halls and the fourth is student apartments. With the new projects there will be an increase in 1645 beds. At tomorrow's CUCAC meeting, there will be an SR 520 update and information about the NE 45th Street viaduct project.

Neighbor Appreciation Day Planning: Neighbor Appreciation Day is Saturday, February 6. The board brainstormed about ways to celebrate this event. People and organizations organize block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, potluck dinners, and work parties to recognize and encourage caring neighbors. In the past, LCC has hosted an awards ceremony with and/or the mayor and councilmembers officiating in handing out Good Neighbor Awards. The past two years, LCC has honored good neighbors at the Annual Neighbors Meeting with a Councilmember officiating.

Executive session started at 8:56 and ended around 9:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher