

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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October 2007

The next meeting of the Children's Advisory Committee is October 30 at 6 p.m.

Neighbors are encouraged to attend, and public comment is welcome at the meeting.

Location: Center for Urban Horticulture, NHS Hall.
3501 NE 41st Street

Neighbors Crowd Meeting to Unite for Alternative to Children's Towering Plans

A standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 neighbors attended the September 26 public meeting of the Children's Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide comments on Children's plans to expand. The small meeting room at the hospital was filled to overcapacity with neighbors (half of them standing) and more than 25 committee members and staff.

A frustrated line of neighbors waited in the hallway for more than two hours, most unable to gain entry to the meeting due to room capacity limitation. LCC's requests for a larger, accessible venue (the community center or elementary school cafeteria) were turned down prior to the meeting by the City, Children's and CAC board chair.

A number of community members presented thoughtful, well-researched comments. Most, while supportive of the hospital's mission, are shocked by the hospital's out-of-scale expansion proposal. Concerns expressed included environmental impacts (sun/shade, noise, air pollutants, density), traffic congestion, destruction of residential neighborhood livability and viability, a continuous state of heavy construction for another 13 years, and no guarantees that Children's will not request additional expansion at a later date.

Carol Eychaner, a well-respected land use and planning consultant hired by Laurelhurst Community Club to review Children's plans and create alternatives for LCC to submit for review, received a standing ovation for her "blistering" assessment of Children's plan. She presented alternative development proposals to address the height, bulk, and scale issues based on her research and analysis. (See page 2 for details.)

Following Eychaner's presentation, LCC president Jeannie Hale urged the committee to vote to include LCC'S alternatives in the preliminary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) statement. The vote was unanimous with the chair, a Bryant resident, abstaining.

LCC is concerned about the apparent violation of the Open Public Meetings Act and the Major Institutions Code, both of which require all meetings, including advisory committees, be open and public. Children's refused entrance to approximately 30 neighbors. Fire officials were on hand to limit entrance into the meeting room, and Children's security was called to deal with irate neighbors and to keep them from entering the room. ■

Children's two options propose three 240-foot towers for an expansion of 1.5 million square feet. The City now requires Children's to develop at least one option that does not include 240-foot towers.

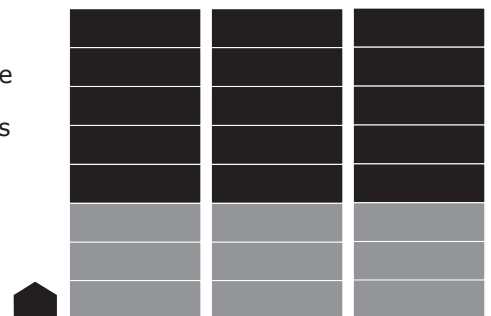
View the Conceptual Model

LCC has made three formal requests to Children's CEO Tom Hansen to display the model of the proposed expansion at the Laurelhurst Community Center. Children's plans to do so on only two occasions:

**Saturday, October 13,
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 23,
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Don't miss this opportunity to see the model and discuss the impacts on Laurelhurst and the surrounding neighborhoods.



2-story residence: 30' height **240' proposed tower heights — 150' higher than existing 90' buildings at Children's**



"240 Event" Creates an Impression

At 5 p.m. Saturday, September 15, Mike Wayne rallied more

than 150 neighbors when he flew over the area around Children's Hospital in a chartered helicopter at the elevation of the proposed 240' towers. He photographed the surrounding area from the air and urged concerned neighbors to take pictures of the helicopter from their homes to gage the height and impact of this proposed expansion.

About 125 concerned neighbors gathered at the bus stop on NE 45th St., which is one of two proposed locations for new hospital entrances. Others watched from the hillside at the park, the school playground, the street overpass and from their homes.

Three TV stations – Fox 13, King 5 and Kiro 7 – interviewed neighbors and filmed the helicopter. Stories ran on the evening and morning news.



The Issue of Bed Need and a Substantially Reduced Development Alternative for the CHRMC Campus

Excerpted/edited from an analysis prepared by Carol Eychaner, Land Use and Community Planner, and presented at the CAC meeting September 26, 2007

LCC proposed reduced development and reduced height alternatives for study in the EIS, which the City estimated would allow an increase of 250,000 to 300,000 square feet (sf) and 62 to 75 beds over the existing 250 beds. Visit www.laurelhurstcc.com for details.

CHRMC's objectives are to provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the growing demand for specialized pediatric health care services. These objectives can be met with a substantially reduced development proposal based on bed need, as determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

- DOH determined in CHRMC's most recent Certificate of Need (issued 5/31/2002) that the number of beds needed in 2020 would be 315 — only 65 more than CHRMC currently has. Applying a design ratio of 4,000 sf per bed would result in 260,000 sf of new facility; applying a design ratio of 3,000 sf per bed would result in 195,000 sf of new facility — both achievable under substantially reduced development scenarios like those submitted for LCC. CHRMC could meet the growing demand for pediatric health care, as determined by DOH, in state-of-the-art facilities under LCC's alternatives.

CHRMC justifies its significant proposed growth and 250 to 350 bed expansion on the "need" for more pediatric hospital beds, but the information provided to establish this need is overly general and not the same as required by the state Department of Health.

- DOH has regulatory authority over the creation of new hospital beds and implements this authority through the Certificate of Need process. Applications for new beds are analyzed according to four factors, one of which is whether there is a need for the beds.
- DOH's Certificate of Need process involves a complex methodology that looks at utilization trends and makes forecasts for future bed needs and uses population and health care statistics for the entire state, ... and for CHRMC's Regional planning area, which is identified as all Washington (not Idaho, Montana or Alaska) residents, age 14 and younger.... The trends cited in CHRMC's concept plan are not based on the DOH-required methodology.
- In its May 2002 Certificate of Need, CHRMC's total licensed beds increased to 250. DOH projected that there would be a gross bed need for only 315 beds in 2020 in CHRMC's planning area (all Washington state residents, age 14 and younger) — much less than the 250 to 350 beds that CHRMC proposes.
- CHRMC appears to assume that it is the only hospital available to meet pediatric bed needs, but DOH stated that its analysis of CHRMC's Certificate of Need would consider other Washington state children's hospitals, including Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.

Even if the trend data identified by CHRMC were used to determine need, instead of DOH's required methodology, the number of beds and square footage of development proposed by CHRMC significantly exceeds the need during the next 15-year master plan (2009-2023).

- Applying the 3.1% national rate of increase reported in a study by the Child Health Corporation of America, the total number of beds need through 2023 would be 407 (or 157 new beds) — much less than the 250 to 350 proposed. Using CHRMC's design ratio of 4,000 sf per bed, the amount of new development needed for 157 new beds would be 628,000 sf — much less than the 1.5 million proposed. (Note: CHCA is a "business alliance of children's hospitals," of which CHRMC is a member or "owner hospital.")
- Applying the rate of growth in the Melinda French Gates Ambulatory Care Building (11% over 4 years, which is approximately 2.7% per year), the number of beds needed through 2023 would be 383 (or 133 beds) — much less than the 250 to 350 proposed. Using CHRMC's design ratio of 4,000 sf per bed, the amount of new development needed for 133 new beds would be 532,000 sf — much less than the 1.5 million proposed.
- There is no state regulatory standard or design guideline for square-feet-of-facility per hospital bed. Recent articles show a wide range, demonstrating that this is a highly discretionary design parameter. Lower but reasonable design ratios would result in less overall square footage of new facility.

About Children's Action Coalition

This newly formed community coalition "encourages Children's Hospital to grow in a manner compatible with family-friendly neighborhoods. We support an expansion of first-class care throughout Children's state-wide service area while discouraging further concentration of services at a single, congested site."

Visit the coalition's website for up-to-date news and events pertaining to Children's master planning process.

www.childrensaction.com

CALENDAR

October 8 (Mon.) 7 p.m.

LCC Board of Trustees meeting
St. Stephen's Church

October 13 (Sat.) 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

View Children's Expansion Model
Laurelhurst Community Center

October 15 (Mon.) **Laurelhurst Golf**

Tournament to Benefit the Playground Renovation Project
Sand Point Country Club
Contact Dave Watson at 790-1698.

October 19 (Fri.) 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Bingo is back! All ages. Laurelhurst Community Center. Also Nov. 9, Dec. 7

October 22 (Mon.) **Deadline for Laurelhurst newsletter copy and advertising**

October 23 (Tues.) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

View Children's Expansion Model
Laurelhurst Community Center

October 30 (Tues.) **Children's Advisory Committee meeting.** 6 p.m. Public

welcome. See page 1 article. Location TBA

November 3 (Sat.) **Cappella Romana**

8 p.m., Town Hall Seattle, 8th & Seneca, toll free 866.822.7735

November 8 (Thurs.) 7 to 8:30 p.m.

SUN Native Garden Park
Design concept presentation by landscape architect, Maggi Johnson
Laurelhurst Community Center

November 13 (Tues.) **Children's Advisory Committee meeting.** 6 p.m.

Public welcome. Location TBA

December 8 (Sat.) 8 p.m.

A Baroque Christmas, Gallery Concerts
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.
206-726-6088 or GalleryConcerts.org.

Master Gardener Clinic, Mondays, 4 to 8 p.m.; Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium. Free

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GRAPHIC DESIGN: Creative, collaborative, visual communications. Brochures, newsletters, advertising, annual reports, invitations, posters. www.lesliewrightdesign.com. Leslie, 525-0467.

HOUSE WANTED: Family seeking home in Laurelhurst or Windermere. No agents, please. Call 206-372-7480.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Innovative sustainable residential garden designs for you to enjoy. Dog Day Design, Patricia Gibbon, MLA and Master Gardener, 715-6541.

NE SEATTLE MOMS: Membership is open to families in Laurelhurst, Bryant, View Ridge, Windermere, Wedgewood, Sandpoint, Ravenna and U District. Share resources, neighborhood issues, support, etc. To join visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NESeattleMoms>.

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SALE: Neighborhood Fall/Christmas Artisan Open House and Sale: Capriccio and 10 other artists. Nov. 3 + 4, 10 to 5, 3922 NE Belvoir Place. Wreaths, cards, ornaments, jewelry, Italian food imports, etc.

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WANTED: Styrofoam peanuts, pillows, and bubblewrap. Please leave in driveway at 3415 W. Laurelhurst Dr. NE. Call Candy at 527-0582 with any questions.

WANTED: Babysitter/Mother's Helper in Laurelhurst to help primarily with 2-year-old and occasionally infant. Weekday mornings or late afternoon preferred. seattletexan@gmail.com.

WANTED: Grandmotherly babysitter. Seeking mature sitter, approx 12-15 hours /week afternoons for 14-month-old toddler in Laurelhurst. 206-295-9422. logan.lara@gmail.com

The Laurelhurst Letter is published ten times a year. DISPLAY ADS cost \$75 per space per issue, with a five-issue commitment paid in advance. Laurelhurst-area businesses have priority. Call Leslie at 525-0467. UNCLASSIFIED ADS are free for paid members of the Laurelhurst Community Club, except that repeat ads or ads deemed commercial (including home businesses, real estate rentals, and houses for sale) cost \$20; 25-word maximum. Sorry, no unclassified ads taken by phone. Email copy to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net, or mail it to 4721 47th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Please include your name, address, and phone number. All ads are subject to space availability.

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October 2007

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