

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Directors Present: Jan Brucker, Liz Kearns, Mike Cuadra, Melanie Davies, Debra Willendorf, Tom Meyer, Marie Oliver, and Ellen Beck.

Visitors: Lee Bruch (Safe Routes to School, Licton-Haller Greenways), Ron McKenzie, Pat McKenzie, Brigitte Ardea, Janice Holkup, Nina Allred, Dallin Allred, and Martin Hamilton.

Board President Jan Brucker called the July meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and we had introductions around the table.

Minutes. The June 15, 2016 minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Debra Willendorf gave a Treasurer's Report covering the period from January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016. She also gave us a handout illustrating an Esti-mate of Yearly Cash Flow. Her documentation showed that our yearly income closely matches our yearly expenses. The June 30<sup>th</sup> bank balance was \$5,918.93. The College will charge us \$20.00 for our use of this conference room, but the first six months are free. Since we don't meet in August or December, that means in 2016 we will be paying for July, September, October, and November<sup>1</sup> and next year we will pay for ten months. Debra reported having paid for three years of our domain name<sup>2</sup>, which is now private. We also pay for InMotion Web Hosting and our PayPal account. As she turns the treasurer's job over to someone else, all these accounts have been paid in full.

Melanie Davies is in charge of Halloween in the Park, an annual event put on by LSCC. She does a great job! It happens on Halloween and we have Friends of the Forest, who position themselves on the trail around the pond and the kids and their parents follow the path and trick or treat with the "Friends." We have folk musicians who play near the treat/refresh-ments table near the park building. So it is festive. We are always looking for volunteers to be Friends of the Forest. We do get donations and perhaps these should be included in the treasurer's reports, even though the donations don't go through the treasurer's books. Also, there can be other donations/in-kind donations that should be reported. The Treasurer's Report was approved and Debra given a round of applause for her years of service.

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<sup>1</sup> That is four months this year, or \$80.00 of rent to North Seattle College for our meeting here. Since we meet ten times each year, our annual rental cost will be \$200.00 in 2016, and thereafter if we continue to meet on campus.

<sup>2</sup> The domain name is in Liz Kearns' name.



## OLD BUSINESS.

Aurora Licton Urban Village (“ALUV”) Alliance Update. ALUV is a group of people who came together initially to fight an apodment over on 95<sup>th</sup>. An appeal to the Hearing Examiner fighting the apodment has reached it final stage. Jan will forward information to Nina and Dallin Allred, who have an apodment going in next door to them. She said that in the end an agreement was entered into with the developer for some specific changes, but this was felt to be a poor substitute for an outright victory. Jan will be able to give them information about what it is like to fight this kind of battle.

Jan sits on the ALUV Board, which has been in existence a year and a half. Their goal is livability in the broader urban village, housing, public safety, and generally what kind of a community do we have. Can we walk to restaurants, etc. ALUV was instrumental in getting the Mayor to take a Find It/Fix It walk in Licton Springs. We had one of the biggest turnouts for such a walk in the city. Jan said she was sorry that the Mayor was not present for the Celebrate North Seattle event on June 26<sup>th</sup>. ALUV had a booth at Oak Tree, which it shared with LSCC. That was an amazingly diverse community event.

ALUV received a Find It/Fix It \$5,000.00 grant to do artwork on the Oak Tree pedestrian bridge. There is an artist selected who will do the artwork at no cost.

ALUV meets the first Thursday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Lantern Brewing, 938 N. 95<sup>th</sup> Street, west side of Aurora, behind the Crown Inn Motel and a marshal arts studio. Marie Oliver, Mike Cuadra, Kathleen Braden, and Melanie Davies have attended ALUV meetings in the past. Jan attempts to update the Board on ALUV meetings. She <sup>3</sup>suggested that we should perhaps post them on our website to publicize ALUV’s activities.

Update on New Schools. Lee Bruch reported that 1,700 kids would be attending the new schools. At the same time, Olympic View’s attendance area is changing in 2017 to go west to Evanston, which is the other side of Fremont. Therefore 92<sup>nd</sup> will become a lot more heavily traveled by school buses, parents, and kids biking and walking. SDOT has included in their published schedule this year to implement a safe and protected bike lane project from Wallingford to First Avenue Northeast and on 92<sup>nd</sup> across Greenwood. They have begun preliminary designs and will have a Walk and Talk on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the P Patch on 92<sup>nd</sup>. S DOT is actively looking at Move Seattle and Safety for Kids funding to make provisions for a whole system of east-west greenways in north Seattle.

The ALUV and Greenways grants concern putting a pedestrian light at North 92<sup>nd</sup> Street and painted crosswalks at five block intervals on Aurora North beginning at North 85<sup>th</sup>. Aurora is

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<sup>3</sup> ALUV does have their own website.

a state highway, and so it is hard to get new lights installed. The NWDC voted on the proposals and all involving children were approved. There will be a final decision on the steps to be taken in December. SDOT is favorably disposed to the grants because of the new schools that are opening in 2017. They are studying North 90<sup>th</sup>, which needs improvements, and North 100<sup>th</sup> also because of the coming pedestrian/bicycle bridge. There will be an open house on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Crown Hill Center, 9250 – 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Jan added the five finalists for neighborhood streets and park fund voted on in June were for projects focused on children. The three street fund finalists also favored children. One of the main jobs of district councils was to vote on funds finalists. Lee believed that all approved grants that have moved on to SDOT will proceed this year. Discussion followed.

Jan described a near accident on the Find It/Fix It walk. The intersection at North 90<sup>th</sup> and Aurora is very dangerous. There have been four fatalities there in the last two years. Children and teenagers are not as observant when crossing streets as adults. Lee reported that on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, he was on a walk with Councilmember Mike O'Brien, who is the chair of the Sustainability & Transportation Committee, and the traffic illustrated how dangerous it can be for pedestrians around the schools.

P Patch Garage Sale. The P Patch garage sale will be Saturday, August 13, 2016, at Martin's house<sup>4</sup> and he is accepting donations. If we want to have a book sale, we will need to have it across the street from the garage sale.

## **NEW BUSINESS.**

Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda "HALA" Task Force. There is a citizen's group that meets regularly to study how to make low income housing more affordable, and two of the members are from the north end: David Osaki, is a community planner for the City of Redmond and is single and lives in our neighborhood, and Ryan DiRaimo, who is an architect and is married with young children and they live in the north end. Members of the task force are from all over the city and are studying the proposals of HALA and giving feedback and comments and their final determinations are due this winter. David and Ryan both have posts that Jan will forward to the Board. Marie said she would post them on Facebook. No zoning changes have been on their meeting agendas. Jan promised to forward the name and emails for David and Ryan so we can contact them with questions or comments.

Jan remarked it feels like the City is going to move ahead with its own agenda before the representatives group reaches its findings. The grand bargain of the Mayor with developers

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<sup>4</sup> He lives across the street from the P Patch.

was that they could build higher, etc. if they provided low income housing units in their new buildings. The developers could also opt out of providing low income units by paying a fee into a low income housing fund set up by the City. That fund is managed by the City and is open to groups who provide low income housing as their mission.

There are still questions about zoning changes. First it was stated that zoning changes would happen in urban villages, but now that seems to be changing to include single family. Discussion followed. O'Brien is trying to go further, making additional accessory dwellings more easily built on a single family zoned lot. He is also trying to eliminate the requirement to provide off street parking.

Lee mentioned that there was a movement to create a mechanism to make it harder to destroy some of the older buildings because when units of low income housing are destroyed, it results in even more low income units needing to be built.

Jan reminded everyone that LSCC remains neutral on political matters. We gather and disperse information. If anyone sends comments to the Mayor or City Council, please cc LSCC so we become aware of your opinions.

Mayor Cuts Ties with District Councils. The Mayor has signed an executive order to take City support away from the District Councils. The City employees won't lose their jobs, but will be assigned new duties for the City. Discussion followed. Communities have the opportunities to discuss topics with each other at the District Council level. The 2009 audit showed that the City failed to support the District Council and so they weren't as effective as they could have been. The Mayor said that District Councils were not diverse enough, and did not include people of all the ethnicities that live in the city, renters, younger people, etc. as members. But it is very difficult for community councils to get all their residents to participate. We, for example, have done outreach, but were not successful, despite our efforts. There is a good reason that community councils around the city are mostly folks a certain age, that are old enough to have raised their children. That's the point where they have time to get involved in their community and attend meetings. Younger parents with young children are much too busy to attend evening meetings.

Tom Meyer spoke about what he understood the Mayor's concerns to be. The District Councils, this Council are not diverse enough to fully represent the people who live in our neighborhood. There is a race and social justice initiative that is now pervasive through the whole city government. The Mayor is trying to hear from all the different factions within the city, age, gender, ethnicity, etc. - this his charge. There is a crisis in the country because of the lack of low income housing. As an example of the crisis, Tom's brother lives in Colorado. It is an affluent area and workers for the businesses can't afford to live in the town and so the businesses can barely operate. The workers they can pay, can't afford to work for them. The

Mayor is saying District Councils can't be the only pipeline to the City, the Mayor needs to hear from a greater number of minority groups. He wants to hear from people who can't come to meetings, but if you can reach out to them in other ways, they will have things to say.

Board Elections. Directors with terms expiring in 2016 are Jan Brucker, Tom Meyer, Melanie Davies, Liz Kearns, and Ellen Beck. All agreed to continue on the Board and were unani-mously re-elected. It was moved and seconded that Marie Oliver be elected Treasurer. This motion also passed unanimously.<sup>5</sup>

Good of the Order. The letter to Scott Kubly, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation from Licton Springs Community Council, Maple Leaf Community Council, Connect Northgate, Maple Leaf Neighborhood Greenways, Licton-Haller Greenways, Lake City Greenways, Feet First, Sierra Club, Cascade Bike Club, Greenwood-Phinney Greenways, and Seattle Transit Riders Union regarding the Northgate Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge was discussed.

Martin Hamilton described property break-ins and an exciting assist to police in catching an individual police were chasing. Martin came to meet other members of the community.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Beck, Secretary

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<sup>5</sup> Liz stated that Kathleen Braden has indicated to her that she is willing to become our new secretary! Applause! This would be voted on in September.