

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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Skateparks

LCC needs to hear from you.

Do you support a neighborhood skatepark? Is there a skateboarder in your family? Please e-mail your comments to LCC at skatepark@laurelhurstcc.com.

Seattle Parks and Recreation plans to develop a citywide network of skateable terrain and skateparks that includes every neighborhood and every community center. Four types of parks are envisioned, ranging from 1,500-square-foot Skatedots to 30,000-square-foot regional Skateparks. In February, the Seattle City Council established a Skatepark Advisory Task Force to develop a comprehensive skatepark system plan. A draft is due by mid-December 2006, and a final proposal plan is due January 31, 2007.

During June and July, LCC reviewed the task force draft skatepark siting criteria and other planning materials and sent a detailed comment letter to the task force addressing several areas of concern including:

- the need to assess demand for these facilities;
- the expenses involved in building facilities;
- issues relating to paving over green space and addressing other environmental impacts.

LCC also suggests sites be distributed regionally throughout the city, not "equitably geographically," as stated in the siting criteria. LCC endorses Kristine Fuller's "Commentary on Siting Criteria" (which defines acceptable locations and restrictions) and urged the task force to incorporate these suggestions. The commentary also includes excellent suggestions for rules governing the use of skateparks and their enforcement, and advocates funding for weekly graffiti removal.

To learn more about the citywide skatepark plan, visit the Seattle Parks and Recreation website: www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/Skatepark.

Understanding SR520 Replacement Plans

LCC has been and continues to be actively involved with the ongoing development of the SR520 floating bridge replacement project due to its profound impact to our community. LCC is very concerned with this project's impact on our environment (including noise, appearance, and the fragile Arboretum wetlands) and with traffic congestion on Montlake Blvd. and northeast Seattle.

LCC agrees with other neighborhoods on the SR520 Advisory Committee that none of the SR520 alternatives on the table is acceptable in current form and urges alternatives more successfully address environmental, noise, and traffic issues.

SR520 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be issued August 18. During the comment period, please visit the LCC website where we will provide an easy way for you to comment on the DEIS. LCC will post a SR520 Project Position Statement there for your reference.

We urge you to participate actively in the comment process and cannot overstate the impact this project will have on our quality of life in Laurelhurst. The process for participation will include a 45-day comment period as well as public hearings on September 18 and 21. The draft impact statement will address four basic alternatives for replacing the existing bridge:

- 4-lane replacement option
- 6-lane "base" option
- 6-lane option with second drawbridge across the Montlake Cut
- 6-lane "Pacific Interchange" option with new high-span bridge over Union Bay (similar in height to the Aurora and I-5 bridges)

All of the alternatives will include a bike/pedestrian lane, and all of the 6-lane alternatives will consist of four general-purpose lanes and two HOV lanes. It should be noted that with shoulders and various ramps these options represent 11 or more lanes of overall width.

To learn more, visit www.laurelhurstcc.com and www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge.

LCC transportation committee representatives: Jean Amick, jeanseattle@earthlink.net, and Joe Herrin, jherrin@heliotrope.cc

LCC Positions on City Charter Amendments

LCC supports **Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3**, which would require reappointment and reconfirmation of the police chief, the director of finance, the fire chief, the superintendent of parks, and the personnel director every four years. We see no reason why these department heads should be treated differently than the heads of City Light, the Department of Neighborhoods, the Department of Planning and Development, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Department of Transportation. The reconfirmation process provides an important opportunity for city council oversight of the performance of department heads and public involvement in that process. This good government measure will promote accountability and ensure that department heads are performing their duties in the best interests of our city.

We also support **Proposed Charter Amendment No. 5** and its companion implementing legislation. These measures would provide a role for the city council in appointing members of the Planning Commission. Under the current charter, the mayor appoints all 15 members of the commission who are then subject to confirmation by the city council. Because the charter specifies that the duty of the commission is to make recommendations to both the council and executive departments, it is important that the council have a role in the appointment process. This will also assure greater diversity in points of view on the commission.

LCC will continue to review and comment on the eleven charter amendments anticipated on the November 2006 ballot.

Neighborhood Crime and Tips for Reporting

It's the height of summertime and that means more groups of people out later in the evening, often congregating at the park or playgrounds. Nothing illegal about that until after the park closes. But, summer brings increased reports of speeding, firecrackers, and under-age drinking. And this year, limited park access due to community center construction may be a factor in increased gatherings near the park fire pit. Police reports usually indicate these groups are comprised of one or two local teenagers or young adults and their friends from out of the neighborhood.

Neighbors have expressed concerns about police response times to these types of disturbances. Seattle 9-1-1 operators receive 2,300 calls every 24 hours. Yet, Diane Horswill, Seattle Police Department (SPD) Crime Prevention representative, understands a caller's frustration with a less-than-desired response time to nuisance crimes and says the amount of time required comes down to the availability of officers and the seriousness of the crime being reported. She offers the following suggestions.

When calling 9-1-1 to report an incident:

Access the situation and be realistic about response time and what you are reporting.

If you are concerned about your privacy or retaliation, do not request anonymity. Instead, request your name be shared exclusively with law enforcement. This information is coded into the report the officer sees in the patrol car. By giving your name, the officer is able to contact you to communicate updates on the status of the response or action taken. He or she also is able to call you to request additional information about the incident.

Help keep our neighborhood safe by participating in Block Watches and by observing and reporting problems. For extensive information on neighborhood and personal safety, visit the Seattle Police Department website: www.seattle.gov/police/prevention.

Unleash Your Inner Sleuth on Crime Prevention

Our neighborhood needs a new Crime Prevention Representative. After nearly thirty years as a volunteer, **Pat Wright** is retiring. Pat reflected, "I've met so many interesting people over the years and developed a totally different insight into police and fire personnel as people."

This volunteer job has several requirements. Among them:

- Attend two monthly evening meetings (2 to 2 1/2 hours each): North Precinct Advisory Council meetings on the first Wednesday; LCC Board of Trustees meetings on the second Monday.
- Maintain regular contact with the Northeast Area Crime Prevention Coordinator, Block Watch captains, and the director of the Laurelhurst Playfield.

For a complete job description, visit the LCC website: www.laurelhurstcc.com. If you are interested in applying, please submit a brief letter of interest to Jeannie Hale, 3425 W. Laurelhurst Dr. NE. Seattle, WA 98105, or email her at jeannieh@serv.net.

NO on Initiative 933

LCC voted to join the coalition to defeat Initiative 933. Initiative 933 will cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by creating a "pay or waive" system that makes local communities decide whether to waive laws for special interests or force taxpayers to pay them to follow the rules. These loopholes for special interests will lead to irresponsible development causing more traffic congestion and essentially destroy zoning laws. LCC opposed a similar property rights measure almost a decade ago.

LCC Appeals 47th Avenue NE Short Plat Decision

Master Use Permit (MUP) 3003629 at 4702 47th Ave. NE; Hearing Examiner file: MUP-06-025 (P)

LCC filed an appeal with the City of Seattle based on the adverse impact to the neighborhood of subdividing two parcels of land into four lots, which would create three new single-family residences with attached garages.

The appeal is based on several issues including traffic and safety, incompatible lot size, orientation and character of the proposed lots, and inadequate water service. Citing the "decision is inconsistent with the letter, spirit, and purpose of the Land Use Code..." LCC maintains the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) failed to calculate properly and apply the 75/80 rule exception to the Land Use Code's minimum lot area requirement.

A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, at 9 a.m. in the Office of Hearing Examiner, Room 4009 on the 40th floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave.

CALENDAR

August 14 (Mon.) LCC Board of Trustees meeting, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Church.

August 25 (Fri.) Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter copy and advertising

Master Gardener Clinic, Mondays, 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium. Free resource staffed by volunteers trained by Washington State University Extension to advise on plant selection, insect identification, and managing disease problems.

University District Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (through December 30).

September 18 and 21 (Mon. and Thurs.) SR520 DEIS Public Hearings, time tba

September 19 (Tues.) 9 a.m. Short Plat Appeal Hearing

UNCLASSIFIEDS

AVAILABLE VARIETY SERVICES: Housecleaning, laundry, ironing, alterations, cooking, etc. Mary, 286-8093.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC CLASSES: Rising Song offers parent/child Kindermusik classes (newborn - 7 yrs) and piano lessons (from 5 yrs). 726-3677 or www.risingsongschool.com.

COMPUTER HELP - RAPID RESPONSE: Experienced teacher/tutoring. Hardware/software installation. Microsoft certifications: Word, Excel, Access. Laurelhurst refs. Matt, 525-8077.

EYE EXAMS: "Clear vision begins with healthy eyes." Comprehensive, thorough eye health exams with Dr. P.J. Bingham @ Market Optical in University Village. 522-9323

FOR RENT: Beautiful Kona (Hawaii) Condo, in exclusive gated community on Mauna Lani Golf Course. Sleeps 6; 2 bdrm, 3 baths. Next to the pool. Discount available. NSNP. E-mail John, wileys4@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: Upright piano + bench. In-tune, exc. condition. \$1,200. Handmade oak quilting frame; Ashford spinning wheel; Berber patio door blinds - \$50@/OBO. Martha, 527-5376

HOME MAINTENANCE: Gutter cleaning and pressure washing driveways, stairs, walks, decks, patios, tile, bricks, aggregate, rubberized surfaces. Exp., local refs. Will also house sit. Thomas, 478-8776.

JOB WANTED: Housecleaning, light gardening, part-time babysitting or elder care. Exp., refs., own car. Prefer NE Seattle. 206 674-5356.

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

PAINTING SERVICES: Joe Jabon. Cell: 383-6725; Email: jabon@nwlink.com. Affordable residential painting...Bonded and Insured...Great references.

SITTING SERVICE: Need someone to watch your children or your pets this summer? Call "Two Sisters Sitting Service." Loving, responsible care in your neighborhood. Fiona is 14 1/2 and Siobhan is 11. Call 206-524-6150.

STANDARD CAR SERVICE: To and from SeaTac, all other occasional needs. Efficient, reliable, prompt. Fully licensed & insured. Visit www.standardcarservice.com or call 930-0316.

SUSAN'S CLEANING SERVICE: Cleaning specialist. Dependable, reliable, efficient. Licensed/bonded/insured. 781-8876.

Laurel Tree Moms, formerly Laurelhurst Moms, has changed its name to "Laurel Tree Moms: An Online Gathering Place for NE Seattle Parents." To join the new site, go to www.laureltree.org. Membership is free and is open to parents and other caretakers of children from Laurelhurst, Bryant, View Ridge, Wedgwood, Windermere, and Sand Point. The website, with general information, is open to the public, but the discussion forum is open to members only for security reasons.

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.

Dog Days of Summer

LCC urges you to be a good neighbor: leash your animal when out walking, scoop, and don't allow nonstop barking.

Letting dogs run loose in the park is illegal, and the fines for each infraction are substantial. Why not try the nearby off-leash dog area at Magnusson Park?

Anyone wishing to report an incident is advised to call Seattle Animal Control at 386-7387.

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