

Laurelhurst Community Club
Minutes for June 8, 2009
St. Stephen's Church, Seattle WA

Attending: Emily Dexter, Mark Holden, Brian McMullen, Cary Lassen, Leslie Wright, Marian Joh, Jeannie Hale, Maggie Weissman, Mark Trumbauer, Stan Sorscher

Excused: Don Torrie

Guests: Peter Eglick

Jeannie hale called the meeting to order at 7:10.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes: Review of the May 2009 minutes was deferred until the July LCC meeting.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report for June. Reviewing the May report - deposits of another \$10,000 or so. That leaves us about \$40,000 in the hole, including funds we still expect to be reimbursed from the insurance company. We expect \$15,000+ from the insurance company, leaving \$25,000 in debt, more or less. At this point in the appeal process, we need to agree on a clear sense of what our goals are for the Children's expansion project, and how the appeal would get us to that goal.

Ideally, the project will not extend to the Hartmann site, and stay within the existing campus; no entrance will be allowed on NE 40th St; the garage will go underground to reduce building heights; the square footage will be reduced; and replacement housing will be more realistic.

So far, revisions in the plans have reduced tower heights from 240 feet to the existing overall height; entrances were eliminated on NE 45th St and 50th Ave NE; and the current plan calls for larger buffers.

Our appeal on Wednesday will highlight the remedies we want.

CALLS AND CONCERNS:

1. Invasive overgrowth: On 5/18, a neighbor contacted LCC about the overgrowth of blackberries and ivy onto their property from another neighbor's property. Because ivy is the favored habitat for rats, LCC will follow up to let the neighbor know this and to encourage him to be a good neighbor.
2. Beach Club: On 5/21, Shannon Hofmeister who is new to the neighborhood emailed to inquire about the Beach Club. Information was provided.
3. Children's revised FEIS: On 5/21 and 5/31, Grace Yuan contacted LCC expressing concern that the city issued a revised FEIS without any opportunity for public comment. She thought this was an outrageous violation of SEPA. Four other neighbors have also expressed concerns about this.

4. LaurelPost: On 5/22, LCC was notified that the LaurelPost blog has been discontinued. After two months, there had only been 62 comments posted.
5. Accident on 41st: On 5/25, Josh Herrala who lives in the vicinity of 42nd Avenue NE and NE 41st Street emailed to tell LCC about a serious accident on NE 41st the preceding Saturday. He said it was a miracle that no one was seriously hurt. An SUV was packed with luggage and two families returning from an outing. It spun around 180 degrees when a car going along 42nd allegedly failed to stop at the stop sign. From the photo provided, it appears that a third car may have been involved. Herrala reported that since his family has lived in that location, they have seen several accidents, and many near misses. He noted that as more families have moved into the area, there are many children crossing 41st to get to Laurelhurst Elementary. He noted that drivers speed and that the steep grade creates visibility problems with pedestrians crossing on both 43rd (the boulevard) and 42nd. His complaints to the City have been ignored.
6. Moped gang: Since 5/26, there have been complaints about a group of moped riders near the park on residential streets starting about 9:30 p.m. and continuing for a couple of hours. The mopeds appear to be custom bikes where the noise is amplified tenfold to their mufflers. On at least one occasion, the moped riders gathered at the fire pit at the park after picking up wood at QFC (according to a website about the group). Permits for fires at the fire pit are required and no alcohol is allowed on park property. LCC was in touch with Diane Horswill, Crime Prevention Rep with the Seattle Police Department and the issue was brought up at the recent North Precinct Advisory Council meeting.
7. School reader board: Catty Colee contacted neighbors beginning on 5/27 about installation of a reader board on the corner of NE 45th and 46th Avenue NE in the angled portion of the fence. The reader board would inform neighbors about what is going on at the school and would eliminate the signs hanging off the fence. There has been dialogue about the proposal among neighbors, the school district, LCC and the city to understand the guidelines. Graffiti is always a concern, but a screen could be installed to allow easy removal. Other issues raised include the commercial nature of signage and aesthetic and visual issues.
8. Idea for Talaris property development: On 6/01, a neighbor contacted LCC with an idea for redevelopment of the Talaris property into a sports complex including tennis courts and a swimming pool. LCC responded and the neighbor was invited to a future LCC meeting and has not responded further.
9. Basketball after hours: On 6/03, a neighbor reported that the two preceding evenings, beginning at 1:30 a.m., people were playing basketball at the school. They were very loud—yelling and using swear words. School security was called, arrived on one occasion and the offenders left without complaining.
10. Litter on school grounds at the gym: On 6/04, LCC contacted Dena Schuler of the Community Center asking that the Parks Department sees to it that someone picks up the litter outside the gym. LCC noted that we would appreciate immediate

attention to any graffiti and abandoned furniture and bicycles left outside the gym. LCC added that neighbors are vigilant in calling 911 to report after hours illegal activity around the school or the park. Schuler responded that she has advised the staff person at the gym about the litter. She suggested LCC also contact the school and noted that incidents at the fire pit after 11 p.m. when the park closes should be reported to 911.

11. Congratulations: Fritz Hansen called Stan Sorscher to congratulate LCC on the Hearing Examiner's decision. Fritz will be moving from Laurelhurst to downtown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Neighbors Meeting: The Annual Neighbors Meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 6:45-9 p.m. at the community center. The Community Center will require us to sweep the floor for cleanup this year, after the meeting.

Passenger ferry: Informational materials from the King County Ferry District are included in the agenda packets. Possible locations for water taxis, or passenger ferries, include Madison Park and the UW. Representatives from the District will attend LCC July meeting.

REPORTS/ACTION:

Crime Prevention: Crime Report. Brian referred to a map of reported incidents. City crime overall is increasing. Also, good weather is correlated with higher crime. In Northeast Seattle crime has not gone up. Seattle will not lay off police. The City plans to hire more police officers.

Every summer, neighbors complain about noise from basketball playing at the school in the early morning. Our patrol can call 911 because the school playground is closed then.

Magnuson Park Update: Emily Dexter wrote a letter to the Parks Department, asking that a steering committee be created, using the example of the Arboretum Foundation, and the Fort Dixon Center in San Francisco. Rebecca Salinas, partnership director for the Seattle Parks Department replied to Emily.

Executive Session: Enter Executive session at 8:45. End Executive Session at 9:10 PM.

Fund-raising - Stan Sorscher volunteered to organize teams, set assignments, track progress and coordinate visits.

Marian Joh will call the insurance company to get an estimate of when the payment will be made.

Motion by Maggie Weissman, seconded by Emily Dexter to pay Peter Eglick \$10,000.
Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher