

**Laurelhurst Community Club**  
**Minutes for January 14, 2008**  
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Mark Trumbauer, Mark Holden, Heather Newman, Liz Ogden, Jeannie Hale, Don Torrie, Leslie Wright, Emily Dexter, Stan Sorscher

Excused: Barb Bender (leave of absence), Marian Joh, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen

Guests: Karen Ko

Jeanie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Minutes: The board reviewed the November and December 2007 minutes.

**Motion** by Liz Ogden, seconded by Leslie Wright to accept the November minutes.

**Motion passed** without opposition, with Mark Holden and Heather Newman abstaining.

**Motion** by Heather Newman, seconded by Liz Ogden to accept the December minutes, with the amendment of correcting the motion in the December minutes regarding Peter Eglick's analysis of Children's Certificate of Need. **Motion passed** without opposition, with Leslie Wright and Mark Trumbauer abstaining.

**CALLS AND CONCERNS:** LCC continues to receive a calls and emails from neighbors concerned about Children's proposed expansion and the South Laurelhurst Pilot Private Patrol project.

1. Signage criteria: Pearl Spiger emailed on 11/28 to express appreciation for LCC's role in approving signage for the Spiger Building for Avanti Sports and other businesses. She asked for a copy of our signage policies and criteria after they are finalized. She will make it available for prospective tenants. There is space for rent available in the building and she will be in touch with Leslie Wright about placing an ad.
2. Sand Point Pedestrian Study: Patti Polinski emailed on 12/7 after learning of the Sand Point Pedestrian Study. LCC sent her a copy of the executive summary of the study. One of her priorities is installation of the pedestrian activated sign. She is also concerned about the high speed limit between Children's and the Princeton Street Bridge. She also wants the sidewalk between NE 50<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> NE as the first project to be undertaken.
3. Handyman: Stephen Crane emailed on 12/7 to ask if LCC had had good reports about Bob of All Trades who advertises in the newsletter. No reports to provide. The Cranes hired him and the work was competent.
4. Sad news: Lynn Baskett Hergert emailed to let the community know that her father Lawrence A. (Larry) Baskett passed away on December 2. He was manager of the Beach Club for over 20 years. The memorial is scheduled for Friday, December 14 at 2 p.m. at West Side Presbyterian Church in West Seattle.

5. Crime watch: Gina Villanueva emailed on 12/11 to express interest in the pilot private security project and crime watch. She doesn't live in the current pilot area, but that could change. She mentioned she'd seen that around the corner on Surber from where she lives she saw the back window of a truck smashed in. She's has one of her cars keyed in the past few weeks. LCC will be back in touch with her. Block Watch info was provided.
6. Squatters: Beginning on 12/11, Paul Klemond reported that the vacant Fisher house next door to where he lives behind the Laurelhurst business list has been occupied by squatters off and on. He saw lights leaking out from a blacked out basement window and called 911. He installed motion sensors to pick up activity at the house next door. The police came and suggested that the owner board up the windows, which he did. The squatters returned at 3:30 a.m. on 12/15 and again 12/16 at 5:20 a.m. One person appeared to be a college age student. He kicked in the pet door in the back and also the front door. Fisher installed light sensors. The intruders appear to be using the premises to inhale aerosols.
7. Spiger signage: The owners of Enotria emailed on 12/13 to indicate they are interested in installing a "blade sign" at the restaurant. They wanted to know the process for LCC sign approval. LCC will keep them informed as it moves forward with signage criteria.
8. Porn solicitation: Miriam Muller reported on 12/14 that a neighbor on her block told her that she was propositioned that morning in front of Muller's house across the street from Laurelhurst School. The neighbor did not get the license plate info as she was so shocked, but said it was a black hatchback, 20s guy, buff, goattee, tattoo on shoulder. He spotted her at the intersection of NE 45th by the school and then followed her and asked for directions to Lake City Way, then went on to say she looked great and said he was a film student and asked her if she wanted to be in a movie. Muller reported the incident to Diane Horswill.
9. Katterman's robbery: On 12/12 Katterman's was robbed. A man and woman were in the store in the morning for almost an hour looking around then they returned around 4 p.m. and went back to the pharmacy. The pharmacist immediately called 911 as he recognized them from the morning. After that the pair went behind the counter and asked for specific drugs. Apparently they had robbed other pharmacies that day. Seattle police detectives had been watching the robber's pattern for some time, according to a police spokeswoman. The man was arrested with help from the King County Sheriff's SWAT team around 11:30 p.m. A canine unit and helicopters were called in to assist.
10. Mailings: Marci Clevenger emailed on 12/15 to report she had not been getting the newsletter in the mail. Sorscher followed up.
11. Car break-in: Karen Dohohue emailed on 12/17 to report that one of her cars that was parked in the driveway completely up against the garage was broken into on the weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup>. The person that did this took some keys that belong to the post office and to her husband's office building – so obviously they were looking for a means to something bigger. The person also apparently approached their front

door, attempting to get in sometime between 3:00 and 7:30 a.m. On the evening of 12/21 or the morning of 12/22, Jessica Reading's sister-in-law's care was broken into while parked on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE near the corner of 45<sup>th</sup>. They smashed the driver's side door in and took a couple of packages and a bag that were on the front seat. Barbara Mahoney reported that a friend's care was broken into in front of her house on 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 38<sup>th</sup> on 1/02. Janeen Mount reported the same kind of incident that occurred five days earlier on NE 44<sup>th</sup> Street and items in the car were stolen.

12. Armed and suspicious: Brad Covey report that on Christmas Eve about 11 p.m. a neighbor family while in their car noticed two hooded suspicious individuals near NE 50<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> NE and asked police to check them out along with the old white dodge van they were driving. The license number was provided to police. The two men left their van for about ten minutes then returned brandishing a gun. The police were called again and arrived shortly after the men left. Other sightings of the Dodge van were also reported.
13. Home break-in: Karmann Kaplan reported that the Revere family's home, near Children's on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue was broken into on 12/27. The back door was kicked in. Four laptop computers and a flat screen TV were stolen. The entire house was ransacked and a neighbor on one side of the house was home. This occurred sometime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The police consider this to be a "professional job."
14. Wild teenagers: On New Year's Eve around 2 a.m. a white suburban full of teenagers was observed throwing Bud Lite beer cans out the window down 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and East Laurelhurst. Photos were taken.
15. Strange cars: On 1/02, Robin Walker reported that five cars have been parked across from her house for a couple of weeks. None of the cars have moved and none of the neighbors seem to know who they belong to. The cars were poorly parked with wheels up on the sidewalk. Walker was urged to contact Officer T.J. Havaner so he could check out the vehicles.
16. Private security: Jeffrey Cohen of SecureTrans contacted LCC on 1/07 to explore delivering the same quality of service as the current off-duty police officers through his company. He was recommended by neighbor Helen Gurvich. McMullen has followed up and a meeting with Cohen may be scheduled in the future.
17. Stranger danger: Laurelhurst School reported on 1/10 about an incident that morning at Assumption School. A student was chased by a man after she got off the bus in front of the Sunflour Café across NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street from the school. The student is fine and police were notified and are monitoring the situation. The man has been described as white, in his 50's or 60's, and wearing a hat and headphones. His coat had colored ribbons hanging from it. Bryant was notified right away by Assumption's principal and we have been keeping a closer eye on things today.
18. Archived Laurelhurst map: On 1/13, Rebecca Ross emailed to see if LCC had an archived map of Laurelhurst showing all of the original names of Laurelhurst streets.

She is laying a new blue stone in front of her house and is considering engraving in small letters the original name of the street. Christine Barrett provided assistance.

19. Nesting eagles at Talaris: Roberta Cation emailed on 1/13 to report eagles nesting at Talaris. She thought it might impact the expansion planned by Children's. She has been in touch with the State Department of Wildlife and the person in charge of the King County Bald Eagle Management Plans.
20. Spiger Building. Heather Newman described an issue with the dumpster behind the Spiger building. She will follow up.
21. Rooming house. Heather will mail Diane Sugimura at the Department for Planning and Development, to invite Diane to an LCC meeting.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Thank you: Thank you to Don Torrie for coordinating distribution of this month's agenda packets and to Heather Newman for assisting.
2. Children's Master Plan Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 6:30 p.m., Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street. At this meeting advisory committee members will begin discussing the preliminary draft Environmental Impact Statement and the preliminary draft master plan. This is your opportunity to comment on whether Children's has come up with solutions to mitigate the impacts of its proposed massive expansion. Neighbors are encouraged to attend and public comment is welcome.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

SR 520 Update: Colleen McAleer provided a written SR 520 update that was included in the agenda packets. In response to questions about the possibility of a retrofit, McAleer made it clear that she and Jean Amick would not recommend support of a retrofit for safety of the SR 520 if it is found to be not cost effective (for approximately the next 25 years or more.) She added that any retrofit would include an additional two lanes built to accommodate HOV. She stated that Community Formations is a different group than Mediation. The scope of Mediation is limited to design and not to advise any fiscal policy such as tolling. Community Formation is another important group that advises on design and broader issues surrounding 520. McAleer will report on the findings of both groups in February.

Jeannie Hale reported on a meeting she attended, where Frank Chopp discussed adding two new lanes and retrofitting the existing bridge over the lake, if feasible. They also talked about a cut-and-cover tunnel through the arboretum. The Pacific Interchange seems to be too expensive, although an option is being considered with a tunnel to the Pacific Ave location.

Colleen McAleer and Jean Amick proposed some principles and objectives for the neighborhood with respect to the 520 Bridge.

Neighbor Appreciation Day Reception: Jeannie Hale briefed the board on planning for LCC's Neighbor Appreciation Day reception. The event is Saturday, February 9 from 10 to noon at the community center. She has been in touch with the Mayor's scheduler to insure that he can attend and possibly officiate at the event. Flyers encouraging neighbors to nominate neighbors for Good Neighbor Awards were distributed. Trustees were asked to distribute the flyers right away, as the nomination deadline is February 1.

Spiger Draft Signage Criteria: Under a decade-old Settlement Agreement, LCC is given authority to approve or disapprove of signage for businesses at the Spiger Building. A few months ago when last approached by a new business locating in the building, LCC decided it would be prudent to develop signage criteria to ensure objectivity in the process.

Leslie Wright passed out a draft document that would provide guidance on commercial signage. Leslie took pictures of the existing signs at businesses in the building. The document is meant to help LCC evaluate proposals from the business owners.

#### Children's Update:

1. CAC meeting: At the January 8<sup>th</sup> citizens advisory committee meeting, Children's preliminary draft master plan (PDMP) and the preliminary draft environmental impact statement (PDEIS) were unveiled. At the meeting, Children's provided copies of the PDMP to LCC. The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) did not provide copies of the PDEIS to the media or LCC. DPD finally agreed to provide copies to LCC and did so on January 11. The *PI* had a balanced article about the meeting the following day (included in the packets). Eychaner was quoted in the article. The CAC chair refused to allow time on the agenda for Eychaner, but she did comment during the public comment period of the meeting along with over a dozen others.

Eychaner had prepared with the assistance of Leslie Wright and Christine Barrett several handouts. She distributed her cover memo and the documents, as well as a document prepared by LCC's hospital consultant at the beginning of the meeting. Wright prepared an excellent chart showing the differences of height limits at the City's 13 major institutions, some of which are located in urban centers that allow much higher heights. To supplement this document, Eychaner had undertaken extensive research and prepared an analysis of the height differences. The second document was a map of Children's and the surrounding area (prepared by Wright) showing Children's property acquisitions. On the reverse side of the map, Eychaner included detailed information about each purchase. Christine Barrett continues to provide updated sale information to LCC.

The final document distributed to CAC members was a bed projection comparison prepared by Nancy Field. The chart showed that Children's projections were way out of line with the Department of Health projects and the projections she did using the state methodology.

LCC's handouts were also distributed to the audience of about 90 people.

Department of Neighbors (DON) staff Steve Sheppard explained the process in evaluating the two documents. Committee members were instructed to submit comments by January 18. The committee will start putting together group comments at the January 22 meeting.

The LCC Board discussed charts, and planning assumptions used by the Childrens' planners. Nancy Field has completed most of her work. She is writing a report. The CON must limit its scope to state need, so serving a national patient base is not permitted in the scoping analysis. We may be able to write an OpEd to follow-up on the favorable editorial that appeared in today's P-I.

**Motion** by Heather Newman, seconded by Don Torrie to approve Carol Eychaner's proposal for up to \$10,000. Given the \$2500 underrun in the first phase of Carol's work, this would be an additional amount of about \$7500.

**Motion passed** unanimously. A discussion followed about tracking expenses and keeping within budget.

2. PI editorial: On January 4, Hale, Ogden, Eychaner and Christine Barrett met with a representative of the *Seattle PI's* editorial board. The handouts that were distributed to the CAC on January 8<sup>th</sup> were provided. The *PI's* editorial appeared in the newspaper today. The editorial cast doubt on the hospital's projected need to expand and raised questions about the wisdom of building heights that are only allowed in urban centers. The article concluded that the hospital should be working with the Laurelhurst community to resolve differences.
3. Eychaner's budget: Eychaner's current bill and cover memo is included in the correspondence packet. The amount is about \$2500 less than projected because the initial budget included time to preview the preliminary draft master plan and preliminary draft EIS. Eychaner has proposed a new budget for the next four-month period.

#### Crime Report:

The South Laurelhurst Pilot Patrol Project was originally budgeted for 40 subscribers. It is now over 90 subscribers. We have about \$12,000 left over. That extra money could be used to extend the project another 20 weeks. **Motion** by Liz Ogden and seconded, to accept the recommendation of the crime prevention co-chairs to extend the patrols another 20 weeks. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The crime committee and the coordinating police officer have discussed expanding the patrol area. New subscribers could enter the program now, for coverage through the extended 20 weeks period.

**Motion** by Stan Sorscher, seconded by Leslie Wright to expand the boundaries as recommended by the Crime Prevention Committee, and accept new subscriptions from neighbors in the new area. **Motion passed** unanimously.

The Board discussed a Newsletter article that could describe the performance and purpose of the pilot program, mentioning that resources are allocated according to

crime statistics and reports. For this reason, everyone should report incidents in your area, so they are counted in the crime statistics.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher