

# LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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February 2017

## LCC Comments on UW Campus Master Plan

*Below is the Summary from LCC's comment letter to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections on the proposed UW Campus Master Plan (CMP). The complete 13-page document prepared by LCC vice president Colleen McAleer and president Jeannie Hale can be viewed by clicking a link on the LCC home page ([laurelhurstcc.com](http://laurelhurstcc.com)).*

As the largest employer and user of the area north of the Ship Canal, LCC requests that the University of Washington's Campus Master Plan reflect a more reasonable approach to its main campus growth plan. The bulk and scale proposed are not in character with the concept of a "campus," nor compatible to the scale of the adjacent neighborhoods. Reducing the gross square feet (gsf) by reducing the building heights down to lower suggested levels (maximums of 110 feet) makes more economic and environmental sense. No buildings should be permitted that allow the CMP 2018 to turn their main Seattle Campus into a mass of tall, downtown office-type buildings for offices and not student benefit. Each sector of the campus development must feature meaningful amounts of open space, and maintain the existing view corridors of adjacent neighborhoods, and provide access to the precious and unique shoreline for all.

The CMP 2018 bulk and scale should reflect the respect for its natural siting along the shoreline, and enhance, not block, that asset from its own campus, nor from adjacent neighbors who live there after the students and faculty go to their homes elsewhere for the day. And, any gsf allowed in the

*continued on page 2*

## Coalition Requests Testing of SR520 Bridge for Contaminants Before Demo

On January 20, LCC joined Montlake Community Club, Portage Bay/ Roanoke Park Community Council, North Capital Hill Neighborhood Association, and the People for an Environmentally Responsible Kenmore to appeal the Shoreline Permit Revision that the City of Seattle granted to WSDOT for the demolition and construction of the western side of the new SR520 bridge. Because potential contaminants are embedded both in old bridge parts and in Union Bay and Portage Bay sediments from uncaptured storm water, the community organizations filed an appeal to the Shoreline Board to require that the City do further analysis and WSDOT provide newer testing information before the permit is issued.

The next phase of SR520 will be the removal of old bridge parts. This involves disturbance from demolition, some dropping of material into these bays, and dredging. The continued demo of the old bridge and construction of the new bridge to completion is estimated to take the next eight to 10 years. Citizens are rightly concerned about protecting human health as well as that of the rich and diverse wildlife in the bays.

The goal of the Shoreline Board appeal by the petitioners is to require that all potential sediment contaminants from the old bridge be identified *before* the next design/build contract is awarded. At that point, any potential hazardous wastes should be removed and disposed of with safe procedures to protect the waters and air quality along the shorelines of Seattle and anywhere along Lake Washington as it is disposed.

The hearing will take place in May 2017.

**An update on lighting issues:** WSDOT is currently testing retrofitted hoods to address the lighting glare problems onto the lake surface from the bridge. The hoods shield some of the outwardly beaming lights. The prototype shields direct the 100-watt bulbs down onto the Shared Use Regional Bike Path. Early reports from neighbors show that this is a work in progress but definitely has potential to ameliorate the glare lighting to the north. ■

## Is Your Family Prepared for the BIG One?

As you are undoubtedly aware, our region will someday experience a serious earthquake. Consequences may include utility outages for prolonged periods, significantly delayed fire and police response, houses slipping off foundations, house fires, burst water pipes, broken gas lines, trapped and possibly seriously injured family members and neighbors.

Some authorities recommend that we prepare to live with only our own resources for as long as a month. It's a daunting challenge, but we can take steps now to be more prepared and comfortable if disaster strikes.

The City has an extensive Emergency Management website listing resources and recommended steps to take to prepare for emergencies.

### **Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m., Laurelhurst Community Center**

A representative of the City's Office of Emergency Management will present a one-hour talk outlining concrete steps each of us needs to take to prepare for disasters. So that adequate seating can be planned, please email Roger Roffman ([roffman@uw.edu](mailto:roffman@uw.edu)) and note how many people from your household will attend. ■

## Crime Highlights

### LCC Private Security Patrol Report:

Overall, there were 29 patrols during January. Residential burglaries have continued to remain below the monthly average, with just one; car prowls were slightly above average, with four in January. Residential burglaries are well off the 8 to 10 per month experienced during the fall. The drop is likely attributable to the recent apprehension of a single burglary ring targeting nicer neighborhoods.

In December, no burglaries were reported, but there were four reported car prowls and one stolen vehicle.

1/7 Searched for high-end burglary suspects possibly in the area in a recently purchased white BMW 4 series.

1/12 Searched for possible mail thieves in a red Chevy Blazer.

1/27 Removed four cars of teens from the park playing with fireworks.

*Subscriber benefits are detailed on the LCC website.*

### Seattle Police Department Report:

1/8 Property Damage  
51XX BLOCK OF NE 55 ST

1/12 Commercial Burglary  
54XX BLOCK OF SAND POINT WY NE

1/13 Prowler  
55 AV NE / NE 41 ST

1/20 Car Prowl  
50XX BLOCK OF 45 AV NE

1/29 Residential Burglary  
37XX BLOCK OF NE 43 ST

2/1 Car Prowl  
38XX BLOCK OF 42 AV NE

## Dues Time + A Look Back on LCC's Work in 2016

Neighbors recently received LCC's 2017 membership brochure and dues statement in the mail. Your \$60 dues payment supports proactive efforts on land-use matters, sidewalk safety, environmental and traffic issues, neighborhood improvements, community forums, email updates, website hosting, crime prevention program, and more. An extra \$20 contribution pays for landscape maintenance on the Mary Gates Way / NE 41st Street planted median. Additional contributions are always welcome to support special neighborhood projects.

### 2016 activity highlights of your all-volunteer LCC board:

- Along with other councils, sending a strong message to City Council and the Mayor to oppose camping in the City's parks.
- Continuing work with SPD on public safety and increased coverage.
- Working with WSDOT and community coalitions on SR520 Bridge issues concerning overlighting and noise from expansion joints.
- Continuing negotiations for a neighborhood-friendly Talaris redevelopment as well as lobbying for better property maintenance.
- Continuing to address neighbors' concerns regarding transportation issues and gridlock through letters to City Council, Children's Hospital, University Village, and the University of Washington.
- Challenging the City's major upzone proposal for the U District.
- Meeting with Seattle Children's Hospital on monitoring helicopter landings, traffic, and parking issues as well as plans for the construction of the proposed Forest Building B.
- Retaining connecting bus service between Laurelhurst and the new Light Rail Station at Husky Stadium.
- Collaborating with the University of Washington on new buildings, its 10-year master plan process, and transportation solutions.
- Providing input to the City of Seattle on affordable housing proposals and monitoring land-use change issues such as DADUs.
- Recommending the retention of the City's neighborhood councils.
- Restoring the landscaped median strips and eliminating diseased plants along Mary Gates Way, NE 41st St.
- Providing the private security patrol subscription service.

LCC appreciates your continued generosity and support. You may pay dues on LCC's secure website (preferred) or send them by mail (address on back). ■

## Talaris Update

On January 4, the Talaris property owner's representative requested another three-month extension from the Seattle Landmark's Board. In addition to continued negotiations with the Academy for Precision Learning, the owner is working on a potential sale of the property to a different buyer.

The Landmark's Board expressed concern about the deteriorated building and property conditions due to neglect over the past four years. The Board granted permission to remove four trees on the property and asked for a Comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan to inform their decisions and keep the integrity of the landscape. The property manager stated that they did not have such a plan. ■

### LCC Comments on UW Campus Master Plan - continued from page 1

CMP 2018 should be directed mainly to the needs of the students who will benefit from the new development, rather than building office spaces on the Main Campus, left vacant but standing as concrete rectangles that replace the natural beauty of both the Olympic and Cascade Mountain Ranges.

Hard data should drive the permitting of the needed space that the University of Washington is requesting for permitting in their Campus Master Plan. Very little real information is offered in their proposal, with no allowance for using more innovative methods of teaching/research that deliver education without adding six million more square feet of brick and mortar to an already crowded campus. Further, all spaces occupied by the University within three miles of their Main Campus should be included in the permitting evaluation to meet their "deficits" before approving the unprecedented amount of gross square feet of development in the next 20 years.

The City of Seattle and the University of Washington can mutually benefit from reasonable growth of the central campus, but the City must only permit the growth that the University's parcel can accommodate, while retaining its City's taxpayers' base and its residents' quality of life. ■

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**CERTIFIED SAFE SITTER.** Laurelhurst teen has taken hospital-administered Safe Sitter Class and has experience volunteering in Preschool programs. Fun, energetic, responsible and loves kids! Call Libby at 206-258-3335. Also available for dog sitting/walking.

**CHEERFUL AND RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER:** Laurelhurst resident high school junior with 3 years experience and loves children (and pets!) is available to babysit evenings & weekends. On-line booking! www.laurelhurstbabysitter.com

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your life. Contact Katie Hennings Larson, 206.307.9424, www.movesmadesimple.com for free consultation.

**NEST VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED:** Help seniors get out and about to their medical appointments and social visits. Start making a difference for your neighbors today! Visit www.nestseattle.org for more information, or call 206-525-6378.

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**Interested in contributing your enthusiasm and talents to a great neighborhood? Get involved with LCC!**

Monthly board meetings are open to all. Volunteer to be on a committee. Or, learn about trustee responsibilities at www.laurelhurstcc.com/LCC/Trustees.html. Contact Emily Dexter at 526-2927 or emdexter@comcast.net. ■

**Laurelhurst Blog**

http://thelaurelhurstblog.blogspot.com/ News, events, issues, restaurants, businesses and lots more. Email a tip or story idea or subscribe at laurelhurstblogger@gmail.com. The blog and LCC are separate entities. ■

**Sign up for LCC's Constant Contact electronic newsletter for time-critical communications: email laurelhurstnews@comcast.net.**

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. UNCLASSIFIED ADS are free for PAID members of the Laurelhurst Community Club, except that repeat ads or ads deemed commercial cost \$20; 25-word maximum. Email copy to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net.

**About Crimeprevention@Laurelhurstcc.com**

The crimeprevention email is the central location used to collect and communicate information to LCC's off-duty security patrol officers in our neighborhood. While not instantaneous, the quicker you alert the email, the faster LCC can get the word out to the officers on duty.

Please send email immediately AFTER you call 911 on all crime-related issues or concerns you would like the patrol to know about. Things such as: Any crime in progress. Solicitors. Suspicious circumstances. An alarm going off at a neighbor's house. Stolen packages. Noise issues or problems in the park. Burglaries or thefts after the fact. ■

**December's Sock Drive** brought in close to 500 donations. Thank you to all neighbors who contributed to another successful year to benefit those in need of warmth. Donations included some beautiful hand-knit items as well.

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**CALENDAR**

**February 11 (Sat.)** 10 a.m. to noon **SUN Park Weed and Sweep** 47th Ave NE and NE 47th St.

**February 13 (Mon.)** 7 p.m. **LCC Board of Trustees**

Laurelhurst Community Center

**February 24 (Fri.)** 5 p.m. **Deadline for Laurelhurst Newsletter Copy and Ads**

**March 16 (Thurs.)** 7 p.m. **Emergency Preparedness Workshop** Laurelhurst Community Center

**Drop off donations** for Elizabeth Gregory House, a U District women's shelter: Huda Giddens at 4338 NE 44th St. (Leave in dark green, covered bin at the front of the house.)

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

**Laurelhurst Community Center Activities** To receive e-mail notices, send an e-mail to Laurelhurst.CC@Seattle.Gov. http://www.seattle.gov/

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February 2017

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