

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

Published by the Laurelhurst Community Club ... serving the Laurelhurst community since 1920

August 2020

September 14 LCC Meeting
Features Transportation
Electrification Plan

Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Representatives from Seattle City Light will present their new four-year plan to invest in accelerating transportation electrification in our region to power buses, trucks, cars, ferries and other modes of transport. By using City Light's affordable hydroelectric power, transportation electrification can lead to a number of community benefits including cleaner air, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, opportunities to save money, and new jobs.

City Light has developed investment priorities for transportation electrification based on feedback from environmental justice community leaders, environmental justice organizations, environmental advocacy organizations, labor unions, shared mobility companies, major commercial fleets and transportation industry stakeholders.

Now they are meeting with neighborhoods to provide information about this work and hear which priorities are most important to our community.

Please join LCC's board meeting via Zoom to participate.

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/97193811507>

Meeting ID: 971 9381 1507

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Sign in link will be posted at www.laurelhurstcc.com ■

LCC Submits Comments on Apartment Design

LCC submitted written comments for the Design Review Early Guidance on Project #3035994-EG to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection, which included alternative selections, character and design integration to adjacencies, bulk, scale, and façade, site and driveway access, pedestrian and cyclist safety, height departures, and tree preservation. The application for the site at 4529 Sand Point Way NE is for 70 apartments with medical services and a restaurant. It is adjacent to Laurelhurst Condominiums and is currently used by a taco truck. The three presented design alternatives are out of character with the rest of the street's scale and do not provide an adequate setback with a deep vegetation buffer on Sand Point Way NE.

This parcel was upzoned NC2P-55 (height) in March 2019, from the original NCP-40, which is the character and scale of the existing developments to the west, south, and east. The adjacent eight-story Laurelhurst Condominium to the north was built 52 years ago, prior to the City zoning codes in this area and, therefore, is a non-compatible exception in height.

In all three proposed alternatives, the northeast wall of the new building would be a few feet from the existing adjacent residents' bedrooms,

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LCC Seeks Communications Specialist

Newsletter editor Leslie Wright is retiring at year's end, after 14 years pulling together about 140 issues of the *Laurelhurst Letter*. This opens up a wonderful opportunity to explore fresh perspectives for a range of LCC communications.

In addition to editing the newsletter (currently 10 issues per year) and managing advertising, the position handles Constant Contact email communications and updates to LCC's website, as well as preparing the annual security patrol and annual dues mailings for print. A full job description is posted at www.laurelhurstcc.com.

The Communications Specialist is an independent contractor, paid at an agreed-upon hourly rate. Deadline to apply: September 15, 2020.

Please email letter of interest, including portfolio of writing and print publications, or any inquiries, to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net. ■

Web Designer Needed for LCC Site

Work with an LCC team to design and build out a totally new website to enhance the user's experience, improve communications, and facilitate updates using WordPress or other accessible Content Management Software (CMS). Requirements include demonstrated experience designing and implementing an engaging website that can be maintained by LCC staff, as well as the ability to work with LCC to determine visual design, navigation, and content parameters. Some familiarity with Laurelhurst community issues is desired but not required. A Request for Proposal is posted at www.laurelhurstcc.com.

The website designer is an independent contractor. Deadline to apply: September 15, 2020.

Please email letter of interest, including portfolio website links, or any inquiries, to laurelhurstnews@comcast.net. ■

LCC Centennial Feature: Yesler Swamp – A Thousand Years Later

by Carol Arnold and Jean Colley

The Yesler Swamp project began in the summer of 2009 with a group of four neighbors. We didn't know each other very well, but we all wanted to improve the wild, swampy six-acre wetland at the corner of NE 41st Street and Surber Drive.

On the shoreline of Union Bay, the site was clogged with invasive plants and strewn with trash. University of Washington students had earlier blazed a trail through the area, but it was muddy and not maintained.

Originally, the site was a seasonal dwelling for the Duwamish, a people who lived on the shores of Lake Washington for a thousand years. Today most of the area is owned by the UW.

We met with UW Botanic Gardens staff and began planning. We decided to call the area "Yesler Swamp" to reflect its status as a true swamp—a wooded wetland—and its recent history as the site of Seattle pioneer Henry Yesler's mill.

We applied for a small grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, but were turned down. "Four friends isn't a community," they told us.

So on a cold afternoon in the fall of 2009, we held a party at a Laurelhurst home, served hot

soup, and invited the neighbors to join us. Some forty people attended. Optimistically, we put out a plate for contributions to build a boardwalk in Yesler Swamp.

We formed Friends of Yesler Swamp, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing the community together for the project. We sponsored monthly "Swamp Walks" for kids, bird watchers, mushroom lovers, and history buffs. The Laurelhurst Community Club supported our project, and the Botanic Gardens staff contributed expertise and administrative assistance.

Now that we were a real community organization, Friends of Yesler Swamp won grants from the Department of Neighborhoods, the Seattle Parks Foundation, King County Conservation District, and other private foundations. We hired a landscape architecture firm to design an environmentally friendly boardwalk. We began applying for permits from the five governmental agencies whose mission was to protect the fragile ecosystem.

An enthusiastic group of environmental studies students from the UW joined our effort, sponsoring bi-weekly work parties to clear out the invasive English ivy and blackberries.

Hundreds of neighbors came to fun events in Yesler Swamp, helped

with the restoration, and donated money. Five years later, Friends of Yesler Swamp—supported by nearly four hundred friends and neighbors—had raised almost a half million dollars. The boardwalk was opened to the public in 2015.

Today everyone can enjoy Yesler Swamp. Visitors stroll along the handicapped accessible boardwalk, watch the pair of Blue Herons, glimpse Lake Washington, see an active beaver lodge, and think for a moment about the people who long ago lived near Yesler Swamp. ■

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living rooms, and balconies. None of the alternatives offers a solution avoid this adverse impact.

The proposed façade designs are not visually compatible with adjacencies and do not meet the intent in the Seattle Design Standards below:

Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

■ *Fitting Old and New Together:* Create compatibility between new projects, and existing architectural context, including historic and modern designs, through building articulation, scale and proportion, roof forms, detailing, fenestration, and/or the use of complementary materials.

■ *Established Neighborhoods:* In existing neighborhoods with a well defined architectural character, site and design new structures to complement or be compatible with the architectural style and siting patterns of neighborhood buildings. The design alternative preferred by the developer proposes a garage entrance on Sand Point Way NE. Westbound cars entering the garage would illegally cross two pairs of double yellow lines.

Any egress off Sand Point Way NE would be completely unsafe and should not even be considered a viable option due to blocked sight lines and traffic congestion. The site is located on the north side of an already problematic intersection, where the NE 45th St. arterial splits to become two streets, NE 45th and Sand Point

Neighbors Share Chores, Talents, Food, Laughs

- The 48th Ave. NE neighbors spend Saturday mornings clearing sidewalks along Laurelhurst Park to provide safe passage for walkers.
- Neighbors on 43rd Ave. NE mow the grass on the giant grassy boulevard median for all to enjoy.
- Peaches on the porch – neighbors shared their abundance with neighbors inviting all to share their organic peaches. Zucchini to follow!
- Laurelhurst Elementary has been vacant and neighbors pitched in to tidy the garden and clip back dead plants.
- Research doctors in the neighborhood are working 24/7 on new Covid vaccines, protocols, and using data to inform its spread, as well as all of the medical practitioners working on the front lines to save the lives of Covid patients.
- Friday night outdoor family movies "on the wall" – sharing a laugh with neighbors who set up their chairs to enjoy the show.
- Neighbors tend Waterway #1, keeping it accessible.
- Friends of SUN Park Weed and Sweep monthly (or more) to keep the small green space at 47th and 47th looking sharp.
- Friday night food trucks have been hosted by neighbors and churches to provide specialty foods for a "cook's night out of the kitchen." ■

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UNCLASSIFIEDS

BABYSITTER: Reliable 8th-grade girl from The Bush School with Better Babysitting, CPR and 1st Aid certificates looking for babysitting jobs in the neighborhood. Two year's experience. 206-972-4792 or romymckey@gmail.com.

BABYSITTER: Experienced Seattle Children's certified babysitter. CPR and first aid certified. alederman17@gmail.com or 206-743-2054. Alexandra Lederman

BUBBLY BABYSITTER: WSU Soph. Honors, RHS grad. Camp counselor 3 summers. Former Mini Mac employee. Former Lifeguard. Age range: 3 and up, dog walks/sits as well! Contact: Libby Hults, 206-931-3574.

BEST CLEANING LLC: 27 Years cleaning Windermere and Laurelhurst homes. Regular cleaning and special projects; references from current clients; quality guaranteed. 206-948-2433. bestcleaning@outlook.com

HEALTH/WELLNESS: Let Hennings Structural Medicine get you ready for your next adventure. Focused manual-therapy massage for lasting changes. Contact Trevor Hennings 206-931-4039, www.henningsstructural.com

PAINTING: Luis Ramirez 206-465-3593. Interior and exterior. Great Laurelhurst references. Bonded and insured. Any size job.

LIVE IN PET-SITTER: Retired R.N. will keep your pet happy, your house clean and plants watered. 20 yrs. experience. Many references. \$50/day. 425-823-6575.

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Way NE, joined by a perpendicular street, 38th Ave. NE. This is the intersection through which the majority of traffic to Seattle Children's Hospital is routed.

Two of the alternative plans remove all 14 trees on the existing a site. The third plan would retain one black locust and one exceptional Madrona in return for a code modification to allow 10 feet of additional building height.

In March of 2019 the amended SMC upzoned this parcel from 40 feet to 55 feet in height. The adjacent buildings and single-family neighborhood heights are one to three stories (30 feet). The height from the departure on Alternative 3 would be exceptionally tall due to the newly approved 55 feet, plus 10 more to save one tree - 60 feet vs.40 feet just a year ago.

Homeowners located behind and adjacent to the proposed new building will lose Cascade and Olympic mountain and water views due to the added height.

LCC urges the Design Review Board to integrate these comments and arrive at a more suitable solution for any new structure. ■

RAPID COMPUTER HELP: PC/Mac. Upgrades; hardware, software installation; troubleshooting, repair. Spyware, virus removal. Windows, MS Office certifications. Local References. Matt, 206-498-8901.

SWEET TREATS: Laurelhurst teen baking to raise \$\$ for University District Food Bank. Due to COVID-19, the number of people facing food insecurity has increased, and I want to help by baking and selling: 3 types of cookies at \$12 per dozen and cupcakes at \$27 per dozen. For details or to place a custom order email alederman17@gmail.com or text 206-743-2054. Thank you! Alexandra Lederman

TUTORING: Customized tutoring available to fit your learners needs. Thirty years of experience. References available. Online or social distancing. Text 617-501-4304. Email Lucasliterature@gmail.com

WANTED: Laurelhurst Homes - As Is. Top Dollar Paid. I will buy your house as is. Don't worry about problems or cleaning up or preparing for sale. Quick and easy cash sale. I live in the neighborhood. Call Mike, LREA, at 206-459-9375.

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

CALENDAR

September 14 (Mon.) 6:30 to 8 p.m. LCC Trustee Meeting
 Virtual meeting via Zoom
 Check the website for login information.
Drop off donations for Elizabeth Gregory House, a U District women's shelter: Huda Giddens at 4338 NE 44th St. (Leave in green bin at front of house.)

Each month, trustees review Calls and Concerns from neighbors. Please contact any trustee to bring up something you would like LCC to be aware of or consider action on or if you need assistance maneuvering City government offices.

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 at laurelhurstnews@comcast.net.

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August 2020

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Katherine Burk, Sec.	849-4955	Stan Sorscher	522-7660
Kay Kelly	522-6773	Jan Sutter	683 9280
Liz Hemer	517-5862	Don Torrie	524-4316

Newsletter: laurelhurstnews@comcast.net;
Leslie Wright, editor, 206-229-1505

Security Patrol: crimeprevention@laurelhurstcc.com

Aircraft Noise Hotline 206-433-5393

Animal Control 206-386-7387

Community Center 206-684-7529

Laurelhurst Beach Club (business) 206-729-3724

Police, Non-emergency 206-625-5011

Street Light Out, City Light 206-684-7056

24-Hour Crisis Line 206-461-3222

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All in, for Laurelhurst.

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Renee Menti Ruhl	206.850.1800
Barbara Shikiar	206.484.2446
Jeri Smith	206.295.8785
Maggie Weissman	206.226.0543

CHOOSE A BROKER FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



Community Resources

Washington State Department of Health
Hotline for King County: 206-477-3977

Website: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

King County Department of Health
www.kingcounty.gov/covid

For immediate help in times of emotional crisis for you, your family, or friends in need, call the 24-Hour Crisis Line: 866-427-4747.

Teen Link Crisis Help Line:
866-833-6546.

Engage with Your City

Let your council member and mayor know what's on your mind.

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Phone: 206-684-4000
Email: jenny.durkan@seattle.gov

**Alex Pedersen, District 4
Northeast Seattle**
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