

This rather lengthy broadsheet concerns the forthcoming Seattle City Charter which is to be on the ballot March 26. This is the beginning of the Eastlake Community's activities regarding the City Charter. The degree to which the community will be effective is open to question, but that the level of influence exercised, as being dependent on energy expended, is beyond the area of further consideration. The Reef has taught us that some things don't take care of themselves.

THE CHARTER The Constitution of the State of Washington (Art. 11, sec. 10) and the Revised Code (RCW, 35) establish and outline the relationships of city to state. The charter provides the government structure of the city, and while establishing its function and purpose, it implies the aspirations and goals of the community. The governmental organization of the city is to be defined by the citizens in compliance with the laws of the state.

To re-write the charter, fifteen freeholders (registered voters) are elected. These members are to take testimony from interested citizens, city officials, and specialists in areas of municipal government. The meetings are to be open. The information gathered will be assembled in the judgement of the freeholders and submitted to the population for acceptance or rejection. The present charter was accepted in 1946. Much has changed and the charter has been amended on a regular basis since. These changes, say some, have made the document inefficient and out-moded, with overlapping functions at different levels of government.

BACKGROUND To change the charter has been on the minds of interested Seattleites for some time. In 1971 a Charter Review Committee was established through the office of the mayor. They proposed that the Treasurer, the Comptroller and the Corporation Council be appointed since their functions are not primarily representative; that the council be expanded and elected by district; and that the flow of information from public bodies to the body politic was not satisfactory via a "Official City Newspaper", now the Daily Journal of Commerce. They also suggested the election of neighborhood liasons to work between the communities and city hall, and that the charter should include a preamble expressing the responsibilities and rights of Seattle citizens.

CONTACTS The National Municipal League has published a Guide for Charter Commissions and A Model City Charter. Their office is located in the Central Bldg (622-8333). CHECC's activities are now in committee. Eban Carlson is the president (622-1363). The League of Women Voters has been a motivating force in charter revision. Council members Lamphere, Williams and Chapman have expressed interest. Our Seattle-King County Association of Community Councils - they are in the Warren Reading Foundation Bldg. at 4261 Roosevelt (632-1367) - will coordinate community council efforts in conjunction with the Central Seattle Community Council Federation (322-7100). Copies of the present charter are available at the office of the City Clerk.

DEMOCRACY Many will file for the office of freeholder, the issues to follow will be both subtle and complex. This is the time to begin informing yourself so that when the candidates present themselves you will be able to choose from among the anonimiti. Six months of open meetings follow, attend as many a you can. Someone should be speaking on this at the next meeting. Please submit your suggestions concerning the charter to the Secretary, ECC for the consideration and action of the membership.

PS if someone asks you if the Seattle Charter has something to do with busses please take the time to explain that their's is only a small part...

NEW WINE SHOP

In case you haven't noticed, we have a new wine shop in the area. It's called "Cork 'n Bottle", and it's at 2241 Eastlake (between the barber shop and the tackle shop). Bob and Laurel Bowens and Fred Kreeman are the owners who opened the shop on Dec. 7. They're aiming for an informal atmosphere with a wide selection of domestic and imported wines and imported beers at reasonable prices. Bob, who is an engineer for IBM and lives in the Eastlake district, says they enjoy wines and decided to open a shop that would provide information, too. So, there's a stack of reference books in the corner, and if they can't answer your question, they'll try to find the answer. They also have glassware and wine accessories and will help you plan a wine-tasting party.

Welcome to Eastlake!

- (2) Pursue the petition campaign
- (3) Urge other groups to pass resolutions opposing Roanoke Reef and send them to Dep't of Community Development and the City Council
- (4) Turn out in full force at any hearings held before issuance of a Shorelines management permit or zoning variances

City's Shorelines Master Plan:

A citizen's advisory committee has completed drafting a Shorelines Master Plan for Seattle, and there will be a hearing on January 24 at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers before the council votes on its adoption. We'll have a copy at the ECC meeting and someone will explain its application to Lake Union.

Valentine's Dance and Auction:

This should have dual benefits-- an enjoyable community gathering and a money-raising affair to help pay off what we hope is our final legal bill on Roanoke Reef. Be thinking of goods or services you would like to offer for auction. Sailing lessons, plants, babysitting, changing the oil on a car, catering a dinner party, music..... We hope to hold it on February 16.

City Charter Freeholders Election:

We need responsible individuals to draft a new city charter, as discussed in another article in this newsletter.

Information on bikeway progress:

What's happened since the November meeting with the people doing the planning?

Membership Drive:

Finally, nothing can be done in our community without the support and efforts of the people who live here. We're launching an intensive membership drive, and we need lots of help to gather memberships and the issues which people feel need ECC efforts.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY--

Winter has put its playful stamp on the houseboat community. After a very dry summer, the steady rainfall filled up several untended small boats and caused the sinking of one 18' Cris-Craft cruiser, which, however, remained tied by one stern line to a houseboat at 2321 Fairview. When George Johnston arrived at the scene, the transom was just barely visible under several feet of water. George slaved the sunken boat with the aid of a diver and some pumps.

When 65 mph winds struck the area several weeks ago, old, worn tie-up chains were put to the test and numerous parted company. Staples pulled out of logs at Dave Raney's house on 2017, and his floating home came completely loose from the north side of the dock. Mike Taylor's, Jim Brawn's, and Priscilla Smith's houseboats had similar difficulties which had to be tended to at the height of the storm. Priscilla Smith, whose home is on the north side of the end of 2019, came partly detached from the dock due to a ruptured camel log chain. Priscilla's gangplank dropped over into the abyss, so she spent the night at Jean Giglis' houseboat. Greg Smith, Virgil Robinson, David Denny, Ken Hopper, Kim Hoelting, and Ed DuPras, Pat Scott, and myself helped secure houses to the dock and restore hose connections. Greg Smith put in a bad night on 2017 getting Raney's house under control and David Denny and Virgil got Priscilla into her house again. No sooner did the wind leave us than we got hit with the freeze and several houseboats froze up, including Kim Hoelting's toilet.

Once there was no shortage of rain, the Corps of Army Engineers reduced the level of the lake to its usual low winter level so people can have a look at their fixed docks and bulkheads. It is now at its lowest level, or we would have sustained considerable shoreline damage in the big winds. The Peoples' Park bulkhead appears to be holding up satisfactorily on its foundation of gravel and broken cement blocks.

The Peoples' Park now has an adequate supply of timbers to finish the construction of the bulkhead and to lay a foundation for a gazebo, thanks to the gift of lumber by Kim Hoelting of the Discovery Bay Salvage Co. We just have to raise money to reimburse him for the truck rental, and the ferry tolls expense he incurred. Any one wishing to donate money for the Peoples Park should send it care of the Eastlake Community Council. Anyone wishing to work on Saturday mornings on the Peoples' Park should look for notices at the entrances to docks 2017, 2019, and 2025 or check with your correspondent at Ea 5-9333.

The lake is reported at this time to be the cleanest in memory. The usual winter residents have taken up occupancy, namely the greben, shoveler duck, and coots. Cormorants have been seen at the south end and greater and lesser Scaups are seen regularly. Anita Klapper discovered an American Bittern at the foot of Boston street, and Julie North reports a King fisher visits her dock regularly.-- Marty Klapper