

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Meeting, February 17, 2016  
NSCC Campus, OCE&E Building, Room 220B

Directors Present: Jan Brucker, Liz Kearns, Mike Cuadra, and Ellen Beck.

Visitors: Christa Dumpys (Department of Neighborhoods), Kathleen Braden (List Serve), Brigitte Ardea, Lauren Linscheid, Lisa Henry (website), and Fadi Salloum.

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

Minutes. The January 20, 2016 minutes were approved as presented.

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

Neighborhood Concerns. Brigitte Ardea reported that the prostitution/drug dealing/theft incidents occurring this past summer when Officer David Gordon came to the meeting were still going on. Things seemed to be stabilizing after Officer Gordon spoke to us and were generally quiet during the winter, but now things have gotten worse. There is a drug/prostitution encampment on Midvale between Aurora and Stone. On Next Door there are postings that lots of people are calling the police and not getting a response and nothing is happening (but making reports of the calls). She wonders what she can logically do next. She would like to do something now because things will surely get much worse this summer.

Mike Cuadra suggested coming with a group of neighbors repeatedly to the North Precinct Advisory Council meetings and voicing your problems and concerns. You have to keep showing up, not just coming once. Mike also told Brigitte that she could also contact Brendan Brophy of the City Attorney's office.

Jan requested that Brigitte forward the request she had received from Chief Kathleen O'Toole.

Kathleen Braden mentioned that once the new schools open, there will be another constituency appealing to the Police Department about things of this kind happening in the neighborhood.

Christa Dumpys suggested contacting the Public Safety Department and also forming a Block Watch. There is a new officer, Mary Amberg ([mary.amberg@seattle.gov](mailto:mary.amberg@seattle.gov)), who will help neighbors set up block watches. Officer Amberg has been in training, but Christa believed that she would be ready to help the public soon. She said it was important to take the steps that you can. Then you can reach out to the police and it's more effective. Brigitte acknowledged that she knows the police are underfunded and we don't have enough

officers. Christa said that officers always come to calls, but sometimes it is hours later. If enough calls come in from a certain part of a neighborhood it can prompt a patrol. Christa mentioned that block watch training involves developing good communication with the police and how to make reports in an efficient manner.

Jan mentioned what they did when they thought a house across the street had a drug and prostitution ring going on. Whenever the house was creating a disturbance, they got in the habit of calling the owner, no matter the time of the day/night. The lot on Midvale where the encampment is located is owned by someone.

Fadi Salloum came into the meeting. He is concerned about 94<sup>th</sup> between Aurora and Stone, where activity is happening in the alley. He did call 911 about problem, but nothing was done. Discussion followed. He was also urged to attend the North Precinct Advisory Council and present his problem.

Christa reported that the Mayor is going on Find It, Fix It Walks in some neighborhoods, including perhaps Licton Springs. If it happens in Licton Springs, we can talk with the Mayor and staff and show them these areas that are public safety concerns. Fadi said that he had made a report to Find It, Fix It.

Lauren Linscheid, lives at 87<sup>th</sup> and Corliss. She said that beginning this last year they are having troubles with stolen mail and cars being broken into, houses that have high numbers of unrelated people living in them. She said her husband saw a woman riding a bike in the early morning and stealing mail from mailboxes and putting it in her backpack. There are now several houses with large numbers of unrelated people living in them. She said the neighbors all communicate with each other. She wondered what else could be done. Discussion followed.

Block Watch training through the Police Department involves not just information/training to be more vigilant and how to correctly contact the police. They will come to your home and do a safety check and make recommendations to you for improving safety.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

District Office for District 5 Representative. Deborah Juarez has an office at the College. Jan said that she go down and meet her. Ms. Juarez will be here on Fridays, and other days a staff person would be in the office.

North Seattle College and LSCC Website: The Licton Springs Community Council website has been down. This is very frustrating for everyone.

Jan announced that she has met with the new Vice President at the College, Andrea Johnson. She sent Board members a summary of that meeting, which she had found disappointing. For the first time in 20 years of meeting at the College, we are now asked to pay for using space at the College. Jan said that Ms. Johnson is new and part of her duties at the College is to charge money from outside groups using the College when appropriate, where possible. We are being charged \$32.23, which was described as a cut rate charge. She promised to get back to Jan, but has not done so.

Kathleen told us that the College does have a mandate by statute to build community, including reaching outside “our institution to form local and global partnerships and pursue civic engagement.” In addition the Seattle College District notes “We value partnerships with . . . community organizations ...” Kathleen offered to help Jan write a letter to the College. Vice President Johnson can put the charge on the budget, but waive it. She can send us an invoice for every meeting, but waive it.

Liz Kearns mentioned that Mark Mitsui is on the list for Chancellor. He was the former President of the College.

Brigitte said that libraries have a meeting room that is free. Christa mentioned the new Meridian for Health. Perhaps there’s a meeting room there. Jan mentioned the meeting room at City Light Service Center.

Discussion followed. It was decided that Jan and Kathleen would work on a letter to the College since if we went somewhere else for our meetings, it would be letting the College off the hook for accommodating a community group.

Jan reported that Ms. Johnson did not know anything about our website. Liz said that she had met with a couple of young guys, one very new at the College, the other having been at the College for two years (Nico). The person “we” knew regarding the hosting of our website was Sam. He, after working at the College for many years, left six months ago and is now working somewhere in Olympia. He didn’t write down everything he did and other people didn’t know about the Franklin server (which hosted our website). Sam apparently did some things independent of the College, and unfortunately one of these was the Franklin server. Then, apparently, the room where the Franklin server was located became too hot and the Franklin server “died.” They have been trying to get things up and running ever since, but they didn’t realize the Franklin server existed. So nothing has been done to bring it back. Liz had a conference call with Nico and Dale Nelson which was very technical and so she turned communication with them over to Lisa. Lisa Henry said that Nico and Dale were talking about options, i.e., finding a new server. She hasn’t gotten any further information from them.

Kathleen said that she recommended removing the List Serve from the Franklin server (it had suddenly reappeared). She told us that it was only good for sending announcements and the newsletter. We really would benefit from having a database because when Kathleen gets a message to remove someone from the List Serve she's given a name, and the List Serve only contains email addresses. Discussion followed. It was agreed that we need to add name and address information with email addresses into a database, but we can build it gradually. Perhaps we could get a technology grant from the City to help build the database.

Go Daddy has website hosting for low cost. WildApricot.org specializes in having websites for nonprofits. Brigitte mentioned bwyse.com was a reasonable website host.

New Play Equipment for Licton Springs Park. Liz reported that Frank Robinson, architect for the Parks Department has money to do work at Licton Springs Park. The funds will be used to replace the biggest wooden structure in the play yard. They would like to come to our April meeting and will be sending out postcards to publicize the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS.**

Aurora Licton Urban Village ("ALUV"). Jan gave an update about ALUV. The grant for crosswalk treatments, with special colors and striping, has been submitted to the Park and Street Fund (\$90,000) of the Department of Neighborhoods. The crosswalks involved go from North 85<sup>th</sup> Street to 105<sup>th</sup>. This grant concerns safety and is needed because of the two new schools being built where Wilson Pacific formerly was located. The idea for the grant came from a meeting of the Capstone Studio.

The next meeting for ALUV is March 4, 2016<sup>1</sup> at the Lantern Brewery, 95<sup>th</sup> and Aurora. This is a new group, with more participants from the west side of Aurora than the east side, which is upset that the Neighborhood Plan from 1999 has never been addressed. The group is new to the business of being active. They want to come up with ways to clean up Aurora in all sorts of ways, and also make it safer for pedestrians to cross Aurora.

Capstone Studio Project - UW Architecture School Master Study. Liz and Jan talked about this project. Last month the meeting was on the UW Campus and next month's will also take place there. The architectural master students are encouraged to think outside the box. They are coming up with ideas for Licton Springs and Haller Park, although folks from Haller Park have not been attending the meetings, which focus on mobility, where do people drive, ride, or walk, and what barriers exist. The studies are focused on Licton Springs, Aurora, and Northgate Elementary School. They are putting together pictures of how things could be better. The meeting is from 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Gould Hall on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> If ALUV meets on Thursdays, then the next meeting date is March 3, 2016.

Conversation with Kate Joncas. Jan had a conversation with Kate Joncas at the City Neighborhood Council (“CNC”), which is taking a look at the comprehensive plan, and specifically the HALA provisions. Kate is the former head of the Downtown Association and is now a Deputy Mayor of Operations for the City. Jan talked to her about Licton Springs and Aurora.

Christa explained that the Department of Neighborhoods has a mandate to assess the CNC’s role in the new system. Changes are afoot.

HALA (Housing and Livability Agenda) has a big impact on neighborhoods because of zoning changes. Jan said the tension that exists from her standpoint is that present zoning already provides the ability to have denser housing, so why are changes being made to the zoning regulations? Liz explained that it was her understanding that the single family zoning around the College was to ensure that this area did not become another “U District.” Unfortunately, it is already happening. Jan pointed out that the HALA meetings are very important for us to attend. The police cannot respond to all calls in the neighborhood now, with higher density, it will only get worse. We don’t have the infrastructure or transportation for yet higher density.

Northwest District Council. Jan reported she had attended the Northwest District Council as our representative, but sadly there was no agenda. People talked about why they were there.

Problems at Licton Springs Park. There are problems at the Park with people using drugs and leaving needles, and prostitutes using the bathrooms to change clothes and shoot up. They spend a lot of time in the stalls and mothers won’t let their children go into the bathrooms when they are there.

North Precinct. Mike announced that there will be a class on handling syringes on Saturday, February 20, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at the University Masonic Lodge, 4338 University Way N.E. They will be giving out Sharps boxes. The Parks Department is overwhelmed with the needles, and it’s really a public health issue.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Beck, Secretary

