

LCC Trustees Meeting
Laurelhurst Community Club
November 14, 2011

Attending: Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Elizabeth Graham, Jeannie Hale, Kay Kelly, Linda Luiten, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Kristen Curry, Don Torrie

Guest: Robin Chalmers

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM, and was followed by introductions.

CALLS AND CONCERNS

1. Animal Hospital: Leslie Wright heard from Cleo Forbush about the animal hospital in Hawthorne Hills.
2. Speeding: Robin Chalmers would like to see traffic slow down on NE 41st St. Speed bumps on Surber Dr seem to help at that location, but speed bumps are not allowed on arterials. Discussion of actions to slow down traffic. Questions about traffic circles on small streets and fire trucks.
3. Traffic safety concern: On October 12, Barbara Asmervig emailed to report a traffic safety issue. On the corner of 45th Avenue NE and NE 50th Street there is a steep crest in the hill. When vehicles are parked on either side of that crest or slightly on the downhill the driver's vision is blinded in both directions. Drivers must veer into the oncoming lane to continue traveling east or west. The two traffic circles do not slow traffic enough to prevent an accident when vehicles are parked on one or both sides. LCC will follow up.
4. Subdividing property: On October 24, a neighbor near Laurelhurst School emailed to inquire about the Code provisions governing dividing one large lot into two with two homes instead of one. LCC did some checking and learned that the 10,000 square foot property is eligible for dividing into two separate lots.
5. UW student housing: A neighbor in the Town of Yesler asked LCC on October 26 to find out the residency requirements for those eligible to live in Laurel Village at Five Corners. There has been quite a bit of overflow parking from the housing. LCC is checking on this.
6. Graffiti removal: On October 17, Children's Director of Security Services responded to LCC's question about how they handle graffiti. He said that it is important to remove graffiti quickly, as left unchecked the graffiti will spread. Children's staff removed graffiti within 24 hours.

7. Stolen car: On October 31, a neighbor reported that his SUV car was stolen around 7:50 a.m. from the driveway in front of his home near the corner of NE 45th and 51st Avenue NE. The neighbor started the car to warm it up and returned 10 minutes later to find the car gone. The car was recovered by Bellevue police the following Saturday in Factoria with many personal items missing, including a PC, CDs and an overcoat. There was minor damage to the car.
8. Private security project: On October 31, neighbor Emily Bingham contacted LCC with questions about the private security project. Bingham has subscribed for the past two years. McMullen responded.
9. Robbery: On November 5, a neighbor report that their house in the 5100 block of 48th Avenue NE was robbed sometime between 4 p.m. and midnight. Jewelry, computers and money were stolen. The neighbor heard that the two portables at Laurelhurst School were also broken into that evening.
10. Fiber optic wires: On November 13, Barb Ragee inquired about fiber optic lines along 36th and 37th Avenue NE. She asked whether Children's would be expanding fiber optics in this area and if so would they be willing to help with the cost of undergrounding the wires.
11. Attempted break-in: This morning at 2:45 a.m., a neighbor reported that someone tried to break into her home. The person lunged at and kicked the door and banged on the knob with great force. This occurred in the vicinity of 39th and Surber. The police arrived in seven or eight minutes and thought it must have been an intoxicated person, a common occurrence.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes:

Clarification: At the October meeting, the last item of business was an announcement of the vote by email on a motion to authorize going forward with legal action on Essential Public facilities. The email vote began with an email message from Jeannie Hale, sent to Trustees on September 22, 2011. The question was, "Should LCC move forward with the proposal as outlined by Peter Eglick below?" As stated in the October minutes, the vote was 7 in favor, 4 opposed, with 2 Trustees not voting.

The board reviewed the August 8, 2011 minutes. **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Emily Deter to accept the August minutes. **Motion passed** without objection, with Brian McMullen, Leslie Wright and Stan Sorscher abstaining. Review of the September and October minutes was deferred until the December trustee meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Dexter briefed the board on the monthly financial report included in the agenda packets. We should have a surplus at the end of the year for the security patrol, which will roll over to next year. We have about 90 subscriptions so far, with about 30 responses that Emily has received. The dues notices will go out early next year.

Changes to the Agenda: Add history book reprinting to the agenda.

History book reprinting: Barb Ragee who coordinates history book sales and production has requested that LCC consider increasing the \$5,000 approved for reproduction of the history book to approximately \$8,190. The cost to print 250 books would be \$5217 which would be a cost of \$20.87 per book. The cost to print 500 books would be \$8,190 or \$16.38 per book. The book currently sells for \$18 and she recommends increasing the cost to \$22. Originally, LCC retained \$10 per book. With the printing of 500 copies and an increase in the price to \$22, LCC would retain \$5.62 per book. To print 250 copies and increase the price to \$22, LCC would retain \$1.13 per book. The printing company store books at no cost to LCC. Book sales at Mrs. Cooks have been going well. LCC has a little over one box of books remaining (less than 50), enough for the holiday season particularly if there is a newsletter article advertizing the availability in the next newsletter.

Motion by Leslie Wright, seconded by Linda Luiten, that LCC authorizes printing 500 copies of the Laurelhurst history book for \$8,190, priced at \$25. Maggie Weissman volunteered to work with Barb Ragee on marketing the book. **Motion passed** 8-1 with Maggie abstaining.

Foundation update: For over a decade LCC has supported establishing a separate 501(c)(3) corporation that would allow many contributions to be tax-deductible. The first step in the process is setting up a state nonprofit corporation. In early 2011, Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State's office to establish the Laurelhurst Community Club Foundation. In July, 2010, the new entity received the notice of incorporation from the Secretary of State's office. The initial organization meeting, which is required under the state nonprofit law, was held on July 27, 2011. At that meeting bylaws (modeled after LCC bylaws) and a conflict of interest policy were adopted.

The next step to secure the 501(c)(3) status is to file a Form 1023 with the IRS. Over the years, volunteers have attempted to complete the form without the assistance of an attorney. The form is very complex. LCC has recently learned of a firm that specializes in setting up 501(c)(3) organizations. The cost is \$500. This does not include the IRS filing fee.

Motion by Maggie, seconded by Kay Kelly to engage this firm's services to file our 501(c)(3) application. We would need to structure our dues statement or other funding to direct money into the 501(c)(3) or into the regular account. We could elect to use up to 20% of our funds for lobbying. Our lawsuit with Children's, for instance, does not count as lobbying. The Foundation could pay for the lawsuit with tax-advantaged contributions. Our actually lobbying in Olympia or with the City or County is typically volunteer work, which does not consume a lot of money. If we set up the 501(c)(3), a separate Board would manage it. **Motion passed**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Traffic circle planting: On November 1, Kathleen Sabo, Emily Dexter and Jeannie Hale planted the new traffic circle on 50th behind Children's Hospital (NE 50th and 44th Avenue NE). SDOT delivered the plants on October 28. SDOT offered to

provide two flats of groundcover, nine one gallon perennials, six one gallon shrubs and one tree. Grounds management at Children's and Arthur Lee Jacobson assisted in selecting the plants. LCC selected one flat each of the *Fragaria* and *Rubus*; three each of *Coreopsis*, *Iris*, *Euphorbia*, *Mahonia* and *Calluna*; and one *Crataegus x Lavallei*. The tree has yet to be delivered.

2. Speed cushions on Surber: The final in three sets of speed cushions on Surber has been installed. For years, neighbors have complained about fast moving cars on this highly traveled pedestrian street. SDOT ranked this project as a top priority.

REPORTS/ACTION

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen reported that burglaries are up, but car prowls are down. Brian described two house break-ins, a car stolen from a driveway and another attempted break-in. Linda attended the North Seattle Precinct meeting, where she heard about police dispatchers who handle emergency and non-emergency calls. All the calls are recorded. Linda said 73% of 911 calls are non-emergency.

Sock drive: Luiten reported that collections are going slowly. Jeannie brought in 6 pairs. Trustee contributed money to buy socks.

Emergency Preparedness: On the morning of October 28, Graham, Carl Preslly and Debbie Halprin participated in an emergency preparedness drill at the northeast Seattle new emergency hub at the Hunter Farm Gathering Place. The Wedgewood Community Council invited Laurelhurst, Viewridge, Hawthorne Hills and Windemere to participate in this citywide emergency drill organized through the City's Office of Emergency Management.

The group was given a possible disaster scenario and provided with tools as to how to respond. Here is the scenario: "A prolonged winter wind storm is gripping the City. Temperatures are cold, snow and ice are present, traveling is nearly impossible, power is out in many places, and...a M5.7 earthquake hit. This is a shallow fault and the shaking was very intense. We are wondering if that was all or if this is a pre-cursor to a much larger quake, similar to what happened in Japan earlier this year. Cellular and landline phone systems are experiencing failures due to infrastructure damage, power loss, and overuse. Radio and TV are off the air, remaining communication systems are overloaded. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated. The Mayor has declared a disaster and has requested that the Governor send National Guard Troops to assist."

The Laurelhurst volunteers met with a ham radio operator and staff member with ESCA (Emergency Services Coordinating Agency) and traveled to the Laurelhurst Community Center. Once there, they began a disaster assessment. They realized that a house had partially fallen into a large sink hole and into the street. They did not know if there were injured people left in the house or if there was a gas leak that threatened the block.

Volunteers had to determine the severity of the situation, determine what help was needed (fire/rescue, medical, police, public works) and report the problem to the HUB. Volunteers received instruction on using the GMRS emergency frequency radio to communicate with the Wedgewood Hub. The Wedgewood Hub relayed Laurelhurst

needs in order of severity to the Emergency Operations Center. Depending on the priority of needs Laurelhurst would get help within the next 72 hours.

On November 2, Graham hosted a committee meeting. It was decided that efforts would be made to identify and recruit Block Watch Captains to assist with emergency preparedness. Newsletter articles and e-newsletters were suggested as well as contacting the Laurelhurst Blog.

Essential Public Facilities Update: LCC's appeal of the Essential Public Facilities code amendment is proceeding slowly in large part because the City has dragged its feet in complying with LCC's public records request and discovery efforts. The City filed a motion to dismiss before discovery is complete and the required records provided. LCC filed a motion to delay filing a response to the motion to dismiss until all discovery is complete and discovery disputes resolved.

DPD's approach appears to be designed to ensure that the appeal is resolved before LCC has any real opportunity to discover the facts, circumstance, process and details of the proposal. In an order dated October 12, the Hearing Examiner denied the City's motion to defer discovery until after the motion to dismiss is resolved.

On October 17, LCC submitted separate public records request to WSDOT as preliminary public records indicated that the Essential Public Facilities proposal was tied to SR 520 replacement.

On October 19, the City followed up and filed a formal motion to limit the scope of discovery. LCC followed up the same day and noted that the City has failed to comply with subpoenas for production of documentary evidence. This was the second time the City failed to comply with the discovery rules.

LCC then filed a reply to the City's motion and a motion for clarification/reconsideration of the Hearing Examiner's October 20th order. In that order, the Hearing Examiner didn't decide anything, as LCC had not yet responded to the City's motion to limit discovery. After receiving LCC's response and motion, the Hearing Examiner ruled that appropriate discovery is allowed under the rules. She ordered that the WSDOT internal report on SR 520 be produced. She granted LCC's motion and ordered the City to respond to the subpoenas within 20 days—by November 15. The Hearing Examiner anticipates that discovery can be complete by November 30. LCC's response to the motion to dismiss would be due by December 9 and the City's reply would be due by December 19.

LCC has received 66 pages of public records, but they are heavily redacted, under the theory that they are attorney-client privileged information.

The City had justified the change in language for essential public facilities by claiming the change was just a housekeeping matter. If this change takes effect, the City could condemn houses or take other actions without regard to land use codes or other process when implementing the SR 520 bridge project.

SR 520 Update: McAleer reported on several fronts:

She attended the WSDOT SR520 open house on planned mitigation for the building of the structure and decimation of existing open spaces and parklands. LCC expressed concern for the impacts to Union Bay such as the displacement of wildlife habitat, and noise and poor water quality during construction. In addition the massive new structure will reduce availability of in-water recreational use.

McAleer requested that WSDOT work with Friends of Yesler Swamp for better water accessibility, provide better water access at Waterway #1, and clear out brackish water conditions at Belvoir Park and Waterway #2. In addition, she asked that WSDOT dredge or treat milfoil in Union Bay the width of the new SR520 footprint. This would provide better water quality for fish migration, wildlife habitat, and recreational use.

Secondly, WSDOT refused to seat any member of the Coalition for a Sustainable 520 on their Community Design Process Committee. Stan Sorscher will be the representative for LCC, and his application was accepted by the committee. He was brought up to speed on the design process and attended their second official meeting. McAleer attended the second public meeting for such committee on November 9th and give feedback on noise reduction strategies to WSDOT, as well as visual blight reduction concepts.

Thirdly, McAleer attended the Seattle City Council Meeting and submitted comments on their Memorandum of Understanding with WSDOT (CB 117303). She expressed LCC's concerns that any "design/build" contracts may stray from the originally agreed upon specs for the project, leaving the builder to make cost saving decisions. LCC, with the Coalition requests that ANY change be re-submitted to DPD for another review. In addition, numerous requests for neighborhood involvement in construction impacts shall be vetted within a adjacent community committee.

Work Party Planning: On November 8, LCC was notified that the Armintrouts are now working with the city to obtain permits for removal of the large laurel hedge at Waterway No. 1. The city is asking for a revegetation plan. LCC has contacted Seattle Children's, which has agreed to donate a substantial amount of shrubs and ground covers, and Arthur Lee Jacobson who would coordinate an upcoming work party.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.
Minutes by Stan Sorscher