

EASTLAKE NEWS

March General Meeting: ECC Elections and Lake Union History

The next general meeting of the Eastlake Community Council will be on Tuesday, March 28, starting promptly at 6:45 p.m. Note the new location: The NOAA Base, 1801 Fairview East, 2nd floor conference room (NE corner of the 2nd floor). Enter the base through the guard's gate.

The meeting will have two primary themes. We'll complete the elections for our 1989-90 officers and board of directors, and update you on the Council's recent activities. Then we'll present a program on the history of Lake Union.

Did you know that Lake Union was once called Tenas Chuck? That the lake was once much larger and higher than it is today? That the first Boeing plane took off from Lake Union in 1915? Or that it was once used as a storage basin for mothballed warships? The ECC welcomes James R. Warren, prominent local historian and P-I columnist, who will describe Lake Union's colorful past as it evolved from a wilderness lake to a working lake, to today's mix of uses.

This issue of the Eastlake News...

...covers many important ongoing issues affecting the Eastlake community. There are articles on:

- Proposals for the I-5/520 interchange
- A change for the better at 2048 Fairview
- The new Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- A dubious "land swap" affecting the Steam Plant
- The potential impacts of light rail

as well as our usual Neighborhood Notes and the latest on the Community Council, neighborhood planning, and more.

Eastlake News is distributed free to residents of the Eastlake Community and members of the Council.

Newsletter Editor:
Martin Cobb

Community Council Notes

Elections. The interim board of the ECC has completed its work, and we are now ready for new officers and a new board of directors to take over for 1989-90.

The following nominations have been made for **ECC Officers** for the coming year:

1. President: Chris Leman.
2. Vice-President: Lynn Poser.
3. Treasurer: Carol Eychaner.
4. Historian: Linda Phillips.

We urgently need a nomination for the position of **Secretary** -- whose primary duties are to take minutes at board meetings, distribute them to board members, and inform board members and others of upcoming meetings. If you're interested, please call Carol Eychaner at 324-1716, or come forward at the General Meeting.

The following have also been nominated and agreed to serve as at-large **Board Members**:

1. Dick Arnold.
2. Mark Blatter
3. Martin Cobb.
4. Clarice Coker.
5. Jules James.
6. Janet Lapeyrouse.

Election ballots for ECC members are enclosed with this newsletter, and should be returned to our new address (see next item); they can also be submitted at the meeting, where we'll accept any additional nominations for each position.

We're excited about the nominations -- and we hope you are too. It looks like the ECC will have strong and experienced leadership during the coming year.

New ECC address. Lake Union Mail proprietor Jules James' Christmas present to the ECC was Mailbox #1, permanently reserved for the Eastlake Community Council.

Our new address is: 117 East Louisa St., Box #1, Seattle, WA 98102. Many thanks to Jules.

Successful Holiday Party and Auction. In mid-December, Bernadine Smith's house held the fifth annual holiday party and auction. With donations from over 60 local businesses and individuals, the auction raised \$1800 for the Community Council.

Many thanks to Bernadine, auctioneer Dick Arnold, organizers including Chris Leman, Clarice Coker and Lynn Poser, and to everyone who helped make the event a great success.

Volunteers Needed. The ECC depends on a small army of volunteers to keep running. We are only as effective as you help make us. Here are some suggested tasks.

Local issues: All could use your time and talents. They include traffic and parking issues, zoning, land use projects, neighborhood planning, Seward School, and street trees.

Elderly Needs Survey: Study the social and housing needs of Eastlake's elderly, and recommend possible support services.

Membership Coordinator: We need a volunteer to recruit new members and maintain the membership list.

Newsletter duties: The *Eastlake News* needs your help in a number of areas, including:

- Data entry and production.
- Coordination of advertising.
- Mailings: We need a volunteer to mail the newsletter to members, until Marie Kuntz is fit enough to resume this role.
- Distribution coordinator: We need a volunteer to coordinate local newsletter deliveries.
- Delivery persons: The newsletter takes about an hour to deliver to a block or two in your area.

Local history. In an ongoing effort to chronicle the history of Eastlake, we are looking for such items as the following: old photographs of Eastlake, including buildings that no longer exist, such as those in the path of I-5; records or clippings about the old North Broadway-Eastlake Community Club; and anything else of historical interest. Call Chris at 322-5463.

Terry Pettus. Martin Cobb is preparing a biography of Terry Pettus (1904-84), lifetime activist who led the battle to save Lake Union's floating homes in the 1960s. Your recollections of this remarkable man are very welcome: call Martin at 324-1716. A future ECC general meeting will be devoted to Terry, including the documentary about him made by local filmmaker John de Graaf.

Thanks from the editor for contributions to this newsletter go especially to Chris Leman and Carol Eychaner; also to Linda Phillips, Chris Zenner, Jules James, and Lynn Poser.

Highway Wars

Last October, a coalition of community groups and state legislators forced the state Dept. of Transportation (DOT) to withdraw two hastily prepared and poorly analyzed proposals: construction of a high-level reversible ramp connecting SR-520 with I-5, and restriping I-5 from Olive Way to 520 to create a new High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane. The projects would do little to resolve the 520 bottleneck.

The Eastlake, Montlake, and Roanoke Park/Portage Bay community councils joined with the Seattle Community Council Federation and 12 Seattle-area state legislators to fight the proposals. "We're unable to satisfy community concerns," said a DOT official as withdrawal of the projects was announced.

As the members of the coalition feared, that wasn't the end of it. Metro revived the proposals in January. Since then the proposal for the reversible ramp has been dropped, under continued pressure from the coalition, but the Metro Council is still calling for the HOV lane from Olive Way to 520. Others have raised the idea of physically widening 520. The Puget Sound Council of Governments is currently examining the issue along with representatives from the communities and the City.

The ECC believes the projects -- which would bring still more traffic to our neighborhood -- should not be raised until some important things have been done first: Thorough examination of how to moderate the existing traffic impacts (such as looking into Don Myers' 1972 suggestion of a lid over the I-5/520 interchange); and comprehensive land-use planning for future growth and its anticipated effects, with emphasis on alternative, non-structural solutions for reducing traffic congestion -- such as bridge tolls, workplace changes like flexible hours, and Metro ridership incentives.

Also, the state legislature is currently considering various proposals to increase the gas tax to fund more highway construction. Few of these bills provide funds for mitigation of highway impacts or for reducing congestion. Our legislators need to hear from us that no fuel tax increase for construction should be considered unless resolution of existing problems and comprehensive planning for the future receive their due. Write soon to: Sen. Janice Niemi, Legislative Office Building, Olympia, WA 98504; and to Reps. Jesse Wineberry and Calvin Anderson, House Office Building, Olympia, WA 98504; or make a free call on the legislature's hotline, 1-800-562-6000.

If you have questions, call the ECC transportation co-chairs: Chris Leman (322-5463) and Chris Zenner (323-4484).

Master Plan Needed For New Fred Hutch Center

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center recently announced its intent to locate a new campus-like facility on a triangular piece of land south of the Steam Plant between Eastlake and Fairview, with Aloha St. forming the south border of the site. The first phase of a three-phase development (to be completed in 10 years) will occupy about 10 acres of an originally proposed 23-acre parcel.

Considering the size of the presently proposed facility and its expected long-term growth, its location at the southeast corner of Lake Union is expected to have significant impacts on surrounding neighborhoods, including Eastlake.

Increased traffic in the already difficult Mercer corridor is an immediate concern. The Eastlake/Lynn/Boylston connection, increasingly congested during peak traffic hours, provides the only alternative direct route between I-5 and the new center. Vehicle traffic would increase on these and other Eastlake streets, and the parking situation could become even worse as more people seek out Eastlake streets to use as a park-and-ride lot. There will also be pressure to develop Eastlake further for commercial uses and multi-family housing.

Although there are arguably many benefits associated with the Fred Hutch relocation, the above impacts must be addressed.

What can the Eastlake community do? Urge Fred Hutch and the City to develop a Master Plan, and participate in its preparation.

Fred Hutch is currently part of the Swedish Hospital Master Plan, and its development and operation at its current location must be in accordance with this plan. However, Fred Hutch has clearly stated it will not go through the Master Planning process, required for major institutions, at its new location. Instead, it has volunteered to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

But an EIS is not enough. A Master Plan is essential for the new facility. It is needed to discuss and mitigate the impacts of the development, to successfully integrate it with the existing neighborhoods, and to plan for the **facility's anticipated future needs.**

We strongly encourage Eastlake residents to join the ECC in calling for the Master Plan, and commenting on the EIS. Send comments and questions to Dennis McLerren, Director, Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use, 400 Municipal Building, Seattle 98104. Watch also for information on a likely upcoming meeting between the Community Council and Fred Hutch representatives, and plan to attend.

Neighborhood Notes

Lake Union Mail. Among the subjects of the ECC's 1986 community survey was: Which retail stores would you like to see in Eastlake?. #1 on the local wish-list was a post office.

Eastlake's Jules James is answering the call. This month Jules will open Lake Union Mail, the corner of Eastlake and E. Louisa.

It will be a private mail service. Lake Union Mail will rent mailboxes; sell packaging materials; provide package pickup and delivery services; sell office supplies and greeting cards; provide voter registration; and offer other services such as a fax machine, key duplication, and recycling. Check it out!

Bluebirds in Eastlake? The western bluebird once frequented this neighborhood, but its numbers dwindled with the loss of nesting cavities and with fierce competition from English sparrows. But now, throughout the Northwest, bluebirds are coming back as thousands of birdhouses specially designed for them are being set out. Although bluebirds are most drawn to rural areas, several were sighted in Eastlake last summer; let's do all we can to welcome them back.

For instructions on building and maintaining a bluebird house, or to report any sightings, write to "Bluebirds," 85 E. Roanoke St., Seattle 98102. The Audubon Society at 524-3599 would also like to hear about the sightings.

The Lake Union Review. We want to send our thanks to editor and writer James Bush, publisher Terry Denton, and all the contributors to the newspaper *The Lake Union Review*. The paper does a consistently good job of covering relevant and interesting issues, and provides a much-needed service to Lake Union's communities.

Cascade CC returns to action. After many years of dormancy, the neighborhood just south of Eastlake is again becoming politically active. Issues facing Cascade include the coming Greyhound terminal at Denny and Pontius; the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center relocation; and potential changes to I-5 affecting our neighborhoods (see related stories).

An illustration of Cascade's problems is that a city environmental assessment judged the added noise of the bus terminal to be inconsequential because the noise from I-5 would cover it up!

The Eastlake Community Council salutes its sister organization. We face many challenges, and we look forward to working together often in the future.

Neighborhood Planning Update

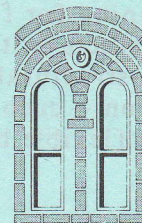
From the first meetings of the Lake Union District Council, neighborhood planning was identified as a high priority. A draft joint neighborhood planning proposal, prepared by interested citizens for neighborhoods in the Lake Union district, has been available for several months. During the upcoming weeks, the Lake Union communities will decide if they will go forward with the joint concept of this proposal, in which *all* the neighborhoods participate at the same time, or revise it to reflect a smaller number of Lake Union communities participating in the initial effort.

Neighborhood planning can involve any and all aspects of our communities, including: zoning, human needs and services, cultural and recreational opportunities, urban design, public improvements, environmental quality, school and other public facility reuse, historical research, and transportation. Neighborhood planning is important to anyone interested in dealing with Eastlake's concerns in a public and comprehensive process, and *we urge residents and business owners to be involved in this process.*

If you have any questions about the draft joint proposal and neighborhood planning in Eastlake, please call Carol Eychaner at 324-1716.

Wanted

Part-time data entry specialist. Very flexible hours. Call Rhonda Clark, Management Recruiters, 2510 Fairview: 328-0936.



**Alexander
& Ventura**

1215 Seneca Street
Seattle, Washington 98101
206/382-0384

2048 Fairview East

We have reached agreement with Shelter Ventures and the City of Seattle, and will begin construction of 12 townhouse units in March, with completion expected in September, 1989. This replaces the 25 units previously approved for the site. In order to minimize inconvenience to our neighbors, we will schedule construction work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. As construction progresses, we will post signs to provide you with as much notice as possible regarding events which may affect or inconvenience you. If you wish to have any further information about the project or have any questions we might answer, please contact Linda Alexander at 382-0384.

Best Wishes to Marie Kuntz

Eastlake resident and Community Council stalwart since the 1940s, Marie Kuntz has not been well lately. In February she returned home after a bout in the hospital. How about getting in contact with Marie? She'd love to hear from her neighbors and friends. And everyone in the Council wishes Marie the very best for a rapid improvement in health.

The Dark Side of Light Rail

A light-rail network for Seattle has been talked about since the Bogue Plan of 1911. Nothing has yet been implemented; rapid transit bond issues were defeated by the voters in 1968 and 1970. But the idea continues to have support in various quarters.

Light rail may have many potential benefits for the region as a whole. But as with the construction of I-5, neighborhoods would have to pay the price, and Eastlake would likely be one of them. A significant number of homes would have to be destroyed.

According to a Puget Sound Council of Governments study, a probable route proceeds initially underground "north under the Boylston Avenue E. right-of-way. Subway configuration extends to a point north of Franklin Avenue E., where the alignment ascends to an aerial configuration, crosses Eastlake Avenue E. and turns east under the I-5 Ship Canal bridge."

In other words, Eastlake would be fundamentally altered forever. More on this subject when -- and if -- it develops.

Alexander and Ventura Replaces Shelter Ventures at 2048 Fairview

ECC's three-year opposition to Shelter Ventures' proposed apartment complex at Fairview and Boston was the catalyst behind the development company's recent decision to call it quits and sell the property.

After ECC appeals to City Council and the courts, Shelter Ventures negotiated a settlement with the ECC that reduced the size of the project and also improved relations between the two feuding parties. By the time ECC concerns were resolved, Shelter was no longer certain there was a market for the type of development it proposed. As a result, the property was sold to Alexander and Ventura, a partnership owned by two women best known for their renovations of schools and other older buildings.

Shelter Ventures' loss is Eastlake's gain. Alexander and Ventura had their own idea of what should be developed on the huge corner lot. Much to the delight (and utter disbelief!) of many Eastlake residents who opposed the Shelter Ventures project, Alexander and Ventura proposed 12 sensitively designed "Mission-style" townhouses, two stories high with pitched roofs and terraced gardens. Although not without controversy (Alexander and Ventura will be constructing a wall around portions of the project), the project represents an outcome worthy of the three-year community effort that preceded it. A revised settlement agreement has been signed by the ECC, Alexander and Ventura, and the City, and groundbreaking for the project will begin soon.

If you'd like a copy of the plans for the new project, call Carol Eychaner at 324-1716.

Membership Application

YES!!! I want to help take care of Eastlake. My dues are enclosed for membership in the Eastlake Community Council (1 year membership).

This is a NEW RENEWAL Membership.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

- DUES: Household (\$15)
 Sr. Citizen (\$10)
 Business (\$40)

Make check or money order payable to:
Eastlake Community Council

Mail to: ECC Membership
117 E. Louisa St., Box #1
Seattle, Washington 98102

Steam Plant: City Wheels and Deals Its Way Toward a Land Swap

"The City never made any commitment to a public process."

This was Parks Department Director Holly Miller's response when questioned about recent land swap rumors. According to local newspapers and one Eastlake resident in-the-know, the City was secretly dealing away the Steam Plant in exchange for more land at the South Lake Union park. Miller told the ECC that negotiations were in the early feasibility stage and that the City was not optimistic the deal with Lake Union Air, owner of the property coveted by the City, would go through.

Deal or no deal, the future of the Steam Plant should not be based on a deal cut behind closed doors. Too many individuals, groups and communities have expressed strong interest in how the unique, historic building should be redeveloped. In fact, contrary to Miller's earlier statement defending the secret process, the Dept. of Community Development last year appointed two Eastlake residents to serve on a Citizen Advisory Committee focusing on the Steam Plant's next use. According to Mark Blatter, one of the Committee appointees, no meeting has ever been called.

So, what will happen to the Steam Plant if the City trades it away to Lake Union Air? We don't know -- it's a secret.

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