

LCC Trustees Meeting  
Wu Hsing Tao School, Talaris Campus  
March 14, 2011

Jeannie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

Attending: Kirsten Curry, Kevin Chang, Emily Dexter, Jeannie Hale, Kathryn Kelly, Colleen McAlleer, Brian McMullen, Stan Sorscher, Don Torrie, Maggie Weissman, Leslie Wright

Excused: Marian Joh, Linda Luiten

#### CALLS AND CONCERNS

Trees on median: On 2/07, neighbors contacted LCC about a tree on the northwest corner of NE 41<sup>st</sup> and on the median at the bottom of Suicide Hill that blocks visibility for those turning left into the alley. Hale and Dexter surveyed the location and will follow up in the future because right now the trees are bare and it is difficult to assess the visibility issue. Advice from an arborist would be needed to ensure that the trees are protected.

Dues: On 2/10, Patricia King emailed to inquire if the dues statements had gone out. She and her husband are in Florida and the bill had not been forwarded to her. She said that she had had trouble with online payment when resubscribing to the private security program. LCC responded with information.

Street lighting problems: Neighbors have been in touch with LCC about problems with two street lights in the 4100 block of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE. LCC contacted City Light on 2/11 recognizing that there is a big backlog in responding to street lighting problems. LCC noted that the problem has persisted for over six years and that neighbors have concerns about personal safety. City Light met with neighbors and responded that it would soon be doing permanent repair work to fully restore and finally improve the street lighting on that block. The crews finally have the work order and sketches they need from engineering. This means they can schedule the work into their backlog. Bryan Leuschen from City Light has asked that the project be moved up on the list. The initial attempts to locate and make repairs were not fully successful. Records show that there were multiple faults in the underground wires which are over 30 years old and beyond their expected lifespan. For now, repairs are expected in the near future.

Beach Club: On 2/11, one neighbor emailed to express concern about the boundaries of the Beach Club when so many Laurelhurst homes are outside the Beach Club area. LCC responded stating that membership is limited to the original platting of the neighborhood and hasn't changed. The Beach Club has told LCC in the past that it is concerned with added traffic in that area and too many kids at the Beach Club should the Club be opened to the entire neighborhood. LCC will continue to work on this.

Four-way stop by the Playfield: On 2/11, the Laurelhurst Blog forwarded a message from a neighbor concerned about people failing to stop or rolling through the stop at the four-way stop on NE 41<sup>st</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE by the Playfield. This is a main route for kids going to school and for neighbors going to the park. LCC has asked for more information about the times of day this most frequently occurs so we can follow up with SDOT.

Laurelhurst Lookout: On 2/11, Richard Ettinger contacted LCC about cleaning up an unimproved street end on NE 36<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. On 2/17, Dexter and Hale went with Ettinger to survey the site. It is a beautiful, wooded area with some old growth trees and native plants. There is quite a bit of ivy growing up many of the trees and portions of the area would benefit from a work party. LCC will continue to work with Ettinger to see if his neighbors are interested.

Waterway No. 1: On 2/12, Dexter reported receiving a call from Judith Thornton asking for a work party to remove concrete pieces that are not necessary to support the bank. Thornton asked who LCC's contact is at Fish and Wildlife as permission is needed to ensure that anything embedded in the lake bottom does not disturb habitat. Dexter responded that LCC was still waiting to hear from DNR. Thornton asked if the waterway would be on the February agenda and was told that meeting was cancelled. In response to Thornton's request to address the yellow flag irises, floating wood in the water and concrete pieces at the waterway, Dexter and Hale surveyed the waterway and replaced a few pieces of concrete pieces in the embankment and moved some floating wood pieces to the upland area under the hedge. Thornton emailed on 2/23 expressing interest in clean up of the water area of the waterway. She suggested LCC contact Kate and Noel Lloyd, Bill Smith and her husband Jerry Gettle about work parties. Dexter responded that LCC would do its best on cleanup efforts at an upcoming work party and asked for contact information for the names provided.

LCC followed up and scheduled a mini-work party on 2/26. LCC tree and plant consultant, Arthur Lee Jacobson, led the work party with Dexter, Torrie, Nelson and Hale participating. A report of the work party is included in the correspondence packet.

On 3/13, Thornton emailed requesting that her 10/11/2010 letter to the state archeologist responding to denial of consideration of the waterway for the historic register be provided to the board. She had noticed a reference to the email letter in LCC 11/08/10 minutes. Thornton was informed that her letter was included in the agenda packets that month.

History Book: On 2/15, Carol Bromel, neighbor and owner of Mrs. Cooks, reported that a neighbor had already been in asking for a history book after the article in the newsletter.

Funding for Children's expansion: On 2/16, a neighbor inquired about who is paying for Children's expansion as he had received no response from Children's. Children's responded on 3/3 stating that they had checked with their financial gurus. The total construction costs for the project are about \$176.5 million, including an estimated \$1.5 million for the helistop. They do not yet know the financing breakdown percentage-wise between tax-exempt bonds, reserves and philanthropy, as each project is different and they continue with fundraising.

Prowler in Yesler: On 2/16, Paul Klemond emailed to report a prowler at 4:30 a.m. The prowler came up his driveway setting off a motion sensor that woke him without alerting

the culprit. The prowler wore a dark jacket, knit cap and a backpack—similar to the person who broke into another neighbor's home in 2007. The prowler wasn't interested in Klemond's cars. He snooped around behind the house before spotting Klemond and taking off. Klemond called 911 and the police arrived within 30 seconds. There were similar incidents at Klemond's house in December 2007, January 2005 and November 2003. Curry reported that Klemond's prowler also went into her back yard the same night and tried to get into her house. She has a very hard to open latch inside her gate and dogs that bark.

Block Watch meeting: Neighbors on the 4100 block of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE held a Block Watch organizational meeting on 2/17 at Talaris. Diane Horswill from the police department's crime prevention program was the featured speaker.

NE 44<sup>th</sup> street end: Heather Newman continues to work with the UW on resolving the issue of staff and students from the student housing project at Five Corners parking on the narrow one block of NE 44<sup>th</sup>. LCC has requested that the UW extend the fencing along the other dead end streets abutting its property to cover NE 44<sup>th</sup>. With no easy access to the UW property, it is likely that fewer people would park on the street. The one-block street is congested and residents are unable to safely back out of their driveways. On 2/19, the UW responded that the pathway from the student housing to NE 44<sup>th</sup> is a route for those on their way to the bus stop on NE 45<sup>th</sup> through the business district. Heather pointed out that this makes little sense because it is shorter to walk directly to Five Corners to take the bus. Dialogue is continuing.

Rerouting Bus 65: In response to email from neighbors about the rerouting of Bus 65, LCC wrote to the King County Transportation Department on 2/24 supporting rerouting from NE 35<sup>th</sup> to turn left on NE 55<sup>th</sup> and right on 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. This change better serves Children's Hospital patients and employees, business offices, the Metropolitan Market, Ronald McDonald house and the many apartments and condominiums along 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Laurelhurst rooming house: In response to calls and emails from neighbors about rental signs that have gone up at the rooming house development in the Town of Yesler, LCC contacted DPD. On 2/18, LCC asked DPD for an update on noncompliance issues. LCC has heard from Tom and Berta Cohen, Heather Newman, Barb Ragee, Mark and Kathy Trumbauer, Paul Klemond and others about this problem. Complaints had been filed for various reasons a few years ago, including noncompliance with the owner-occupancy requirement for the accessory dwelling unit. Since then, the rooming house has remained vacant. Signs have recently gone up advertising rentals. LCC was initially told that the structure included 13 bedrooms, but a report from King County lists 10. Seattle's Code only allows eight unrelated people to live in one single-family home. DPD responded on 2/25 stating that the owner-occupancy requirement does apply. DPD dismissed the earlier lawsuit and no fines were assessed.

LCC followed up with DPD on 3/04. LCC pointed out that no one returns phone calls at the number mentioned on the sign in front of the rooming house. LCC noted that the property detail report states that the dwelling is a "rooming house" and the land use is

“transient lodging.” LCC added that this would seem to be a clear violation of Seattle’s Code if that is the intended use. The report lists 10 bedrooms, but no accessory dwelling unit. DPD responded on 3/10 that the property is designated single-family with an accessory dwelling unit and owner occupancy required. DPD needs further evidence that more than eight unrelated people have moved in and that the owner is not living there as required.

Brian McMullen talked to the manager of the property, who said most of the spots were taken, but he had a few left. If we have evidence of more than 8 unrelated adults, DPD can challenge the owner, who can comply by reducing the number of tenants to 8.

Car prowler in Yesler: On 3/11 at 3:45 a.m., Paul Klemond reported that he observed two men break into the Curry’s SUV. He called 911 while the incident was in progress. He thought they also broke into another neighbor’s car. The prowlers were slowly driving around in an old gold four-door Acura. Kirsten Curry reported that her dog started barking, but that they didn’t check the driveway until the police arrived. The officers said that there hasn’t been a noticeable increase in crime in the area, but did mention that a group of thieves have figured out how to break into Expeditions and are specifically targeting them right now. Curry said that this is the second or third time in the past several months that someone has tried to break into their car and the lock is now totally destroyed.

Parking strip visibility problem: On 3/13, Jean Amick emailed about the parking strip just north of 40<sup>th</sup> NE coming south from the market entering Sand Point Way. She said that it needs urgent attention because drivers cannot look to the left at all because of trees blocking the view at a sharp angle to the north. She added that sometimes owners do not cut their tall weeds adding to the visibility problem. LCC asked Hawthorne Hills about this problem and was told that it is addressed in Children’s traffic mitigation plan for Phase 1.

Automated speed signs: On 3/14, Jean Amick emailed to inquire about the portable automated speed signs that were placed on Surber. LCC responded that the devices had been placed in that location in response to a volume of complaints from neighbors about speeding. LCC will follow up to see if results were recorded.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the meeting on December 13, 2010. A typo was found in the discussion of the Community Center, regarding the increased hours. **Motion** by Colleen McAleer, seconded by Leslie Wright to approve the minutes, as corrected. **Motion passed** unanimously.

In the draft minutes for the meeting on January 10, 2011, the list of attendees should reflect that Len Nelson was officially excused. **Motion** by Kay Kelly, seconded by Emily Dexter to accept the minutes as corrected. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

Monthly report: Emily passed out the monthly status report. Dues money is coming in. Emily went through the specifics of an estimate from Heath Landscaping for maintaining the median on NE 41<sup>st</sup> St and Mary Gates Way.

**Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Stan Sorscher to change the web site default settings to combine dues and landscaping for a total of \$65. **Motion passed** unanimously.

NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street/Mary Gates median maintenance: Because of budget cuts, the University has decided to take a break from doing its required maintenance on the Mary Gates/NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street median. In January, Dexter reported that she has asked Heath Landscaping for a bid to add the UW's portion to our current contract with either twice a year or quarterly maintenance. Heath's bid is included in the packets.

Heath proposes an initial cleanup (first year only) of \$1149.75 (including tax). This would include initial cleanup, weeding, raking and pruning of trees and shrubs. Thereafter, there would be quarterly cleanup at a rate of \$459.90 (including tax). This would include weed control in planting beds by hand cultivation and raking. Landscaping debris would be raked out and removed and spot spraying would be done. It would also include pruning—shearing for hedge type plants two to three times per year to maintain shape and function and selective pruning of Rhodies, small trees once a year or as needed. The trees, shrubs and groundcovers would be fertilized twice a year with a granular, surface application. Insect and disease spraying is not included, but would be monitored and LCC would be advised of any spraying that is recommended. The Heath crew would cleanup and blow off all debris from the adjacent roadway and haul away landscape debris to a clean green recycling dump. This would be an initial one-year contract.

**Motion** by Emily Dexter, seconded by Maggie Weissman to accept the Heath Landscaping proposal for a 1 year period, with Emily asking for a lower rate if all the work is done on a different schedule. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Raise for Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Dexter reported on the electronic polling of board members in response to her motion that LCC offer Wright a five percent raise. This would amount to an additional \$40/month or \$480 per year. In her message to the board, Dexter noted that LCC currently pays Wright \$800 per issue of the newsletter (ten issues per year). This includes writing, editing, coordinating with the printer and mailer, and newsletter advertising. Dexter thought it would be very well-deserved acknowledgement of Wright's skills and our appreciation of her work. The electronic motion passed.

LCC hired Wright after a search process on April 28, 2006 for \$588 per newsletter issue (10 issues per year) and \$100 to get out the dues statement. After 20 issues of the newsletter, Wright came to the board to report. She reported that in the 20 newsletters that she had written, edited and ensured that they got to the printer and mailer, she had saved LCC \$3500. She also said that the cost to get the dues statement out was \$125, more than the \$100 authorized.

It was about this time that Susan Rucker, our former webmaster, had to resign as she was taking a half time paying job and had two little kids. Minutes reflect that at the time LCC was thinking it would cost \$600/month for a webmaster. Wright offered to take over these responsibilities. After the initial switchover to a new webmaster, Leslie agreed and the board approved that she would contribute two hours a month at no cost to updating the website and would bill LCC \$50/hour if she exceeded the two hours.

Board Recruitment: Marian Joh has requested a six-month leave of absence. **Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Don Torrie to approve Marian Joh's leave of absence. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Stan Sorscher will call Mark Trumbauer and Adrian Whorten to ask about them returning as active trustees.

LCC bylaws state that the board of trustees consists of not fewer than 13, nor more than 19 members, to be elected for two-year staggered terms. LCC currently is at 13 with Seth Lassen's resignation today due to his new job. LCC needs additional trustees willing to roll up their sleeves and help with all of the important work it does for the community.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please see NEDC announcement handout.

Thank yous: Thank you to Don Torrie for coordinating distribution of the agenda packets. Thanks also to Torrie, Nelson, Dexter and Hale for participating with Arthur Lee Jacobson at the February 26 work party at Waterway No. 1. A report on the work party is included in the correspondence packet.

Run or Walk the Boardwalk 5K: Registration is underway for this 5K run and walk on Sunday, March 20 that tours the UW campus. The event includes a free fitness carnival for kids. Proceeds will go to help purchase PE equipment for Seattle Public Schools. Registration information can be found at [www.schoolkidscomefirst.com/boardwalk](http://www.schoolkidscomefirst.com/boardwalk).

Transportation community meetings: Children's is hosting two transportation-focused meetings. The first one is on March 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lunchroom at Laurelhurst School. The focus of this meeting is on the future traffic signal at 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Sand Point Way NE and surrounding streets and intersections and other Phase 1 traffic mitigation projects. The second meeting is an open house on April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture. At this meeting, the preferred concept for the 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Sand Point Way NE traffic signal will be unveiled and there will be an update on progress of traffic mitigation for the Bed Unit South phase of Children's expansion.

SUN Park fundraisers: There are spots open for the garden tours SUN Park is hosting. The Miller Garden in the Highlands is Monday, May 9. The cost is \$125 and four out of 10 spots are taken. The Stumpery on Vashon tour is on Thursday, May 12. The cost is \$75 and three spots out of eight are taken. The Laurelhurst Gardens tour is Thursday,

June 8 and two spots out of 12 are taken. The tours include lunch and those interested should contact Jean Amick.

Community Center hours: At the March 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Park Commissioners meeting, acting parks superintendent Christopher Williams mentioned that Queen Anne neighbors have started a fundraising effort to raise money to increase community center hours. Hale, who attended the meeting, followed up with Bill Irwin from Queen Anne. She was told that they are asking the community to make donations to expand community center hours (until 9 p.m. on weekdays and eight hours on Saturday, costing about \$43,000 for the remainder of the year. Twenty local merchants/businesses have agreed to support this effort and allow their logos to be used. The *Queen Anne/Magnolia News* will have an article about this effort in the Wednesday edition of its newspaper. Irwin is going to make an appeal to the Moyers Foundation on behalf of all five limited use centers.

Red light runner update: There were two good bills in Olympia that would have clarified the state law on red light runner cameras to address Five Corners. Both of these bills, House Bill 1279, sponsored by one of the Laurelhurst state reps, and Senate Bill 5188, sponsored by our state senator and others, failed to make it to a floor vote by the March 7 cutoff date. These bills had public hearings and made it out of committee, but will not be considered again until next year. Other bills in the house following the direction of Tim Eyman calling for a public vote before cameras could be installed or the number of cameras increased didn't even make it out of committee.

#### REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Brian McMullen reviewed police activity in the neighborhood - mostly car prowls.

SR 520 Update: Colleen McAleer says the pontoons are being built (\$600 million) but available funds won't finish the bridge. We are about \$1.9 billion short. The state will build as much as they can afford, tying into the existing bridge. The east side will have their improvements. The existing part that will remain is from the western highrise to I-5.

After spending the money, and tolling cars, the bridge will still not perform at full capacity because of the chokepoints in the existing structure. Tolling is scheduled to start April 15.

CleanScapes Update: Maggie Weissman and Kay Kenny updated the board. Hale stopped over at University Wines on Saturday and was shown the box of corks! The owner said neighbors are frequently stopping by to drop off their corks.

Spring Clean: Dexter will again be coordinating Laurelhurst's participation in the City's annual Spring Clean. This cleanup effort will be held in April and May. Seattle Public Utilities provides planning assistance, gloves, safety vests, disposal bags, transfer station passes and waste disposal. Last year, LCC hosted traffic circle cleanups, storm drain stenciling, work parties on the pedestrian refuge island on Surber, at Waterway No. 1 and in other locations.

Little League Sponsorship: For over a decade, LCC has sponsored Little League teams. LCC mentioned to the Little League people that we would consider this at its March meeting. Unfortunately, LCC was not told of the March 11 printing deadline listing team sponsors. LCC followed up asking if funds were still needed. The response was that they would see if anything else needed sponsoring for opening day at Laurelhurst Park. That day is April 9 and there will be showcase games from each age group on both fields.

**Motion** by Stan Sorscher, seconded by Colleen McAleer to authorize up to \$500 to support Little League teams or operations. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Honoring Public Employees: Sorscher suggested that LCC highlight public employees who have helped Laurelhurst as a part of neighborhood appreciation, perhaps at the annual neighbors meeting. This could be mentioned at NEDC and other community groups could be encouraged to spotlight the work that Parks, SDOT, DPD and other departments have worked with during the year.

Neighborhood Street Fund/Cumulative Reserve Fund (NSF/CRF): LCC has submitted four projects for this year's NSF/CRF process. All of the projects are rollovers from past years.

The project resubmitted by Heather Newman for the past 11 years calls for street surface improvement on NE 43<sup>rd</sup> between 36<sup>th</sup> NE and deadend to the west—installation of curbs and parking strips at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE on both sides of NE 43<sup>rd</sup> west to the dead end AND street surface improvements on NE 44<sup>th</sup> between 36<sup>th</sup> NE and deadend to the west—installation of curbs and parking strips on both sides of NE 44<sup>th</sup> to the deadend. The improvements on NE 44<sup>th</sup> are of a higher priority due to proximity to the Laurelhurst business district.

The sidewalks in the two locations literally merge with the street. On NE 44<sup>th</sup>, the north side of the street is the backside of the Laurelhurst business district and the south side is residential. There are no curbs or parking strips. This presents a dangerous situation for the children who live on the street and play on the sidewalks, for pedestrians walking to and from the University student housing and day care center or to and from the business district. Even though the street is a deadend and marked, people often drive down it too fast, thinking it goes through. When they can't get through, they turn around on the sidewalks. This creates a safety hazard and continued damage to the existing sidewalk. There are similar problems on NE 43<sup>rd</sup>.

The other two projects are included in the 2002 North Laurelhurst Transportation Master Plan, a Neighborhood Matching Fund project developed over a two-year period with extensive community involvement with the assistance of Heffron Transportation, Inc. LCC has made steady progress over the years in obtaining funding for projects in the Plan.



One project calls for installation of a curb median and pavement markings at 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street similar to those at 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street. 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE has very long blocks and there is neither traffic control nor calming devices located between NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street and Sand Point Way. Center medians are used at the intersections of NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street and NE 47<sup>th</sup> Street. The 2002 Laurelhurst North Neighborhood Transportation Management Plan recommends one additional median located just east of NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street to calm traffic on this long block. This project was first submitted in 2006 and every year thereafter.

The other transportation project is on the street next to Villa Academy. It calls for sidewalk improvements, repair and installation, curbs on the south side of NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street, curbs and gutters on the north side of the street and repaving of the entire street between 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Ivanhoe. This is an very expensive undertaking and likely would not be funded through the NSF/CRF.

The only CRF project submitted if from Friends of Yesler Swamp. Funds are sought to construct a trail that would provide public access to Yesler Swamp in order to restore the area to its native habitat and offer the public opportunities to learn about the swamp's ecosystem and history (the swamp is on the former site of the historic Yesler Mill). Design of the trail is underway. The ADA trail would offer the public views of the swamp while concentrating and directing human foot traffic away from sensitive areas. The trail would also provide year round access for maintenance, removal of invasive plants and planting of native plants. The University of Washington has committed to maintaining the site, with the help of community volunteers.

Livable Streets Initiative: The initiative has support from Laurelhurst, Viewridge and Ravenna Bryant. Wedgwood questioned some elements of the Livable Streets plan. Children's mitigation is intended for the area in the vicinity of their expansion. Cary Lassen will talk to other organizations to get support for the plan. Cary drew everyone's attention to the intersection on Sand Point Way at NE 52<sup>nd</sup> St. The state legislature is working on a Complete Streets bill.

**Motion** by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Leslie Wright to accept Cary's draft letter in support of the Livable Streets Initiative which may be amended by the Children's committee. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Seattle Children's Update: DPD's decision regarding the new helistop location and the MUP application is included in the agenda packets along with DPD's interpretation on the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.  
Minutes by Stan Sorscher