

Laurelhurst Community Club  
Minutes  
May 11, 2015  
Laurelhurst Community Center

Attending: Robin Chalmers, Emily Dexter, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Connie Sidles, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Stan Sorscher

Guests: Nathan Rimmer, Pistol Creek; Eleanor Worsham, Meg Agnew, Steve Rupp

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

#### ADMINISTRATION

##### Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Digging at Talaris: LCC has received numerous emails over the last month about digging at Talaris and one neighbor filed a complaint with DPD due to the proximity of the digging to the nesting eagles. LCC followed up and learned that a sprinkler system water line was installed and no permits were required. DPD stated that the digging was a quarter of a mile away from the nesting eagles.
2. Drones: In early May, a neighbor reported what turned out to be a drone flying over her next door neighbor's home. The Blog followed up on this and learned that the drone was associated with a local realtor company. It was suggested that greater education on the use of drones in neighborhoods would be helpful so neighbors are not frightened. It was suggested that no fly zones should be explored by natural areas to protect the eagles and blue herons near Union Bay. Sidles with contact Seattle Audubon about this.
3. Lack of maintenance at Talaris: On May 5 and on many other occasions in the last few months, LCC has received complaints about the lack of maintenance on the Battelle/Talaris property along NE 41<sup>st</sup> and other areas facing the community. One neighbor observed that the interior of the site has been maintained very well, and even picnic tables have been installed, although Laurelhurst neighbors are not allowed on the site. Talaris told LCC that it cut back on site and building maintenance last fall to help relieve the annual operating cost of the site.
4. Private security project: On May 6, a neighbor who lives on the 4500 block of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE emailed to pass along another compliment about the private security project. Her family is out of town in the winter and returned early. Within ten minutes after returning home from an evening meeting, the doorbell rang and it was a uniformed police officer who had been walking around the property checking on the house and heard water running. The neighbor was appreciative of the service provided.
5. Talaris: Neighbors attending the meeting asked about pursuing a prescriptive easement to address the public access issue at Talaris. LCC updated neighbors

about the current plan and neighbors stayed to hear the update from Nathan Rimmer.

Minutes: The board reviewed the April 2015 minutes. MOTION by Luiten, seconded by Sidles, to approve the April minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the April financial report. Dexter responded to questions from trustees. The IRS Form 990 form has been filed. Dexter addressed the private security project audit included in the agenda packets. The off-duty officers are now working five nights and two days a week. Wright reported that LCC is down four advertisers for the newsletter.

Announcements:

1. State Budget: The regular Legislative Session concluded on Friday, April 24, and Governor Inslee convened a Special Session on Wednesday April 30. This Special Session will last 30 days, or until a budget bill is funded and passed. The reason for a special session is that there is no agreement yet on an operating budget, which must be balanced and passed by June 30. The operating budget funds state government services and agencies, including schools. The capitol and the transportation budgets also have yet to be passed. At this point, budget negotiations continue between the budget writers in the House and Senate. The House seems willing to raise revenues, while the Senate does not.
2. NEDC District 4 Candidates Forum: Wednesday, June 17, University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE, Room 209. Mix and mingle and snacks from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Candidates forum 6:30-8:00 p.m. Questions for the candidates can be submitted in writing at the event. Everyone welcome! Access to the 2nd floor of UHC is by chairlift, please allow extra time if you are someone who may need to use this option. Four candidates are confirmed to attend; sponsors are hoping to have all in attendance. For more information, check out the NEDC website at <https://northeastdistrictcouncil.wordpress.com/>. Or contact Gabrielle Gerhard at [ggerhard1@gmail.com](mailto:ggerhard1@gmail.com)
3. Garbage Fines Begin July 1: Starting July 1, fines will be issued to businesses and residences whose garbage containers contain too much food, paper, cardboard, jars or yard waste. For more information, go to [www.seattle.gov/util/](http://www.seattle.gov/util/) or call 206-684-3000. The start date for this program has been deferred.

Talaris Update: Nathan Rimmer updated the board and neighbors about plans for Talaris redevelopment. In his view, neighbors are comfortable with the proposal. They are working on signing purchase agreements. The architects are working on a plan to accomplish this. McAleer and Hale attended the May 6 Landmarks Board meeting. At the meeting attorney Rich Hill and the architect undated the proposal and responded to questions.

McCaw's people are working on refining version 3A that was presented last week at the Landmarks Board. They are working on preserving site lines within the site. Rimmer sidestepped the question as to whether it would be a gated community. He said the property would be governed by a homeowners agreement.

In responding to neighbors interest in a prescriptive easement, Rimmer responded that that would move things in a very negative direction. He said they do not want the public to take over the site. He said there would be no guard at the entrance, similar to Broadmoor and there would be no new access points to the site.

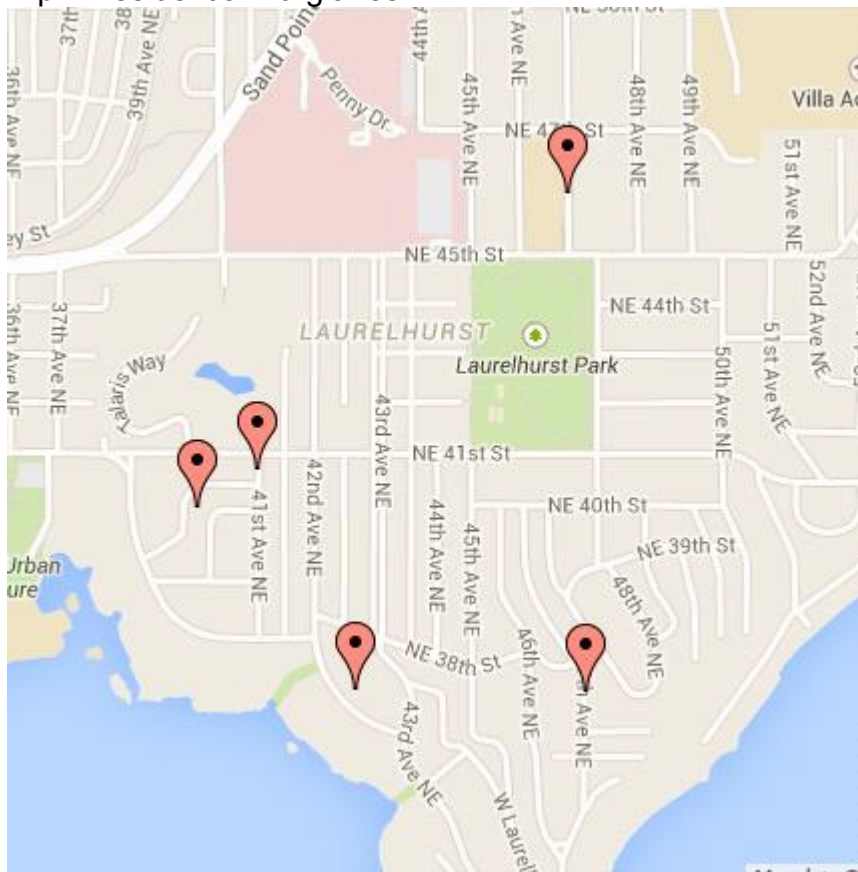
Rimmer mentioned that the Landmarks Board would like to see options to repurpose the lodge building and Building G, instead of removing those structures. Talaris will ask for a commercial variance for existing buildings. Rimmer promised to provide electronic copies of the plan. Audubon will provide a list of native plants that attract birds. Rimmer is unsure if Rich Haag will be consulted.

Annual Meeting Planning: The board discussed possible speakers for the Annual Neighbors Meeting. Mayor Murray and the director of SDOT were suggested. Trustees suggested a table with information about the Talaris redevelopment proposal. Sidles agreed to provide a table with bird specimens from the Union Bay Natural Area. Ogden will bring cookies and McAleer will bring rice crispy treats. Hale will bring water and coffee. Trustees volunteered to help at the meeting with set up, staffing the sign-in table and clean up.

## REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: McMullen briefed the board about crime in the neighborhood and surrounding areas and provided the following information as of April 30:

### April Residential Burglaries



General Offense Number	Event Clearance Date	Hundred Block Location	Initial Type Description	Hundred Block Location
2015127853	4/19/2015 15:22	36XX BLOCK OF 42 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED	36XX BLOCK OF 42 AV NE
2015117865	4/11/2015 2:02	36XX BLOCK OF 47 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, OCCUPIED	36XX BLOCK OF 47 AV NE
2015133986	4/24/2015 16:06	39XX BLOCK OF NE BELVOIR PL	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED	39XX BLOCK OF NE BELVOIR PL
2015130269	4/21/2015 15:40	40XX BLOCK OF 41 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED	40XX BLOCK OF 41 AV NE
2015121260	4/14/2015 8:34	45XX BLOCK OF 47 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED	45XX BLOCK OF 47 AV NE

Date	Description of Patrol Activities
4/3	Assisted with 2 vehicle accident
4/4	Moved 5 kids out of park late at night with bon fire
4/17	Moved group of teens from park

All Crime for the month

Event Clearance Date	Hundred Block Location	Initial Type Description
4/11/2015 2:02	36XX BLOCK OF 47 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, OCCUPIED
4/14/2015 8:34	45XX BLOCK OF 47 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED
4/14/2015 11:04	40XX BLOCK OF 41 AV NE	THEFT -CAR PROWL
4/14/2015 11:17	31XX BLOCK OF E LAURELHURST DR NE	PROPERTY DESTRUCTION
4/15/2015 11:14	41XX BLOCK OF 42 AV NE	BICYCLE THEFT
4/16/2015 15:03	48XX BLOCK OF NE 43 ST	THEFT - MISCELLANEOUS
4/19/2015 15:22	36XX BLOCK OF 42 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED

4/20/2015 20:31	37XX BLOCK OF 41 AV NE	FRAUD (INCLUDING IDENTITY THEFT)
4/21/2015 15:40	40XX BLOCK OF 41 AV NE	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED
4/24/2015 16:06	39XX BLOCK OF NE BELVOIR PL	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL, UNOCCUPIED
4/17/2015 19:17	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/18/2015 2:57	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/28/2015 19:16	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	BICYCLE THEFT
4/22/2015 23:13	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/26/2015 1:09	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/29/2015 6:12	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/29/2015 22:15	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/21/2015 17:00	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/27/2015 1:54	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	ASSAULTS/Disturbance, Mental health issue
4/12/2015 11:11	48XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE	PROPERTY DESTRUCTION

Luiten briefed the board on the recent North Precinct Advisory Council meeting. The North Precinct needs officers. The North Precinct is short nine officers now and the entire SPD is short 200 officers. Lt. Arata stated that the North Precinct never goes below the minimum number of officers needed, but they also never hit the maximum number of officers needed. The officers just end up having to work double shifts for this to work out.

Update on North Precinct's New Building: The site is on Aurora between 128th NE and 130th NE. Three existing buildings will be demolished. Building design plans are in the early phase. Since Aurora is so busy police vehicles will likely enter and exit the property at Stoneway and 128th. The building will be set back a ways off of Aurora due to the noise. There will be public plaza in front of the lobby. There is going to be a light filled atrium in the center of the building where officers can interact and do paperwork.

There will be a shooting range in the building and a large gym. A large parking garage will be behind the atrium and precinct offices. The current plan also shows the building with an education space for public use. It has been proposed that Mary's Place could relocate into the Pi Bank building located on the site. This would be a temporary use of this building for two years as a homeless family shelter before it is demolished for construction of a new building.

Shorebird Mitigation Update: Sidles updated the board on efforts to work with WSDOT and 46<sup>th</sup> District legislators to modify the SR 520 mitigation plan to protect shorebirds in the Union Bay Natural Area. She noted that WSDOT never submitted the final planting plan.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety: Chalmers reported on his continued efforts on behalf of LCC to address road safety. He and Torrie had coordinated about a street signs that had been hit numerous times by trucks, located on the corner of NE 40th Street and 46th Avenue NE. Both signs have been replaced. Chalmers first reported this to SDOT on June 16th 2014 with tracking number 14-00086476.

As far as the no parking signs around the Laurelhurst Elementary School are concerned, Chalmers checked all of those and they all seem to be in place. A sign was replaced by the school at the south end of 47<sup>th</sup> by 45<sup>th</sup>.

Chalmers reported that SDOT had agreed to replace all Laurelhurst worn out signs between January and April 2015. The signs at 46<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> were completely buckled six to eight months ago.

He will coordinate with McMullen as to what our next step will be to try and get any action from SDOT concerning the dangerous situation at the top of "Suicide Hill."

Shoreline Street Ends Update: Ogden attended the April 30 quarterly meeting for Friends of Shoreline Street Ends. The bulk of the meeting was a presentation from SDOT on the status of shoreline street end projects. Future meetings will focus on updating the list of street ends under permit, identifying kayak access locations and public art projects.

Brian dePlace is now the lead on the shoreline street ends program. Jennifer Weiland has moved into the private sector. Urban forestry has moved into maintenance and out of street use.

Azalea Lace Bug Problem Update: Dexter briefed the board on her efforts to learn more about the azalea bug problem in the area.

Arthur Lee Jacobson, noted plant expert, said that the bug is making so many azaleas look ratty, that odds are many will *give up* trying to grow these plants. Blasting the shrubs with water frequently will help, but is only partial, and impractical. He agrees with CUH that spraying is a bother. He recommends replacement of the plants with ornamental shrubs that are less thirsty than rhodies. He said these will look attractive or even more so. Examples he cited include: Ceanothus, Euonymus japonicas, Grevillea victoriae, Lagerstroemia (dwarf selections). Leptospermum and/or Nerium Oleander.

The curator of the UW Botanical Gardens said that the Arboretum azaleas have also been infected. He said the pest is new to our area, first appearing around 2010, after having been in the southeast for a number of years after arriving from Europe. He said the pest is very difficult to control as it has many generations a year. He offered to provide suggestions for replacement plants, but said the UW is unable to contribute funds. David Zuckerman from CUH recommended removal of all of the azalea plants.

Don Heath, from Heath Landscaping, recommends replacement of the plants with clusters of Lavender, small varieties of Ceanothus, and Baggesens Gold Lonicera. The bid from Heath Landscaping to undertake the work is included in the agenda packets. MOTION by Hale, seconded by Sidles to direct Dexter to solicit another bid on the project and to then authorize Dexter to move forward with the purchase, planting and necessary work using her best judgment. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Waterway No. 1 Community Meeting: On Thursday afternoon, March 16, LCC Waterway Committee members, landscape architect Michael Lee, and another neighbor met with Pamela Kliment from the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss implementation of Phase 3 of the Waterway No. 1 Enhancement Project. A community meeting/open house has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 at the waterway. The Parks Department will provide chairs and tables.

Light Link Rail Shuttle Alternative: At the past NEDC meeting, there was a representative from Sound Transit to brief reps about the comments received about the two alternatives presented to the community. He said most people support alternative 1. LCC submitted comments and supported alternative 2 because under alternative 1, Laurelhurst would lose all bus service. He said that Sound Transit is considering seriously small buses or vans to service Laurelhurst and View Ridge. These vehicles would pick people up at their doorstep, rather than at bus stops.

Hale asked about the Laurelhurst proposal to have shuttles from the new station to U Village, Children's, the Center for Spiritual Living and Magnuson Park. The Sound Transit rep said the UW is not interested because they feel they are doing their share with the U-Pass program. He said Children's responded that it has its own shuttles. They have not been in touch with University Village or the Center for Spiritual Living.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:05 p.m.