

-- IN THIS ISSUE --

SPECIAL ON SEWARD SCHOOL CLOSURE

- FROM A SEWARD SCHOOL STUDENT..... Abbie Reiss
- FROM AN ARCHITECT David Wright, AIA
- FROM THE SEWARD SCHOOL PTSA..... Marilyn Kavanaugh

TWO ARTICLES FROM ANITA KLAPPER

- ROANOKE REEF AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION
- SHORELINES MANAGEMENT & WETA

S-E-W-A-R-D

Mr. Troxel and Mr. Alexander,

I have one more year to stay at Seward.
My younger sister has three.
I'm speaking for my sister and I.

I've been in Seward since kindergarten
and my sister was in Mrs. Worcester's
this year (1st grade).

Seward is very convenient for us
for it's $3\frac{1}{2}$ blocks from our house.
Please keep Seward running.

thank you,
(signed)
ABBIE REISS
SHELLEY REISS

The Plant

At a time when we don't know where we're going, it's comforting to know where we've been. The three "layers" of Seward School buildings provide a charming record of that journey. The elegant arched entrance porch on East Louisa graces a modest wood-frame structure which pre-dates the invention of the airplane by 10 or 15 years (and is the oldest of Seattle school buildings according to Victor Steinbrueck). The imposing brick building with Renaissance overtones was built by workmen whistling "Lili Marlene", "The Yanks are Coming", and other World War I martial tunes. Long, sleek Packards and Dusenbergs motor-ed along an uncrowded Eastlake Avenue as the quasi-tudor addition was built above the playfield during the 1920's.

Although dissimilar in style, all three buildings share a richness of detail which allows them to relate comfortably with the community and each other. None are especially distinguished works of architecture, but each is representative of its time and as a group they form a fascinating variety of spaces and textures, an ideal setting for self-discovery by small people.

It would be enormously destructive if this school ceases to be a focus for community activities. Families with children would be encouraged to relocate and new families would hesitate to move in. It would be a giant step toward creating another of Seattle's faceless apartment slums. The suggestion that there are not enough students to warrant partial use of the school is a bit of bureaucratic expediency based on the computer rather than the community.

-dave wright-

SEWARD SCHOOL CLOSURE

PUBLIC HEARING
 MONDAY, AUGUST 19th, 1974 - 7 P.M.
 at Seward School

Notice from the Seward School PTSA & Save Seward Committee (323-6031):

Seward School is Fighting for its life. The battle rages over whether citizens can have some real say about their schools. Can school boards reduce the size of schools by changing the grade levels from kindergarten through eighth, then cutting to sixth grade and finally in 1970, to kindergarten through 4th...and then close the school because of declining enrollment? At Seward they have compounded the problem by removing "Special Education" classes and (by) no longer sending voluntary racial transfer students from the Horace Mann (Garfield) area.

.....Summit, Cascade, Horace Mann and Broadway High School have all been closed and now the plan is to close Seward and Sell the Site. effective the 1975-76 school year....

The State Environmental Protection Act was drafted and enacted into law to avoid irreparable damage to communities by careless planning. Closing a school causes people with school age children to move away. This can affect property values...(and)...reduces the tax base...

A neighborhood school is used for many community purposes and is a particularly unifying force in our area which has concrete ribbons tied across it. Seward is currently and historically an outstanding school: Students score well on city-wide tests, parents began the Choice-Friday Club Enrichment Program, which has spread to many other schools, and they painted the Library and Lunchroom with bright super-graphics last winter.

The School Board seems to be racing toward closing schools to show "Fiscal Responsibility" before presenting a wide-ranging bond issue in the fall.....

One 'simulated computer projection' plan assigns Cascade & Eastlake Community students to Lowell School (1058 Mercer) those north of Roanoke and East of the reeway (Roanoke-Port-Portage Bay) to Latona and Students south of Roanoke and east of the freeway (North B'way) to Montlake. Extensive bussing would seem to be necessary....

The Seward area feels the School district and School Board have not kept faith with them. Over the years, Seward has been promised remodeling (the '66 bond issue), a new combined Seward-Montlake Facility, that closure would not take place until "comparable or better" facilities were available and that all students would be housed together. The school administration appears to have been hesitant or negligent in approaching the Highway Department regarding legal action to adequately soundproof the brick building nearest the freeway!

Last year the Board asked community response and received a thunderous reply: DON'T CLOSE SEWARD SCHOOL. THIS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR COMMUNITY! This year the School Board expects to decide on the closure of seven schools - Seward included - by August 28th (7 working days after the Seward Hearing, Aug 19th). As of this date, it has not spelled out clear-cut criteria and doesn't appear to be considering the EIS at all.

SCHOOL BOARD/COMMUNITY MEETING: Monday, August 19, 7 PM. Bring your neighbor and come air your views regarding "closure and consolidation" with the School Board at Seward School (Between Roanoke and Louisa, Boylston and Franklin)

ROANOKE REEF

As you recall, on November 8th a Planning Commission Hearing was held on a conditional use permit for five (5) variances to allow for the construction of Roanoke Reef. At that time an Environmental Impact Statement was issued. This EIS was not, in the opinion of our attorney, a complete evaluation of the total impact of the building to be located on Roanoke Bay in the Eastlake Community.

One reason we hold this position is because the EIS covers only the impact of the building and does not include an evaluation of the impact of the pilings and platform and what the project from beginning to end could mean to Lake Union and the Eastlake Community.

Following the State Supreme Court comment in December, when they footnoted their July decision, there rose even stronger reasons to prepare a statement on the impact of the total project. We were led to believe that such an EIS would be prepared.

We have now learned that as a result of a "policy decision", the final draft will not only be incomplete in some rather serious areas, but it will be prepared without the required 30 day period for responses from the impacted area. Our position remains that we have not had a complete and proper preliminary draft to evaluate. We can therefore not respond to the draft that was issued last fall.

This final EIS is used by the Department of Community Development to determine whether or not to issue a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit. The EIS is used by the City Council in their determination whether or not to issue the Conditional Use Permit and the five (5) requested variances of the Reef Associates.

There will be another meeting before the Planning Commission on August 22d at 2pm. The final decision will be made by the City Council. The community will be notified as to the scheduling of these city hearings. Community attendance at public hearings indicates the degree of community interest and involvement in the opposition to this particular project - as if two trips to the Supreme Court indicate nothing - and if in this, you care what they decide for your community. Letters also help. "ak"

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Concerning Roanoke Reef

Thursday, AUG 22nd at 2P.M.

SHORELINES MANAGEMENT & WETA

The Shorelines Master Program went before the Planning Commission on Thursday, July 11th and will soon be presented to the City Council. The draft presented to the commission represented some changes from the original program completed in January.

Significant changes were made in the area of goals and policies, these were generally diluted and applied to different parts of the draft. The Citizen Advisory Committee and other SMP supporters feel that the proposed changes weaken the document as a whole and asked that the original goals and policies be reinstated.

The reorganization of the draft proposals has made the document more understandable and in places less open to interpretation, but we hope that the general long and short term recommendations carry as much compelling force (both moral and legal) as the Department of Community Development has promised - and that they will furnish the degree of protection of Seattle's shorelines as the proposed ordinance previously stated.

A "Work Program" has also been proposed. This is essentially a list of pending projects concerned with short-term and long-range planning. Insight or something seems to be lacking in some areas such as the long-range category, which included a piece on the preparation of "site development performance standards and other appropriate criteria for developers". This we feel should be faced immediately, rather than in the long term. Developers must have clear guidelines or the controversy is destined to continue over the optimum use of shorelines and shorelands. Another point in the "Work Program" concerns the "review and update (of the) master program as needed". The first draft outlined clearly what should be done and by whom; and stress was placed on continuing citizen involvement in the process. These specifics should not have been diluted. Final legislation will have to correct this error.

The Western Environmental Trade Assoc. (WETA) is a faceless group of powerful property and business interests. It has submitted an alternative plan for Lake Union to the Planning Commission. While this group had some helpful suggestions as to organization, they were essentially opposed to the height and bulk restrictions on the lake. Lake Union should be reclassified "urban development" rather than the "urban stable" it now is according to spokesmen for WETA. The height and bulk restrictions were however maintained by the Planning Commission, as was the "urban stable" status.

In the past we have experienced the results of the city policy of zoning toward "highest and best use". Higher density and maximum use does not result necessarily in the best use or the better interest of the community. The Shorelines Management Act calls for "optimum use" of the shorelines, including those designated urban. Optimum use must be defined by the Lake Union community, and that which encroaches on that community must be scrutinized with care. The SMP was developed largely by members of the Lake Union community, let those who come after help, not hinder.

There is a lot of work that remains and it is essential to have community support. The ordinance as it is written is a fairly good beginning in legislating a plan to protect the 78.5 miles of Seattle Shorelines. If you would like a copy of the draft of the Shorelines Master Plan, call the DCD at 583-2930. We will try to inform you of the hearing date. -ak-

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For further information about the proposed Seward School Closure and the School Board/Community meeting Aug 19th contact:

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- Yosh Aoki 325-1598
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