

Laurelhurst Community Club

Serving 3,000 Households and Businesses in Seattle's Laurelhurst Neighborhood

May 7, 2008

Monica Shoemaker
Natural Resource Specialist
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
950 Farman Avenue North
Enumclaw, WA 98022

RE: Proposed Right of Entry Agreement between DNR and LCC for Waterway No. 1

Dear Ms. Shoemaker:

The Laurelhurst Community Club (LCC) Board of Trustees appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Right of Entry Agreement between DNR and LCC. The Agreement and the incorporated exhibits are thorough, well-written and consistent with our understanding of responsibilities and the requirements of the state regulations. We also appreciate the process you have established to provide the opportunity for interested neighbors to comment.

The partnership between DNR and the LCC will allow volunteers to restore, enhance and maintain portions of Waterway 1 with oversight by DNR to ensure compliance with rules and regulations governing the waterway.

For decades, Waterway No. 1 has been an eyesore—overgrown with noxious weeds and invasive species with use limited to kids and others who play on the old basketball court, neighbors who use the waterfront area to launch non-motorized boats, and a few others who stroll to the waterfront with their dogs or just to enjoy seeing the water. Periodically, nearby neighbors have cleared the blackberries, cut down the tall grasses and mowed the weed-infested grass. But, with no established stewardship group or DNR oversight, some of these well-intentioned efforts have resulted in a massive spread of the many noxious weeds and some activities that have been unauthorized.

The LCC has methodically approached issues relating to Waterway No. 1. Since 2002, LCC has worked with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and DNR to develop a framework to implement improvements to Waterway No. 1. The LCC adopted policies modeled after those implemented by Seattle in its shoreline street ends program. These policies call for respecting the privacy of adjacent homeowners, working closely with the adjacent families who are most directly affected, and developing consensus among neighbors regarding future improvements to the waterway—policies consistent with how DNR manages its aquatic lands.

In September 2005, the LCC hosted a Waterway No. 1 community design meeting with the assistance and participation of both DNR and SDOT, as well as LCC's landscape and tree

consultant Arthur Lee Jacobson. Neighbors participating developed a concept plan for the waterway addressing what neighbors would like to see to transform the site into a usable community amenity with access and maintenance issues addressed. The concept plan represents a compromise. Some wanted a low maintenance drought-tolerant garden, others wanted a grassy area for kids to play, and some who wanted shade trees for older neighbor to sit on benches to enjoy the water. What resulted is a concept plan that incorporates some of what all neighbors wanted—a consensus that will be our roadmap moving forward, the elements of which are a part of the Right of Entry Agreement.

The LCC is grateful for DNR's cooperation and assistance in working with our community in developing a plan for Waterway No. 1. We support the proposed Right of Entry Agreement between DNR and LCC for Waterway No. and urge DNR approval.

Thank you for considering the views of the Laurelhurst Community Club.

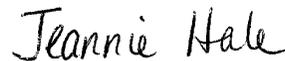
Sincerely,



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