

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Meeting, September 16, 2015
NSCC Campus, OCE&E Building, Room 220B

Directors Present: Tom Meyer, Kay Mesirow, Mike Cuadra, Liz Kearns, and Ellen Beck.

Board Representatives Present: Kathleen Braden (List Serve).

Visitors: David Gordon (Officer, Community Police Team, North Precinct), Karmen Schur (Seattle.gov representative), Regina Graw-Crockett, Brigitte Ardeo, Aimee Smith, Jonathan Nelson, Christian Strouse (Student/Employee North Seattle College), Charles Bond, Jeremy Yates, Richard Truax, Thomas Stachiw, and Mark Scott.

Treasurer's Report. The August bank balance was \$5,714.81.

Minutes. The July 15, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

Board Member Tom Meyer called the September meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. We had introductions around the room.

NEW BUSINESS.

Community Police Team. Officer David Gordon came to our meeting to answer our questions and meet us. He is the Community Police Officer who covers Licton Springs and a lot more of the North Precinct (I-5 on the east, the water on the west, the north border of the North Precinct, and Carkeek Park on the south). Officer Gordon has been with the SPD for 22 years and has been in Community Policing for five years.

He deals mainly with nuisance crimes that bother neighbors, such as car-camping. A car can be parked without moving for three days. At this point the non-emergency number for the Police Department (625-5011) should be called, or you can make a report online. The SPD does not tow these vehicles and he said that most of them "know the game" and just move a block and wait to be reported, then move again, etc. Some of the car-campers police themselves and try to keep troublemakers away. Sometimes a van-camper can attract other people visiting them and create noise and garbage problems. All you can do is contact the police.

Brigetta Ardeo asked what could be done about mail theft and other crime. This was a problem in the past and now it has mushroomed. Also, when we see something illegal happening (drugs, prostitution), if we called the police, it would be all over when you arrive. So, what can ordinary people do to help themselves and the police? How can we fill the space that you can't fill. There used to be training from the police, to educate neighbors on what they can do. Is it possible to have bike officers more

visible in the community? Bike officers would quickly learn who lives in the neighborhood and would recognize who does not. They can also see much closer what is going on. Officer Gordon responded that there are only about six bike officers for the entire north end. Every community wants them, but he has no control over where they are assigned. He said that the City Council, Mayor's Office, Police Chief, Precinct Captain are the ones to contact about getting more bike officers.

Regarding the problem of vacant/derelict houses that attract break-ins and the number of people staying in them can grow in a very short time as word spreads of the location, the City only has one full-time vacant building inspector. Her name is Barb Brett and she's the best City employee Officer Gordon has ever worked with. She is a rock star. She gets things done. The City policy is against vacant lots, even when the property owner offers to fence their property and keep the vegetation down. If the property has been sold, it can't be torn down until the new owner's building plans have been submitted to the City and approved. Trespassers who have broken into vacant homes can be arrested, but they won't normally be held that long, so there is not much of a deterrent to stop people from breaking in.

Although the transient population has gone way up, crime doesn't seem to have gone up. The crime statistics can be found online (<http://www.seattle.gov/police/crime/statistics>).

An RV was reported in an area and it seemed to attract a lot of people. Neighbors believed that the occupants were running prostitution and drugs out of the RV. Also, neighbors reported that car prowls, mail theft, and garage break-ins. Officer Gordon said that neighbors can take pictures of the occupants/visitors to the RV, if they can do so safely. Otherwise leave everything else to the police by calling the non-emergency number and reporting the situation.

Officer Gordon also stressed that homeless people are a protected class. You cannot harass homeless people.

Mental illness is also an issue with some of the car-campers. Officer Gordon said that 75 percent of his work is dealing with cars and homelessness issues.

The North Precinct will be moving to their new home at North 130th in 2018.

People living up against Evergreen-Washelli's property reported that people were camping in the wooded area of the cemetery. Officer Gordon was aware of that, and said he has walked through the area. Evergreen-Washelli is private property, so they are the ones to evict campers or not.

Emergency Planning. Kathleen Braden asked about the status of emergency planning. She had gone on line and read about the SNAP program. People need to know where gas mains are, where the elderly are living alone. She wondered if there was an institutional plan for the college and the new schools being built.

Everything comes down to the block watch level. The North Precinct will have a new Block Watch officer within four to six weeks.

Kay Mesirow noted that the Council had devoted a large meeting to emergency planning. North Seattle College is going to be the FEMA location, so no neighbors can go there! Officer Gordon mentioned going to the nearby mall; also reaching out to other councils and anchor institutions around us.

Tom noted that when emergency planning was discussed previously, it pretty quickly dissected down to block watch units.

Aurora-Licton Area. It was brought up that Aurora was a problem. Is there a master plan for Aurora? Officer Gordon said that it is not just Aurora. The problems are all over, including Gasworks Park.

Is there an Aurora plan? Why can't our section of Aurora be "Shorelined up?" We are limited on what can be done with Aurora because it is a State highway. We are blocked by the policies of the Aurora Merchants Association, which has a lot of influence. They do not want changes made. Perhaps in a number of years, changes can be made.

Two New Schools. Officer Gordon said he expected huge traffic problems with the two new schools with 1700 students with parents, especially since the unloading and loading of kids is going to take place on the Wallingford and Stone Avenues. It will be a mess.

Pawnshops. Officer Gordon was asked about pawnshops on Aurora and the pawning of stolen items. Residents are always urged to put serial numbers on their bikes and electronic equipment. If this is done, the police hold the items and the pawnbroker not sell those items, but the owners will get them back.

How to Contact Officer Gordon. Telephone 684-0799; e-mail david.gordon@seattle.gov. If you have an emergency though, be sure to call 911.

OLD BUSINESS.

Aurora-Licton Urban Village or A-LUV. Charles Bond reported that A-LUV are working on a website to publicize events. They were represented at the Celebrate North Seattle event this summer. They are working on a charter and once it is finalized and agreed upon it will be posted on the website. All four communities (Broadview, Haller Lake, Greenwood, Licton) are involved, with Rob Fellows of Greenwood perhaps the strongest driving force. They need to hear more from other neighborhoods. It was suggested that Seattle Transit Riders should be contacted regarding Aurora/ sidewalks. Meetings are held at The Lantern Brewery, 938 N. 95th Street, on the west side of Aurora. Upcoming meetings are on September 17th and 24th and they take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Halloween in the Park. Melanie Davies was not present, but sent word that she is already at work on Halloween in the Park. Thank you, Melanie!

Northwest District Council. Tom stated that the Council had not met since June, so there was no report at this time. The District 5 candidates will be assembled for a forum. Tom doesn't know the date yet, but when it's been determined, we can get the word out on our List Serve.

Pedestrian Bridge. There will be an open house regarding the Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge on October 15, 2015 beginning at 5:30 p.m. and continuing until 7:00 p.m. in the North Seattle College Multipurpose Room.¹ SDOT will talk about the selected bridge type and alignment, connections to other area transportation improvements, 30% design plans, and safety features. The TIGER grant is being reapplied for. Sound Transit is not cooperative at this point and small design items need to be worked out.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Beck, Secretary

PERSONAL\LSCC\2015\MINUTES\SEPTEMBER 16.DOCX

¹ Located on the first floor of the College Center Building on the southwest corner of campus. You may park in the North Visitor Lot near the intersection of N. 97th Street and College Way N. or the South Visitor Lot at N. 95th Street and College Way N. Signage will be posted.