

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Meeting, January 20, 2016  
NSCC Campus, OCE&E Building, Room 220B

Directors Present: Jan Brucker, Melanie Davies, Tom Meyer, Kay Mesirow, Liz Kearns, and Ellen Beck.

Visitors: Megan Sykes and William Gerdes, and their infant son, Everett, who will be four months old tomorrow (our youngest visitor ever).

Treasurer's Report. The December bank balance was \$5,715.87.

Minutes. The November 18, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

Board President Jan Brucker called the January meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. We had names of folks around the table as recited by William Gerdes.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

Meeting/Letter to College Re: Our Meetings. Continuing to have our meetings at the College was discussed. There is a new Vice President, Andrea Johnson, and she is intending to charge groups holding meetings, events at the College. Discussion followed. We originally met in the President's Board Room, and for many years the College sent a representative to our meetings. This was important, because it kept us informed with what was happening at the College. Jan thought our arrangement to meet at the College was made with the president who preceded Peter Ku at the College. Liz Kearns remembered that Peter Ku helped write the Bylaws of LSCC. It was suggested that perhaps the history of our association with the College is unknown to new people at the College. It was decided that first there should be a face-to-face meeting, and the meeting can be followed up with a letter. It was noted that even a nominal charge for using a room at the College would impact us. Since we only receive donations and voluntary dues. Over time, we would likely run out of money. It was also pointed out that if we had to pay the College, we would not have the money needed for other community events/efforts. Melanie Davies noted that we have held larger community meetings in the cafeteria or Baxter Student Center. What would be the charge for such a space? Can we have a reduced rate?

Student Housing. The College appears to be proceeding with the possibility of building student housing. Warren J. Brown, NSC President, on October 1, 2015, gave a case statement for campus housing. He stated the "best and likely only buildable lot on campus is in the South-East parking area." He also stated other less preferred and off-campus options that would require partnerships with the College. Discussion followed. Liz mentioned that the College can't make this change without changing their Master Plan, and we are supposed to sit on that committee. Jan said that she would make a list of items to be discussed at a

meeting with the College. Jan thinks the housing is a positive point, because it brings more people, more eyes, to the campus. Having the housing might bring more amenities and services to this area. It was also noted that other Colleges around the area are considering student housing.

NWDC Representative. Jan has agreed to be LSCC's representative to the Northwest District Council. Additionally, Tom Meyer said that he would be our alternate. Thank you, Jan and Tom.

Elections. We are coming up on elections. Nominations are to happen in March. The Annual Meeting is to take place in April of each year.

Vice President. Tom volunteered to become Vice President, since he had been fulfilling the duties of the Vice President for some time. Thank you, Tom.

North Precinct Site. The question was raised whether the College was trying to acquire the site. Jan remembered that the College was interested in having their environmental program next to the pond. She also remembered that the refueling station is there. Tom confirmed that when City property becomes available, it has to be offered internally to other agencies and then to other public entities.

Parks Department. Liz told us that the Parks Department will initially use the new funds for the Downtown Waterfront Park for the first couple of years. This is the scuttlebutt from Parks employees.

Upcoming Meetings. Jan stated that she wanted to invite our new District 5 Representative, Debora Juarez to an upcoming meeting. None of the people running for District 5 Representative ever contacted us. And she, the winner, has never contacted us, and we are her constituents. The public statements she has made have not had anything to do with District 5 concerns. Jan heard her giving news on KUOW and she mentioned low income housing, and also national politics. She didn't seem to have a handle on what her job is - working for us! Jan suggested that we need to have outreach to other neighborhoods in our District who are also disgruntled: Maple Leaf, Lake City, Pinehurst, Haller Lake, Green Lake, Broadview.

Tom said that on Debora Juarez's website she states she plans to open an office in the North End and that she wants to go on walk in District 5.

We invite her to come and meet with us, and then we can also pull together a larger event with other neighborhoods in the North End.

Recreation Facility. Liz stated that the campus recreation facility is still available to the community at a very minimal cost (\$3.00).

Interests of Neighborhood Visitors. Jan questioned our guests to see if they had any specific questions or needs. Since they wanted to know about the Council, Jan ran down activities in our neighborhood: Halloween in the Park each year in Licton Springs Park is put on by the Council; a summer potluck happened as long as Larry's was in Oak Tree; Celebrate North Seattle happens at Oak Tree and is sponsored by Epic Life Church and other local entities and is like a block party with merchant booths and activities for kids; Lights at Licton Springs Park were put up by the Epic Life Church December 1<sup>st</sup> and were up until January 1<sup>st</sup>. – volunteers donated lights and helped put them up and it was very sweet; the P-Patch, which is on College property along North 92<sup>nd</sup> Street and they usually have a July or fall party that we participate in; and Aurora-Licton Urban Village Group, which we are involved in and is gathering momentum. We also participated in the City-wide planning that took place from 1997-1999.

HALA in Seattle. HALA (Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda) is now on the Mayor's agenda. The Aurora-Licton Urban Village is involved in improving the Urban Village. The group is concerned about apodments and apartments that have no parking required. The City north of 85<sup>th</sup> has not had the interest of developers. Many parts of Aurora don't allow for development of the lots because there is very little depth to the lots. The commercial lots are quite skinny. ALUV wants to see if there can be changes to the commercial zoning along Aurora. They also want to develop development, design guidelines.

Aurora Avenue North. Tom stated that in our area, Aurora is on the edge of communities, and not encompassed by any of them. For this reason, Aurora has become its own entity and is controlled by the Aurora Merchants group. This is the reason for the creation of the new group to address Aurora as it affects our neighborhoods. Now ALUV is saying this is our area.

Land Use Chair. Jan noted that we need to have a Land Use Chair so that we can be more proactive. Tom said that you are not sent a lot of information, but rather you have to search the website on your own. Tom did check the website before coming to our meeting. The College signage is being upgraded, which we knew about. There is a new hotel going up at the old Arby's location which will be four to five stories tall and have three levels of underground parking. There is another new hotel going in at the old Marie Callender site. There is also residential construction on Woodlawn. Jan noted that other community councils seem to have more muscle when it comes to land use issues. If we had a Land Use Chair, this would help us to be more effective.

Kay Mesirow stated she would do an article for the Newsletter regarding elections and open needs that the Council has, such as Land Use Chair, and member to participate on the Licton Haller Greenways Group.

UW Architecture School Master Study. Melanie reported on having attended a charette at the University of Washington. The student group does studies of communities. They have done a study on Greenwood in the past. This winter quarter, and perhaps extending into spring is on the Licton Haller area, from North 85<sup>th</sup> to North 145<sup>th</sup>. Melanie said that the focus of the group at the charette was mobility, where do people drive, walk, what barriers exist. There will be future sessions during the daytime and the public is invited to attend. Melanie will forward information.

Payment for Meeting Space. It was moved and seconded that the Council pay the \$32.23 amount billed by the College for this evening's meeting room.

### **OLD BUSINESS.**

Halloween in the Park. Liz mentioned receiving an e-mail from Debra Willendorf regarding Halloween funds. Melanie said she would get the monies to Debra.

Greenways for Schools. Melanie thanked everyone for their responses in December. Nothing has happened. Tom stated that he thinks the 90<sup>th</sup> and Aurora intersection is a crisis. Now, before the schools are completed and in use, it is a challenging intersection to enter during rush hours and other times of the day. This is before school buses, and students have entered the intersection. Jan mentioned that historically the intersection has been the location of car/pedestrian accidents. It is labeled one of the most dangerous intersections in the city. With the school going in there is no tangible plan as yet for improving the intersection.

Melanie agreed and said that although we do need to press, she has met with SDOT regarding 90<sup>th</sup>. As far as reprogramming lights, restriping, this can be done, is not a big deal. They were trying to find out what pot of funds to draw from. Kay said 90<sup>th</sup> is covered under the Safe Routes to School and 92<sup>nd</sup> is more of a challenge. Lee Bruch is focused on 92<sup>nd</sup>, but Melanie has stressed to him that being too focused on 92<sup>nd</sup> to the detriment of 90<sup>th</sup> is counterproductive.

Jan said that Broadview in Greenwood has a special signal that is just for the kids and pedestrians. That is the only place she has seen special signals.

Melanie reported that Lee and Licton Haller have started a survey of conditions on certain routes, noting impediments and challenges. So Lee has a lot going on beyond the Aurora intersections at 90<sup>th</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup>. For Lee, 92<sup>nd</sup> Greenway is a longtime project, which we support.

We need to find out what SDOT's solution for improvements for the 90<sup>th</sup> intersection. The schools will be open before we know it. Faye Garneau of the Aurora Merchants has said that the intersection at 90<sup>th</sup> needs to be widened by another lane.

Mike Cuadra Social Services Committee. Liz reported for Mike Cuadra that there is no meeting set at this time. Mike is pulling together sources for all the supplies and then there has to be training sessions. Everything is in the works. A fraternal organization, perhaps the Masons that Mike is a member of, have offered to pay for the sharps containers.

Jan said she is so sorry that our Health Department has not taken this on, because it creates liability for individuals.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Beck, Secretary