

Laurelhurst Community Club Board of Trustees
MINUTES
November 10, 2014

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

Excused: Linda Luiten, Stan Sorscher

Guests: Brian Dobbins, WABN Project Manager; James VanSteenburg, Deputy Project Manager; Kristin Sandstrom, WSDOT Communications Director; Jon Sloan, Jon Houghton, Bill Watts, Tom Price, Gordon Bradley, Robert King, Jean Amick, Martin Page, Tina and John Jacobs, Bill Baker, Bill and Sandra Eversen (many of the 80 attendees did not sign in)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

ADMINISTRATION

Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. SR 520: LCC has received several messages about the SR 520 replacement project and interest in tonight's meeting.
2. Security patrol: With the surge in crime in the neighborhood, LCC has heard from many neighbors about the security patrol and subscribing to the program.
3. Stolen packages: Neighbors on the 3300 block of 46th, off NE 38th had a package stolen from their front porch during the day on Halloween. The package came from Nordstrom's who graciously agreed to replace the item at no charge. On October 13, another neighbor who lives on the 4100 block of 42nd Avenue NE had two packages stolen from their front porch, despite the fact that their front yard is fully fenced. These neighbors installed a full security system and are hopeful that SPD and LCC can address the rise in crime in the neighborhood.
4. Trespassing: On November 6, LCC learned that a neighbor who lives in the 4100 block of 51st Avenue NE had a trespasser on their property about midnight. The husband went out and shined a flashlight on the intruder. It was a man in his 30's with a dark hat or bandana. The man took off on his bicycle and rode up NE 42nd. Police were called and responded.
5. October minutes: Jean Amick emailed today to request a correction to the October minutes. The board will address this at the meeting.
6. Halloween night burglaries: At least seven homes along three blocks were burglarized on Halloween night. Back doors were bashed in or windows broken to enter the homes. One neighbor caught the intruder on his video security system. The camera was pointed down as the neighbor was trying to determine if raccoons

were getting into garbage bins. The man was armed with an assault rifle. See photo below. LCC has received many calls and emails from neighbors. Some have requested a community crime prevention meeting.



The crime spree was covered by KIRO TV and neighbors were interviewed on the news. The news segment stated that our neighbors were “victimized and terrorized.” LCC’s off duty police officer responded.

7. History: On October 30, Jim Rupp emailed historical information he found in his father’s files about the Laurelhurst Beach Club and its actions in amending its bylaws in May, 1956 regarding applications for membership. The bylaw amendment prohibited discrimination on the basis of “race, religion, creed color.” The Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith commended the Beach Club for its “enlightened action” stating “They can take pride in the significant contribution they have made toward transposing the American ideal into reality.” *The Seattle Times* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported this in their newspapers. Beach Club members met with religious leaders and LCC in moving forward on the bylaw amendment.

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A Just Decision and a Good Example

T RUSTEES of the Laurelhurst Beach Club have amended the club’s bylaws to provide against discrimination because of “race, religion, creed or color” in considering applications for membership in the organization. The club is composed of some 800 families resident in the Laurelhurst district.

S The Laurelhurst group deserves commendation for its fair-minded and democratic decision. It represents progress in a direction which is generally approved in this community. And it sets an example for other organizations that may be thinking along similar lines, but have lacked courage to translate thought into effective action.

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Salute

June 3,
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To The Post-Intelligencer:

The battle to extend the horizons of democracy is an unceasing one and must proceed at every level of our society.

Sometimes our progress in this struggle is of such a dramatic nature as to capture the imagination of the peoples of the world, as witness

the historic decision of the United States Supreme Court in the school desegregation cases.

Sometimes our progress is made by quiet men determined to strengthen the democratic fabric in their local community.

Of such a nature was the recent decision by the members of the Laurelhurst Beach Club which at their annual meeting on May 28, overwhelmingly accepted an amendment to the by-laws passed by the board of trustees to the effect that applicants for admission to the club will be considered "without regard to race, religion, creed or color."

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, salutes the members of the Laurelhurst Beach Club for their enlightened action. They can take pride in the significant contribution they have made toward transposing the American ideal into reality.

**SAM W. TARSHIS,
Chairman, Regional Advisory Board, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.**

8. Portables: LCC has heard from many neighbors about the proposal to add up to four new portables at Laurelhurst School.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2014 meeting. Jean Amick suggested a clarification to the minutes. Under "calls and concerns" the minutes should read: "Jean Amick emailed the board on the afternoon of October 13 commenting on neglected maintenance of certain traffic circles and landscaping on the Mary Gates/NE 41st planted medians. She also suggested that plantings at Waterway No. 1 be kept low and simple to retain the view and minimize maintenance. She also questioned the funding source for the project." MOTION by McAleer, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes as corrected. *Motion passed with Ogden and Weissman abstaining.*

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the October treasurer's report.

Announcements:

1. SUBA Annual Meeting: Save Union Bay Association (SUBA) will host its annual meeting on November 18, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture in the Isaacson Classroom. There will be a presentation reviewing the 2014 milfoil management program in Union Bay, slides depicting changes in the amount of aquatic weeds before and after treatment, and information regarding plans for 2015 program.
2. Traffic Safety: Chalmers reported that the pothole issue and the roadway repairs at University Village as requested by LCC have been completed. His "SLOW DOWN" signs remain missing and SDOT has not replaced them yet, but they have indicated that they will replace the signs soon. SDOT will also conduct another speed study along NE 41st Street in the next month.

SR 520 Update: Washington Department of Transportation, (WSDOT), presented an in-depth program on the new West Approach Bridge North (WABN) section of the new SR 520 bridge to over 80 attendees from LCC neighbors. Kerry Pihlstrom, chief SR520 Bridge Engineer, Brian Dobbins, WABN Project Manager and James VanSteenburg, Deputy Project Manager walked through key aspects of the construction from the floating bridge section to the Montlake Interchange. Kristin Sandstrom from WSDOT also attended and distributed current handouts of the WBAN project.

Construction of the first stage of WABN begins in November through early spring of 2015, and must be completed before the salmon migration (the fish window). One of the noisiest processes will be the "vibrating" of the pilings into place, north of the existing bridge to support the new permanent bridge, and the temporary "work bridge" for staging. Night lighting and long construction hours may be needed to achieve this deadline.

The entire new SR520 bridge will be built to the north of the existing in order that traffic will continue to flow throughout the process. The plan is that the temporary work bridge structure will be removed and pilings vibrated out when the new SR520 WABN is completed in 2016. Ms. Pihlstrom showed the new sections of the WABN and the sections that will be built from the floating bridge to land on the West side at Montlake.

WSDOT demonstrated the operations of the 6 lanes funneling into the original 4 lanes at the Montlake Interchange. There will be a new double lane exit from the Eastside

onto Montlake Boulevard, and will also be stopped at a new signal (no more "free right") to accommodate pedestrians. There were objections from LCC members to that new stoplight, with concerns about added backups from vehicles exiting from the Eastside to Montlake Boulevard. One suggestion from McAleer is to allow vehicles to exit using a "right on red" option, and only stop if signal engaged. WSDOT referred the questions to SDOT who will operate the light.

WSDOT's Brian Dobbins invited all to attend monthly construction meetings at the Arboretum for neighbors to give feedback.

Questions were posed about the traffic congestion created from the newly tolled bridge on the exit eastbound at Montlake Blvd on from I-5. Pilhstrom indicated that a second exit lane will add capacity, and relieve some congestion. However, several noted that without more capacity on Montlake Boulevard, the congestion and backups will continue.

Question about the entire SR520 bridge to completion was asked and Pilhstrom indicated that there was no funding to build it, and is hoping that the State Legislators will pass a transportation bill to complete the project through to I-5. Question was asked if the second Montlake Bridge is included in that full funding package, and Pilhstrom indicated that it was included.

WSDOT provided the following answers to questions at the meeting:

Why does WABN have a signal at the westbound off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard? To improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, the existing free right-hand turn onto northbound Montlake Boulevard will be removed. WSDOT worked closely with the city of Seattle and other stakeholders during the design phase and highlighted pedestrian safety as a priority. The design features a new signal and a squared off T-intersection to improve pedestrian safety. A signal at the westbound off-ramp will be installed to provide safe movements for both traffic lanes onto Montlake Boulevard.

How will a signal at the westbound off-ramp affect local traffic? Under current conditions, pedestrians must cross the unsignalized westbound off-ramp while traffic merges onto Montlake Boulevard. Adding the new signal allows traffic and pedestrian movements to be controlled. This creates an improved pedestrian environment and removes the potential conflicts during traffic merges that exists today. The new signal at the westbound off-ramp will not negatively affect travel for traffic on Montlake Boulevard as the signal can be timed so that it operates in coordination with adjacent signals.

Can a vehicle make a right turn after it stops or does it have to wait for a green light to right turn? A right turn on red will not be allowed at the westbound off-ramp to Montlake Boulevard. Vehicles will have to wait for a green arrow.

What is the city of Seattle's role on the traffic light establishment? The city of Seattle will maintain and operate the new signal. The city of Seattle was involved in the design coordination and review process to provide the new signal.

Where can I find drawspan information? You can find drawspan information on our [website](#) and view the [reference guide](#) for more information. Drawspan openings are restricted during peak commuting times of 6:30-10 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. Monday through Friday. These openings cause a traffic delay of up to 30 minutes. If you haven't already done so, WSDOT recommends signing up for advance notification of drawspan openings by either text message or email. Here's how to sign up: Go to our text message/email alert system page. Enter your email address or cell phone number. If you'd like to be notified both ways, you can sign up with both your email address and cell number. Sign up for the alert called "520 Bridge Opening" from the subscription list (located under the "Traffic and Travel Updates" section).

What is the bright light on Lake Washington? This light, which a community member asked about, is likely lighting placed on Foster Island so that crews can construct the temporary work bridge during the night.

Roosevelt Reservoir Concept Proposal: Jon Sloan briefed the group on this proposed project. He stated that Seattle has the largest adult hockey program in the country and there are not enough fields. The plan includes an outdoor sports field, two year-round ice skating rinks, a seasonal lacrosse and ice sports field, a family pool area, an Olympic lanes pool and other amenities. There would be two decks of parking with approximately 5,000 parking spaces.

Sloan noted that the Maple Leaf reservoir has been retrofitted with a park on top. In the city, 17 acres of property will be surplus and offered to the Parks Department. Millions of dollars has already been spent at Maple Leaf.

Sloan's committee includes a real estate person, three lawyers, two finance people and investors. The committee is creating a vision plan and anticipates a public/private partnership. The project would require an upzone to three or four stories on surrounding residential property. The committee looked at Magnuson Park, but it was determined that those involved would not have an adequate return on investment. Sloan anticipates that the project would be a \$50 million asset to the city.

Next steps: The committee will continue work on the concept plan, work on a financial plan, get a commitment from the city on the vision and then get developers on board.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:02 p.m.