

LAURELHURST

L E T T E R

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

May 2019

LCC Annual Neighbors Meeting Mon., June 10

6:15 to 8 p.m.

Laurelhurst Community Center

Please consider bringing a donation for the University District Food Bank.

In addition to an opportunity to visit with neighbors and elect trustees, the program will feature topics of interest including an update on the proposed Talaris development.

Ship to Shore: Boat Parking on the Street

Each spring throughout the boating season, neighbors express concern or have questions about boats/trailers parked on residential streets and inquire what is allowable per City code.

No vehicle wider than 80" can be parked legally on the street between midnight and 6 a.m.

If a boat/trailer is less than 80" wide, it can be parked on the street providing the trailer is hitched to a vehicle. The 72-hour rule applies – meaning that the boat and vehicle must be moved every 72-hours.

To report abandoned vehicles or a car that has been parked for more than 72 hours, please go to www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/parking72hour.htm. ■

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.

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE for LCC Board of Trustee Meetings: 6:30 to 8 p.m., not 7 to 9 p.m.

Community Service Officers Set to Return

In 2004, the City Council eliminated virtually all of the funding for Community Service Officers (CSO). LCC believes this was a major mistake and has worked since then to restore funding. LCC was encouraged in 2016 when councilmembers cosponsored legislation to bring back CSOs; however, that proposal did not garner sufficient support to move forward at that time.

Recently, **Mayor Jenny Durkan** and **Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best** announced the Community Service Officer program will be funded again. LCC wrote to commend them for relaunching this valuable program – an effective and efficient use of funds. The Laurelhurst neighborhood is gratified that the mayor identified this need as a priority and commends her leadership on reinstating CSOs.

CSOs perform important services to assist the police and the community. For example, they handle juvenile runaway case management and provide assistance to abused and neglected children; check on the well being of the elderly and other vulnerable persons; provide crisis intervention services and assist people in finding emergency housing.

District 1 **Councilmember Lisa Herbold** summarized the program this way: "CSOs are non-commissioned officers who are trained to work as liaison personnel with the community and the Police Department, and support community-oriented policing. CSOs will assist with mediating disputes, follow up on calls for non-emergency services, help residents navigate services, support programming for at-risk youth, and attend school and community-hosted events. Some of the work will involve assisting homeless persons and individuals struggling with substance abuse to access programs like diversion opportunities, housing, and behavioral health services."

Thank you, Mayor Durkan! ■

Better Communication with City/UW/'Hoods?

LCC has asked **Constance W. Rice, Chair, UW Board of Regents**, and **Mayor Jenny Durkan** for assistance on how to provide meaningful and productive communication between the University, CUCAC (City University Community Advisory Committee), and the City. LCC trustee **Kay Kelly** is Laurelhurst's current CUCAC representative.

On March 8 Matthew Fox, formerly the co-chair of CUCAC, advised Chair Rice and Mayor Durkan in his letter of resignation that under current circumstances CUCAC does not provide the community with a realistic or meaningful opportunity to effect the UW's land use practices and policies. The LCC Board agrees with Mr. Fox's assessment.

Mr. Fox's letter rests on a long and distinguished body of experience with CUCAC. He has served on CUCAC longer than any current member and has a unique understanding of the many efforts that, over the years, have been made by community representatives, with little if any success, to alter and improve the plans and actions of the UW. Mr. Fox correctly describes CUCAC meetings as often constituting merely a forum at which the UW representative tells the CUCAC representatives what the UW is going to do anyway. Expressions of concern by community members are, in the final analysis, venting with no real impact. CUCAC offers a great

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opportunity for a University, community and city partnership. We hope the UW Regent's Chair and Mayor will assist in making this a reality. The use of Campus Master Plans has effectively eliminated CUCAC's ability to address decisions about buildings or other specific issues. Because of the way in which CUCAC is structured, when community members have actual or potential disagreements with a proposed action of the University, they are not legally able to discuss those concerns outside the presence of UW officials. UW officials themselves, on the other hand, are able to discuss in private their own policies and tactics, including tactics for dealing with the CUCAC community representatives. CUCAC's recent experience with the newly approved Campus Master Plan was, for CUCAC's community representatives, a complete exercise in frustration. None of the many recommendations proposed by CUCAC was adopted, despite CUCAC's incredible knowledge base and expertise on the issues. CUCAC did a Herculean job – hours and hours of volunteer committee work on multiple topics – despite the fact that there were no funds to hire an independent outside counsel to assist in structuring objections in the legally appropriate manner. The UW, of course, was represented throughout this process by skilled counsel, as was its right. CUCAC's lack of similar legal assistance was fatal to its efforts to have any effect on the outcome of the process.

We understand that the UW's development plans are to a significant degree the result of funding problems beyond its immediate control. Because the amount of financial support now provided by the legislature is substantially less than what is required to support the UW's educational and research programs, the UW has been forced to act in certain respects as a real estate developer, and now contemplates building office structures in the University District with the intent to rent them out at a significant profit. But that commercial role need not have been carried out in a manner that, in LCC's judgment, needlessly disregards the interests of those who live or work in the U District.

The two-year process involving the University and community representatives to develop the City-University Agreement was a successful effort in that the City allowed this process to move forward without City involvement or interference. At the time, neither the University nor impacted communities were happy with the alternative proposed by the City. The Mayor and City Council approved the Agreement developed by the UW and its neighbors.

The time has come to address the important issue of neighborhood involvement in University planning. The intent of the City-University Agreement was for CUCAC to have a meaningful role in the policies and actions of the University. LCC hopes the UW Regent Chair and the Mayor will address these concerns. ■

Spring into Action for Neighborhood Clean Up

Let's keep Laurelhurst looking good! Why not grab some friends and beautify a spot that needs some TLC?

Through May, Seattle's Spring Clean cleanup program will be in full swing. In past years neighbors rolled up their sleeves and worked on clean-up projects for traffic circles, street ends, pedestrian islands, and other work parties.

The city supports Spring Clean of public spaces with free resources from Seattle Public Utilities, including bags, gloves, safety vests, transfer station passes, and waste pick ups. Even if you don't need the city's services, it's good to register to promote visibility for your project.

LCC trustee Emily Dexter is coordinating Laurelhurst activities again this year. She has some supplies available for pick up: 206-526-2927 or emdexter@comcast.net.

For more information or supplies, search Spring Clean at seattle.gov or call 206-684-7647. ■

Rezoning Impacts Arriving in U District

LCC supports the overarching concept of providing more affordable housing units in the recent Mandatory Housing Affordability legislation. The City also passed higher height and denser zoning allowances, which include much of the University District. As a result, two very tall development proposals were filed for approval in April.

One project (#3033912) proposes to erect two residential towers on top of the University Temple United Methodist Church, located off NE 43rd St. primarily facing 15th Ave. NE, which borders the University of Washington campus. This will be a 23-story tower and a 15-story tower with 224 residential units, and 142 parking places below grade. Because of the change of use, the church-owned parcel will have a Master Use Permit.

LCC has concerns about the potential construction impacts and delays on this heavily used bus corridor along 15th Ave. NE, as well as the safety of pedestrian routes. In addition, the US Post Office for 98105 is located in that same block where street access and parking for users is already next to impossible. The City must study the impacts of trip generation caused by an additional 142 vehicles on congested U District streets and slowed access to the I-5 corridor.

With proposed heights to 105 feet, or 23 stories, views of both the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges could soon disappear from all sides, creating darker pedestrian experiences at sidewalk levels..

The second project proposal at 4214 Roosevelt Way NE is the site of the Hardwick Hardware store, serving the U District for 86 years. The owner and grandson of the founder stated that rising City property taxes made the business unfeasible. They sold the property to WeiBi of Bellevue to develop an 18-story, 200-unit residential and commercial building with, apparently, no dedicated parking on site.

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UNCLASSIFIEDS

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BABYSITTER: Reliable 6th-grade girl from The Bush School with Better Babysitting, CPR and 1st Aid certificates looking for babysitting jobs in the neighborhood. 206-972-4792 or romymckey@gmail.com.

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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.* ■

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.

CALENDAR

June 11 (Mon.) 6:15 to 8 p.m.
LCC ANNUAL NEIGHBORS MEETING
Laurelhurst Community Center

June 12 (Wed.) 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
SUN Park Weed and Sweep
47th Ave. NE and NE 47th St.

July 8 (Mon.) 6:30 to 8 p.m. (new time)
LCC Board of Trustees
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 Clinics
Second and fourth Mondays of each month, 4 to 8 p.m. at Center for Urban Horticulture Atrium; and second and fourth Saturdays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through September at City People's Sand Point

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

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

www.laurelhurstcc.com

Helicopter Landings Increase Significantly

Recently released data show that Seattle Children's Hospital has relied more on direct helicopter landings onto the new rooftop helipad (84 percent), rather than helicopter landings at the UW field with transport by ambulance to the hospital.

In 2015, there were 25 direct SCH landings, 30 percent of all emergency transports by helicopter. In 2016, 51 SCH landings represented 59 percent of total helicopter transport. In 2017, 65 SCH helipad landings comprised 84 percent of total landings between the UW field and the hospital.

As this trend persists, and another helicopter operator now is authorized to land, LCC will continue to monitor that landings are consistent with the established SCH guidelines for the transportation of sick and injured children. The ground safety of those in the fly zone must be of concern as well. ■

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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

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24-Hour Crisis Line 206-461-3222

Visit our website @ www.laurelhurstcc.com

Rezoning Impacts *continued from page 2*

The project is located near the new Brooklyn Light Rail Station, but there are concerns about further congested access to the entrance of the I-5 Express lanes, as well as a lack of street parking for the building occupants and the UW Medical Center clinics on Roosevelt Way. Construction and street closures must be studied as Roosevelt Way has already sandwiched freight and transit traffic by reducing lane capacity for vehicles due to dedicated bike lanes and large bus islands. SDOT will need to study and require mitigation for any worsening conditions. ■

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

Volunteer to be on a committee. Or, learn about trustee responsibilities at www.laurelhurstcc.com/LCC/Trustees.html. Contact Emily Dexter at 206-526-2927 or emdexter@comcast.net. ■

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