

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes
September 14, 2015
Laurelhurst Community Center

Attending: Robin Chalmers, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAleer, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman

Excused: Brian McMullen, Liz Ogden, Connie Sidles, Leslie Wright

Guests: Rob Johnson, Geri Morris

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. and was followed by introductions.

Candidate Rob Johnson, City Council District 4 Candidate

Rob Johnson said he has three kids in public schools and is active on transportation issue as head of Transportation Choices. He mentioned that he is in support of:

- establishing good relations with the City and public schools, and with schools to the local libraries
- would like better access to the new Light Rail station, and could work with the University of WA to support a transportation network
- strongly supports expansion of bike-only lanes and more "road diets"
- wants seniors to "age in place"
- supports upzones for multi family in single family neighborhoods
- supports developing housing on undersized lots in single family neighborhoods
- supports mandatory inclusionary housing in all new development

Rob Johnson's opponent in the race is Michael Maddux.

ADMINISTRATION

Calls and Concerns from Neighbors:

1. Hit and Run: On the morning of Tuesday, August 4 a neighbor's car was sideswiped on 50th Avenue NE, just off of Sandpoint Way NE at approximately 7:15am. A witness heard a noise and saw a dark green full size Ford pick-up speeding away into the neighborhood. The truck is described being a late 1970's or early 1980's vintage pick-up, possibly hand painted.
2. Villa construction: On August 18, the Villa headmaster contacted LCC to alert us to that they would be replacing sections of their entrance and front driveway to restore several damaged sections of the road. During the ten day construction period, all employees and visitors to campus will be entered the property through the northeast entrance (regularly the main exit) on 50th Street and exiting via the south exit on 51st Avenue NE. LCC was asked to notify the school of any reckless or unsafe driving on 51st Avenue. LCC received no complaints.
3. Orange cone on Surber: A neighbor complained about the orange cone on Surber across from the pedestrian refuse island. If the cone blows away, there is a deep

hole that could injure neighbors. Chalmers followed up and thought it looked like a water meter with a missing manhole cover.

4. Ambulance noise: On September 1, a neighbor emailed concerned about Children's ambulance noise three or four times a day, even late at night. LCC followed up with Children's to confirm policies agreed upon by LCC and the hospital. Ambulances turn off sirens upon reaching Five Corners.
5. Injury update: The neighbor hit by a car on Sand Point Way a couple of years ago is back at work as a university professor. She is now blind and has a personal assistant.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the May 11, 2015 meeting. MOTION by Kelly, seconded by Weissman, that the board approve the May 11 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.* The board reviewed the minutes of July 13. MOTION by Dexter, seconded by Luiten, that the board approve the July 13 minutes as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed the August 2015 financial report. Dexter reported that revenue of newsletter advertising is slowly coming in, but LCC is behind in this revenue source. The planted median expenses to deal with the azalea bug problems and the need to mulch, repair the irrigation system and remove diseased plants have been paid. This was in large part due to a major neighbor contribution and several smaller contributions. Dexter worked hard digging in to help Heath Landscaping with the work. Trustees asked for a dues return comparison and Dexter agreed to provide that at the October meeting.

Announcements: The board reviewed the monthly NEDC announcement handout that was included in the agenda packets.

1. Thank you: Special thanks to Torrie, Weismann and Hale for volunteering at this year's Salmon Bake and to Sidles for preparing the minutes of the July LCC meeting. Thank you also to Kay Kelly for the heartfelt letter she drafted on a contribution to address the Mary Gates/NE 41st Street median.
2. Blood Drive: Bloodworks NW will be hosting its second blood drive of the summer at Laurelhurst CC. Help us save lives on Wednesday, September 30th from 1-7 p.m. at the Laurelhurst Community Center.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Luiten reported that Lt. Stephen Hirjak, SPD Force Investigation Team (FIT) FIT was created in 2014 as part of the DOJ settlement agreement. They investigate use of force incidents including officer involved shootings, as well as use of force which may result in serious injury. These facts and circumstances around incidents are then presented to the Force Review Board. The Board is comprised of Commander Michael Teeter, Lt. Hirjak, one sergeant and six detectives. The FRB Decides if use of force was justified, legal and within department policy. They have all been intensively trained using best practices from other law enforcement agencies, including LAPD. There are three levels of review before it goes to FRB. In 2014 FIT handled 46 cases that included 9 shootings. The new SPD scenario is, "Don't shoot talk the guy down." Seattle is on the cutting edge of police reform. U.S. Attorney

General Loretta Lynch is scheduled to visit the SPD sometime before the end of the year.

Shorebird Mitigation Update: Sidles who could not attend the meeting reported that there are no new developments on the UBNA mitigation front. Representative Pollet is trying to get the UW and WSDOT and all regulating agencies to a meeting, but that has not happened yet. Sidles met with Seattle Audubon last week to discuss next steps. They agreed to try their best to help bring about the joint meeting, as they believe this is the best way forward.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety: Chalmers reported on the following:

1. The white and black paint spill outside the new home just completed outside 4851, NE 45th Street has still not been removed as of Monday afternoon even though the builders claimed it would be completed by early the previous week.
2. His SLOW DOWN signs, which have been stolen off his parking strip twice, have been replaced. He has now run out of spares.
3. The deep water meter hole on the SW corner of Surber Drive NE and NE 41st. Street has now been covered by a temporary SDOT trestle. It is of his opinion that the 24" x 30" hole needs a locking cover to solve the problem. SDOT stated they would correct the problem.
4. He had his home phone land line hacked into. Whoever did it made ten calls within one hour, all to Guantanamo Bay. Included in the charges were taxes, fees and surcharges. It added over \$650 to his normal monthly phone bill. He filed a fraud report with SPD. He was told that a person can sit in their car and, with the aid of an iPad, Wifi and some other device and access your phone account through your router. He has also noticed an increase in the number of people who sit outside his homes for long periods of time just watching the nearby homes. He has started going up to them and asking them what what they want? So far, everyone has moved on right away.

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported that the SR 520 Westside design committee comments for the City of Seattle to use for its Memorandum of Understanding with WSDOT are due by September 30. She will draft a letter in cooperation with Sorscher to support good historic design features, better mobility, and also the inclusion of a second parallel bascule bridge dedicated to bikers, pedestrian and transit use.

Mary Gates/NE 41st Street Median Update: Dexter updated the board on work undertaken on the Mary Gates/ NE 41st Street median. For now, all of the dead bushes have been removed, mulch applied and repairs were made to the irrigation system. The next phase will be replanting bushes to replace the diseased azaleas, based in part by an extensive letter from Ray Larson, the CUH curator. Six-eight plants were recommended. The irrigation system is now working fine and a new meter has been installed with automatic timers. Heath Landscaping will be able to access the new meter.

SDOT Request for Support of Petition: McAleer reported that SDOT has reached out to local community councils and local drawbridge users to comment regarding drawbridge

openings throughout the city. SDOT is strongly considering a petition to the U.S. Coast Guard, seeking to better align the current bridge closed periods to match the rush hour volume peaks. The petition could also ask for a system of scheduled bridge openings, similar to how the Montlake Bridge currently operates where the bridge only opens at the top and bottom of the hour during the boating season. This would provide predictability for boaters, motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. SDOT would like feedback on its proposed petition.

With an average bridge opening lasting five minutes, literally hundreds of cars get backed up for each opening. The more cars, trucks, and buses backed up, the longer it takes for them to clear. Buses run behind schedule, emergency vehicles at times are delayed, commuters take longer to get to work or back home, and many of those motorists waiting leave their engines running, spewing polluting emissions into the atmosphere.

McAleer will draft a letter on LCC's behalf supporting the proposed petition.

Livable U District Coalition: The Livable U District Coalition is an ad hoc group of University District tenants, homeowners, small businesses, organizations and their supporters committed to preserving both the livability and affordability of this community.

The Coalition believes that the city must put first things first for a livable U District and tackle urgent problems here now - matters already identified and prioritized over years of community planning processes involving hundreds who work and live in our community. Before any more upzones, the Coalition wants the city to address transportation and other challenges.

The Coalition has invited LCC to join its effort by endorsing its position statement. McAleer remarked that neighbors are concerned about too much density being permitted in the University District without adequate infrastructure planned, and implemented before the high rises are built. She added that there are no plans for additional roadways. Bike or pedestrian capacity must be included in plans submitted to DPD. One problem is that local neighbors are fighting for some promised open space and park lands. In addition, many buildings are planned with no or minimal parking access in the area already tight on parking. Other concerns are preserving some historic buildings and numerous older units of affordable housing. MOTION by McAleer, seconded by Kelly to endorse the efforts of the Livable U District Coalition and efforts to get infrastructure in place concurrent with proposed density increases. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Proposed FLUM Amendment: On May 15, Doug Adkins submitted a proposed future land use map (FLUM) amendment for properties located at 4511-4603 40th Avenue NE known as Gema Mae Apartments LLC. The property is currently zoned multi-family with a 30 foot height limit. They seek a change to mixed use commercial similar to surrounding property. A change to the Comprehensive Plan FLUM would lay the groundwork for a future upzone.

Adkins states that the property consists of three fourplex apartment buildings which his father purchased in the late 1950's as an investment and which my four siblings and I

inherited when our mother died in 2002. He states that commercial developments have surrounded the properties on the majority of the borders in the past decades and. Doug Adkins is frustrated that the complex is located across the street from the Children's Hospital Emergency Room with its bright lights and ambulance traffic. His sister reported that there have been no complaints from tenants about the emergency room operations.

Adkins indicated that he and his siblings have engaged the McCullough firm to explore possibilities for use of the property with a hope of allowing the development of a mixed use/commercial building in keeping with the Wells Fargo Branch adjacent to us, the medical office building behind us and the Emergency Room across the street. These surrounding commercial uses, according to Adkins, have made the property a very different place and less attractive for apartments. He adds that they have no specific plan at present. They are simply exploring whether a Comprehensive Plan Amendment can be approved and may lead us to allowing for a more compatible use. There is no assurance that any upzone sought would be NC2-30 with a 30 foot height limit. This is the zoning designation of Wells Fargo. It's possible they could seek NC3-65 with a 65 foot height limit.

The proposed FLUM amendment application and a statement of July 7 by Doug Adkins before Councilmember Brien's committee are included in the agenda packets.

On September 9, McAleer, Mullen and Hale met with Christina Adkins. The committee provided a detailed report about the meeting and the possibility of the upzone of the apartments on 40th Avenue NE. The board discussed the need for legal counsel to advise LCC. MOTION by McAleer, seconded by Torrie, to authorize an initial six hours of legal work by LCC's attorney. *Motion passed unanimously.* Peter Eglick will be asked to prepare some preliminary assessment of the land use issues surrounding the proposed FLUM amendment and upzone.

The Supposed "Grand Bargain" of Mayor Murray and Councilmember O'Brien: McAleer and Hale briefed the board on the Mayor's "Grand Bargain" and its impacts. LCC sent a letter to City Council. Several parts of the HALA plan were supported by LCC such as developers' impact fees, and allowing existing in-home mother-in-law housing to accommodate affordable housing. LCC will continue to follow the many issues due to the possibility of upzoning all single family neighborhoods.

Talaris Update: The Talaris folks will again be seeking another continuance before the Landmarks Board on September 16. The Board previously granted a three-month extension on June 17 and other continuances prior to that. In the meantime, the Superior Court has granted the 5th stay of the Talaris action to invalidate the landmarks designation.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:37 p.m.