

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

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

Excused: Heather Newman

Guests: JoAnn Jordan the Public Education Coordinator, Seattle Emergency Management; Kern Ewing and Sandra Lier, UW Botanic Gardens, Amy Woodruff, Judy Thornton, Steve Wilson, Kate Lloyd, Sara Mockett, Mary Jo Gasperick, Jack Collins

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

Changes to the Agenda: Add Closure of Arboretum Drive. Informational materials were sent electronically to trustees prior to the meeting.

SNAP (Emergency Preparedness): JoAnn Jordan, from Seattle Emergency Management, spoke about the SNAP (Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepared) program. SNAP organizes individual and neighborhood preparedness. JoAnn gave the example of a snow emergency. We should think in advance about neighbors who would need assistance, and how we would communicate with others in the neighborhood.

Seattle is divided into 13 neighborhood districts. The SNAP program leads people through simple common sense practical actions everyone can accomplish. SNAP will be discussed at the Montlake Branch Library March 24, 6:30-8. JoAnn passed out a schedule of all 13 meetings, and she is willing to hold additional meetings on request.

Meeting announcements will appear in community newsletters, utility bills, online resources, videos, libraries, schools.

Draft Union Bay Management Plan: Kern Ewing and Sandra Lier, from the UW Botanic Gardens talked about activities at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Sandra talked about the herbarium, library, nature trails, gardens, and their management plan for the natural area. Kern has been writing the plan. His proposal goes to the Dean this week, then will be open for public comment. The original plan was developed around 1994, and included the landfill area, now known as a natural area. The plan is being updated, showing progress in restoration since 1990, species diversity, and creation of native habitat. Graduate students and Boy Scout Eagle projects are part of the plan, including 8 volunteer groups so far, this year. Going forward, Kern hopes to improve trails, and build a boardwalk on loop trail between Surber Way and the greenhouses. They are looking for volunteers and community support. In the future, we may have interpretive tours, and school programs.

Closure of Arboretum Drive: Jack Collins, who serves on the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee, briefed the board on the Parks Superintendent's proposal to

permanently close the full length of East Arboretum Drive (the upper road in the Arboretum). The road has been partially closed for a year or so due to construction. Collins supports approval of the closure of Arboretum Drive without conditions or delay. In Jack's proposal, the road would continue in use for pedestrians and bicycles. Cars with disabled placards could use the road. His goal is tranquility - taking back the land, in a sense, and making the area more park-like.

The Arboretum Foundation board met and wrote to the Superintendent asking him to provide an identified plan of accessibility for all parts of the park and for any decision on the closure to be delayed until the Foundation has had an opportunity to review the accessibility plan.

In March 2001, LCC submitted comments on the Arboretum master plan. At that time, LCC supported the position of the Arboretum Park Preservation Coalition, the Seattle Community Council Federation and neighbors in Montlake. In its letter, LCC stated: "We believe that there is a critical need for the Arboretum to continue to serve as a park, urban refuge and natural environment with minimal future development. Further changes are necessary to moderate the impact of building, traffic and parking."

Guests: Jeannie asked if guest wanted to bring up items.

Judith Thornton asked about the date for the Annual Meeting. A date hasn't been set, yet.

Mary Jo Gasperick want to know about the article in the Stranger, regarding Dixie Wilson's law suit against LCC. Mary Jo said she supports the Club and is appalled by the law suit.

Kate Lloyd said she's seeing more interest and activity in the Waterway. Kate heard from a friend in New York City about the Stranger article. Kate asked about insurance. Jeannie thanked Kate for her hard work on the Waterway. Kate's husband joined Mark Trumbauer, Mark's daughter and others to work on the cleanup.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the February minutes. Several corrections were made:

Minutes: Corrections:

- Heather was not "excused."
- On page 6 - revise the part about Frank Chopp's reaction.
- On page 7, regarding the table of the projects, add "Colleen McAleer raised questions about speed cushions on 43rd Ave NE."
- Page 2 Fix the grammatical error related to "Dixie Wilson, statement of her purpose"
- Page 2, #3 Laurie - not Lauren

Motion by Mark Trumbauer, seconded by Leslie Wright to accept the minutes as corrected. **Motion approved** by voice vote.

Colleen McAleer submitted her testimony to the City Council on changes to the noise ordinance, related to construction. Colleen also passed out her report to the Council on nutria.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Joh passed out financial records. Activity for the month was quiet, but more expenses will come in from the legal process with Children's Hospital.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Traffic circle: On 2/15, Lara and John Tusher who live south of the Villa emailed about the excessive speeding in their area. They suggested a traffic revision on their side of 50th Avenue between NE 45th and NE 41st. They routinely see drivers, especially teens and service vehicles, going at dangerous speeds well over the speed limit. Their family cat was recently killed in a hit-and-run by a speeding car. The Tushers' think that there would be support among neighbors for a traffic circle. Ogden has followed up.
2. Condo for sale: Alex Hayes emailed LCC on 2/17 LCC about a condo for sale at Park Point. He has been in touch with the newsletter editor.
3. Noise from Children's: A neighbor shared her email messages with Children's in mid-February about the hospital's failure to control noise. Children's has been completing work on its sound attenuation equipment. That project is complete, but the noise continues, interfering with sleep.
4. Thanks: Susan January, Penny Percy and others emailed shortly after the e-newsletter went out to thank LCC for the message.
5. Deliveries of plants: On 2/25, neighbor and wetland scientist Robert King contacted LCC to let LCC know that he works for a consulting company that operates a native plant nursery in Covington (Thor's Native Plants). He can make deliveries to neighbors on his way home. Most one-gallon plants sell for \$5.50 and two-gallon plants sell for \$10.00. King was put in touch with LCC's newsletter editor.
6. Enotria: Co-owner Jud Crane emailed on 2/25 to let LCC know that Enotria will be instituting several new programs including a Wine Club, a happy hour, and regular events including winemaking, tasting, guest chef dinners, a live music night, and a summer weekend brunch scheme. He has been in touch with the newsletter editor about placing an ad.
7. Short-term rental: Lisa McCabe emailed on 2/28 about a short-term rental in the neighborhood. She was put in touch with LCC's newsletter editor and has placed an "unclassified."
8. Posting of agenda on website: On 3/01, Susan Marten emailed to ask that LCC post trustee agendas on its website. Hale responded that the agenda is finalized just a couple of days before the meeting and there is little time to post it on the website and that LCC's webmaster only volunteers two hours a month to do the postings. Hale emailed Marten the agenda after it was complete.

9. Back in the neighborhood: Julie Coryell emailed on 3/08 to let LCC know that her family has returned to the neighborhood after living in Washington D.C. for a period of time. Welcome home!
10. Children's: Several Bryant and Laurelhurst and other neighbors emailed in the last two or three weeks to send LCC their comments on Children's master plan or to ask for logistics about the Hearing Examiner hearing on the matter (Judy Schaad, Anne Stevens, Adrian Whorton MD, Jean Amick, Steve Adam MD and Diane Adam, Marissa LaMadrid, Sandra Counts, Lynn Ferguson, Peggy Printz, Geof Logan, Grace Yuan, Bill Scott, Joyce Scott, and more).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you! Thanks to DonTorrie for distributing the March LCC agenda packets.
2. Report on housing committee needed: Solid Ground is seeking representatives from the various neighborhood councils surrounding the Sand Point Housing Programs to join the Sand Point Housing Advisory Committee. The mission and purpose of this Committee is to keep the Community engaged with the housing programs and development plans for new housing to ensure the continuation and expansion of critical homeless housing. The Committee members provide guidance and support to Solid Ground staff and partners through ongoing discussion and communication about the operation of the current programs and the plans to build new housing for the homeless in efforts to fulfill the Sand Point Reuse Plan. Currently, there are representatives from Hawthorne Hills, View Ridge Community Council, and Windermere North.

In the past, John Clark and Todd Cahill have served on that Board. Jeannie is looking for volunteers. Mark Holden encouraged us to seek volunteers in the community - not just LCC Board members.

Those interested should contact Kira Zylstra, Sand Point Housing Liaison for Solid Ground, at 206-517-5499 or kiraz@solid-ground.org.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian said no incidents or crimes were reported. Generally, February is a slow crime month. However, with the economy down, crime may go up in the future.

Block Watch: Cary Lassen has started a school block watch. Diane Horswell said we will need to buy block watch signs for the street, at \$35 each. We would have some latitude regarding wording on the signs. The Block Watch would be organized around the school and the park. Cans, garbage and discarded objects are accumulating around the school and park. Graffiti at the school was not painted over for a long time. The Block Watch could help keep things cleaned up, and would also report problems to the City. The PTA could help with some of these issues. Don Torrie will speak to staff at the Park and Community Center.

This summer, we anticipate young people to use the park. The problems occur with after-hours parties and damage to the park equipment.

Maggie Weissman said 30 houses are for sale in Laurelhurst, which is a large inventory. We should watch for vacant houses having people using the houses without permission.

Arboretum Drive Closure: Emily Dexter represents LCC on Parks issues. Emily asked what the sense of the Board was. The consensus was that we don't have a strong position one way or the other, and we don't have a stake in the question. Others may feel strongly, but it was not clear what we would contribute to the issue. We will continue to study the issue.

520 bridge: Mayor Nichols wants Alternative L removed from the proposal. That is the option with the second bascule bridge over the Montlake cut.

Children's Hospital Update: Materials from the Hearing Examiner and the attorneys involved in the Children's master plan are included in the agenda packets. Several statements presented at the hearing or submitted are also in the packets. Thanks to trustees Ogden, Hale, Dexter, Wright, Lassen, Sorscher and McAleer (as well as many neighbors) for attending the master plan/SEPA hearing.

Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

Motion by Liz Odgen, seconded, to authorize additional payment of up to \$4000 to pay Carol Eychaner and Peter Eglick for expenses in the hearings regarding Childrens Hospital. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher