

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes
Dec 14, 2020
Zoom virtual meeting

Trustees, Staff, Committee Member Attendees: Colleen McAleer, Don Torrie, Emily Dexter, Jim Rupp, Kay Kelly, Pat Chaney, StanSorscher, Brian McMullen, Katherine Burk, Michael Seewer (new Newsletter and Webmaster), Leslie (current Newsletter and Webmaster), Jan Sutter
Excused: Connie Sidles

Guests: Malik Davis (Alex Peterson's office), "Ruthie and mom" who did not identify themselves, Jean Amick

CALL TO ORDER: McAleer called the meeting to order at 6:31PM

Calls and Concerns: Stan shared that he met someone (Jeff) who wanted to purchase the Talaris site for his non-profit (spirituality based). Stan couldn't remember his last name. Colleen reported that several neighbors inquired about mayoral candidates and the proposed new ordinance regarding crime of poverty which would have no penalties for theft.

Minutes: Burk made a motion to approve the November minutes. Kelly seconded. Passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Treasurer's Report: Dexter reported income of over \$25,000 for the 2021 Crime Prevention program and thanked Don for frequent deliveries of checks from the LCC mailbox. The spreadsheet (google doc) is up to date and all is running smoothly with the newly established processes. Dexter explained that there have been no extraordinary expenses. Finally, Dexter is looking into PayPal to replace Click and Pledge (fees will be lower) and thanked McMullen for the recommendation.

LEAP: LEAP is actively looking into Zoom meetings/webinars for neighborhood education, a resource library about LEAP presentations, and a communication request for first responders to operate the HUB (if emergency).

Announcements: Standing Advisory Meeting (SAC) for Children's Hospital was postponed from December 8th. No new date has been set at this time.

Dues Mailing: Wright presented the 2021 due mailing – a 3 foldpanel which highlights in bullet points what dues are for etc. Last year's redesign was an effective and cost saving improvement as it satisfies mailing requirements and is cheaper than an insert. New printer is saving us money as well. Dexter mentioned that there is a stable base of people who pay the dues yearly and emphasized that dues pay for newsletter (advertising does not cover the complete costs). Income from dues is around \$25k. Discussion as to raising the dues by \$5.

Chaney made a motion to raise dues to \$75. Dexter seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions. Will arrive in mail 1st of March.

McAleer presented Wright with gift of travel paid by the trustee board for all of her years of service.

Passenger foot ferry: Discussed the proposed passenger foot ferry which is in its' preliminary stages. The ferry would take foot passengers from Lake Washington/Lake Union to east (Kirkland), north (Kenmore) and southern (Renton) designations with the goal of alleviating traffic. The Save Union Bay Association (SUBA) has expressed their concerns about salmon and also getting too commercial. The University of Washington crew uses those routes as well as inexperienced boaters, so safety is paramount for any PFF service. McAleer noted that the ferries should be electric only and that their function is transportation only (LCC stated no renting vessels as party boats). Mission to move commuters and reduce greenhouse gases and not add to it. She also noted that we need a single cohesive company who is in charge (not a hodge-podge of different entities). Burk emphasized the need for Seattle Police Harbor patrols to keep all recreational activities on the lake safe, and operate at 7 knots. McAleer has drafted a letter with these concerns to Puget Sound Regional Council.

Crime and Safety. McMullen presented last month's crime statistics. There were six car prowls and burglaries dropped off a bit. There was a handful of vehicle theft and package theft – captured in "other" on the report – is rampant (Sutter mentioned that prowls and package theft are not necessarily reported). Kelly reported that the north precinct meetings will be on Zoom in January. The NE Captain, Brian Stampfl, explained that there has been a 17% (\$70 million) reduction in the budget. Stampfl noted that they did not need initiate lay-offs because of attrition and retirement; Covid-19 under control. They are doing their best regarding package theft and recommends Amazon locker or emphasized to pick up packages ASAP. Kelly noted that citywide crime is down 14% and down 9% in the North. Robbery (direct contact) is down as well. Kelly explained that there is an updated list who to call for non-emergency numbers (they have all changed as SPD responsibilities are being redistributed); use 911 still for emergencies. Kelly explained that the City Attorney's office is under limited operations and all jury trials are postponed until March 1 2021. Kelly explained that what is striking is that in 2019 open felony cases about 3k and this year there are 6k. This is a big stress for everyone. Increases in homicide and assault and many more people out on bond and not in custody, due to trying to keep social distancing etc. New non-emergency contact numbers and recommendations regarding packages etc. will be published in the next newsletter.

Incident at Talaris: The onsite caretaker noticed that someone had marked off an area with yellow tape. He encountered a man who appeared to be under the influence of drugs and was squatting in a Talaris building. He was violent with Talaris security who called for SPD for assistance, and drugs and paraphernalia were discovered. McMullen will let Security Patrol know about incident. McMullen explained that the patrol is four to five patrols a week, each four or five to hours. The main benefit of patrol is deterrence as a result of their visibility.

Sock Drive: Kelly explained even with all of the changes and new processes (SPD short handed and no assistance was provided), the drive was a huge success. Kelly, Chaney, McAleer and Luiten did the outreach and advertisements. Over 700 pairs of socks were donated either via mail, drop offs at community center and Flooring America during collection on December 13th day for the Pioneer Square Foot Clinic and Youthcare (on NE 55th St). Kelly is thrilled that clients (usually homeless) get new dry socks after their appointments and that youths will receive hats and scarves.

Welcome Letter: Rupp completed edits to Burk's letter to new neighbors. Deadlines for comments/changes or edits on new draft needed by Jan 10th. New letter sent quarterly or trustees can print out and distribute. Will be on the new website as well.

Welcome to Laurelhurst sign: Torrie wondered whether Laurelhurst should have a welcome sign for Laurelhurst. More discussion as to need, maintenance, and possible placement. Torrie and others will work on logistics and interest about signage and report back.

Parks: Torrie explained that bicycle kids built ramps with shovels – not near path but southwest jump over and under the pitcher's mound of the northwest corner ball field and that Cara (LH park manager) was contacted to request repair. Burk suggested that there is a huge need for designating a place for the bike jumps especially during Covid-19; perhaps getting some of the neighborhood kids involved in an advisory role would be a win-win for everyone –feeling that they have input would build excitement as well as assure that all users are able care for and enjoy the park.

Land Use: McAleer explained that that the Phase 3 plan submitted to SDCI was very different then the Master Use Permit (MUP) that was approved for Children's Hospital in 2010. There was frustration because of the out of order sequence with SAC and Seattle Dept of Construction and Construction (SDCI), with very little notice of changes and meeting deadlines given to the SAC or LCC. Many comments were sent to the SDCI and Department of Neighborhood which governs the SAC regarding the incorrect sequence and rushed timeline with limited information given to the community. The question remains as to whether the proposed changes in Phase 3 will be categorized as a minor or major amendment before the SAC deliberates on their comments again.

Talaris: McAleer noted that the proposal to build single family housing on the site is still underway by the private owner. Because of the landmarked buildings and the landscaping, an EIS is required which includes 3 alternative plans to be considered. 57 houses, 80 houses and a no-build are in the EIS, and the SDCI examination of the impacts is still underway. McAleer noted that she still has not heard back from an anonymous group, Affordable Talaris; as requested by the LCC, references to the LCC have been removed from their documents (they also had Seattle Audubon without permission). They were requesting that a "Town Hall" be called by CM Pedersen to decide what should occur at the Talaris site. McAleer explained that this site has its own landmark and SDCI process governance, is privately owned, is landmarked in its entirety, not well serviced by public transportation, and is extremely expensive, making any type of public development questionable.

Malik Davis: Davis joined meeting to provide insights from CM Pedersen's office. He explained that Pedersen has strong concerns about the proposal of removing misdemeanors and allowing resale of stolen goods. Pederson does not feel this will have any benefit the City or its constituents. In terms of encampments and the dismantling of the Navigation Team, Davis explained that program called, "Hope Team", is under consideration but as of yesterday a coordinated plan addressing encampments has not yet been implemented. Davis also noted the Clean Seattle initiative recognizes the critical problems of biowaste which creates public health hazardous issues. The plan is to clean up the unsanctioned camps, provide sanitation and remove garbage.

Distribution of Funds: Dexter explained Land use issues need additional funding recommending that 3k to 5k be moved into expenditure category. McAleer recommended \$5k. Sorscher made a motion to move \$5k for Land use expenditures. Sutter seconded. Discussion. All approved. No opposition or abstentions. Passed unanimously.

Website: Wright reported that development is going well. Sorscher stressed the importance of being able to make updates easily and by multiple people.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm