

Free-Take One

Eastlake
Community
Council

117 E. Louisa St.
Box # 1
Seattle, WA
98102

March 1995



Eastlake News

Coming Events

- March 22** -- Shoreline park planning for new Fairview-Olmstead Park, near Shelby Street & P-Patch 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Wednesday at Seattle Police Officers Guild, 2517 Eastlake Ave.
- March-April** -- Survey on Residential Parking Zone to be distributed.
- April 17-23** -- Proposals for Gateway Art Project will be displayed

Gateway Art Project

A neighborhood art project is being planned for the triangle of land at the intersection of Eastlake and Fairview avenues. When complete, it will serve as a landmark for the south entrance to Eastlake -- in the spirit of Fremont's troll, but with a character more our own. When ZymoGenetics renovated the steam plant, the company built the walkway and wharf which we now enjoy. This walkway project was used as the match for the Department of Neighborhoods Semi-Annual Fund 1994. Joy Huber and John Schwartz started the drive to develop and win a Neighborhood Matching Grant of \$43,000 from the City of Seattle. The Gateway Project was one of 32 community projects awarded funds. Eventually project coordinators hope to link the pocket parks along Lake Union from ZymoGenetics to the University Bridge by a pedestrian and bicycle trail, with the Gateway Project as the southern anchor. A 5-member jury is selecting the artwork in a competition. Final proposals will be displayed for public comment April 17-23.

Eastlake Development Planned

A four-story residential and commercial building is being planned for the intersection of Eastlake and Hamlin. The development company, Val Thomas Inc., met with Eastlake neighbors in February to discuss the plan. The property is currently vacant and was the former site of a Chevron station. The plans call for 34 apartments above street-level retail and restaurant space. The architect compared the new building design to several buildings that currently border Eastlake and he said the new building will be more attractive than most of what we have now. Residents who live uphill from the new building expressed concerns about its impact on their views. The project must still go through city planning approval and a ground-breaking date is unknown.

Good Neighbor Passes

Goodbye to Treasurer Lorraine Hards. Eastlake and its community council lost a good friend Jan. 9 with the death of Lorraine Alice Hards. A longtime Franklin Avenue resident and apartment owner, Lorraine had just been elected ECC treasurer. She also had served as treasurer of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Lorraine was born in Minneapolis, and had been a Seattle resident since 1942. Donations in her memory may be made to Northwest Hospice Center at Northwest Hospital, or to Children's Hospital.

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

Parking Survey Expected

Are you happy with the RPZ?

The Residential Parking Zone Committee of Eastlake residents is working with the Seattle Engineering Department to prepare a survey on the effectiveness of the RPZ restrictions. The survey culminates the six-month trial period for the neighborhood on-street parking permit program, and will be used to determine if the current rules need to be modified. The survey will be distributed to residents in March or early April.

The current restrictions were designed by the Engineering Department as a compromise, with the understanding that a survey would be used after the RPZ had been in place for six months to recommend any changes. Thus, community evaluation and feedback will be critical to determining the best RPZ rules for Eastlake. Residents are encouraged to make careful observations of the daytime and nighttime parking conditions with the RPZ (are there enough parking spaces available or are spaces still hard to find?) Some of the survey questions will focus on specific concerns that have been raised by some community members, including the nighttime restrictions and what should be done for those streets that have parking on only one side.

Meanwhile, we have heard from City personnel that nighttime enforcement has been sporadic, primarily because of staff shortages and other priorities. If you observe ongoing RPZ violations--daytime or nighttime--that make parking on your block difficult, you can report the violations by calling the parking enforcement division of the Police Department at 386-9012. Be sure to explain that you are in the Eastlake Residential Parking Zone.

--Chris Leman

Art With Trolley Plan Discussed

A Northern Neighborhood Gateway?

Artist Carolyn Law and Andrea Tull of Metro, attended ECC meetings recently to present a plan for artwork in the Eastlake neighborhood, which could be installed as part of an Eastlake trolley, electrified bus, extension project. As proposed, the project includes colorful paintings on five of the large metal poles that must be installed to hold the trolley cable. The poles that would receive custom paintings could form a northern gateway artwork for the neighborhood. The overhead cables that will form a web above that intersection could also be decorated with artwork, according to the artist. Other poles along Eastlake Avenue will be painted a standard aqua marine blue.

Installation of the trolley cable is to begin this fall. Electric buses will begin running on that line in early 1997 reducing the traffic of diesel buses, decreasing neighborhood air pollution and noise. The art project associated with the trolley cables and poles has not been approved yet and there was some debate at the ECC meeting regarding the location and form the project should take. Another option, and at this point the most likely, being considered by the artist is dispersing the custom painted poles throughout the length of the neighborhood, scattering them, rather than clustering them around one intersection.

Bus Shelter Mural Program Available

Community groups, schools or individual artists can participate in Metro's Bus Shelter Mural Program. If you are with a school or community group, you will need to involve an artist to lead and direct the composition and painting of the mural. Artists interested in volunteering to be art coordinators should send a brief letter of interest to Metro. To start a project, first, find a bus shelter in the neighborhood and discuss the project you have in mind with any nearby businesses. Then fill out an application with Metro, writing the shelter number, located in the shelter's upper left corner. Describe your project and include a colored drawing if possible. Once Metro approves the project, you will receive vouchers for wood panels and paint. After painting the plywood panels, return them to Metro for installation. For more information, contact the Bus Shelter Mural Program at 684-1523.

Property Rights Initiative Opposed

The Takings Initiative

The ECC board has passed a resolution opposing Initiative 164, which would prohibit any state or local restraint on land use other than for public health and safety or the elimination of a public nuisance, unless government fully compensates the owner's "loss." Large amounts of red tape and litigation would result as government must delay action until having analyzed and publicized possible regulatory impacts on private land; and government would be required to choose the alternative with the least restraint on property rights, even at a sacrifice to overall property values and the public interest.

In a state takeover of local authority, Initiative 164 would overturn or greatly weaken city zoning to preserve residential use, small business, historic buildings, natural areas, and clean air and water. Neighborhoods would be defenseless against out-of-scale apartment and commercial developments and undesirable uses such as nude dancing and adult bookstores. Although those who signed the petition wanted to vote on the initiative in November, the state House of Representatives has passed it--and with Senate passage it would become law without a public vote or even the ability of the governor to veto it. Although most Seattle senators are voting against passage and for a November ballot, a key swing vote is West Seattle's Sen. Mike Heavey, who can be reached at (360) 786-7667 or at the Legislative Building, Olympia, WA 98504.

--Chris Leman

Alternative Transportation Planned

While voters this month were considering the \$6.7 billion regional transit proposal, elected officials in the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) were debating the four-county region's overall transportation budget--a 25-year plan for \$60.4 billion, nine times as much as the March 14 ballot measure. Many in our neighborhood attended a March 1994 joint PSRC/ECC meeting which recommended greatly increased sidewalks and bikeways and safer intersections and pedestrian crossings. The Eastlake Community Council, Friends of Lake Union, and many other groups are urging PSRC not to plan so much new road construction, and to apportion more funds to nonmotorized travel, reducing the environmental and neighborhood impacts of current highways.

The County Courthouse is at 516 Third Avenue, Seattle 98104; City Hall is at 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle 98104. Please write now to these elected officials urging more pedestrian and bicycle improvements and more highway noise mitigation and water pollution controls than are in the current "preferred alternative" in PSRC's new Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

--Chris Leman

Fairview Awarded as 'Street that Works'

In October the Seattle Design Commission gave certificates to the Floating Homes Association and the ECC honoring Fairview Avenue in the first Streets that Work awards. The Commission stated: "The scale of this street is surprisingly informal and personal. Floating homes and pocket parks at the street-ends contribute to its quiet, relaxed atmosphere. Restaurants and marine businesses harmonize well with older homes and newer apartment buildings. A favorite street for bicyclists."

Now the question is where to install the plaque. To deal with speeding problems and make Fairview safer for walkers, the FHA and ECC have joined to apply for City Neighborhood Matching Funds. Improvements will include marked crosswalks, improved intersections and landscaping; and south of Newton and north of Hamlin, some sidewalks or walking trails. If you would like to get involved, call Mary Sue Galvin at 323-643

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New Park in the Works

-- 83 years in the works

When the City Council failed to act immediately on the Olmsted brothers proposal in 1912 for a shoreline park near Shelby Street just west of Eastlake Avenue, who would have thought that the park would only be late--eight decades late. In recent months the Parks and Recreation Department purchased the MGM property, the crucial second half to the park land previously acquired from Bar-Mart (now Seattle Restaurant Store). The establishment of a new City park near E. Shelby Street just west of Eastlake Avenue is now underway. The MGM purchase was important because the owners had applied to build a project that would have paved the nearby P-Patch and filled upper Fairview Avenue with traffic and parked cars. The Eastlake Community Council applauds the work of the Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission, and especially its chair Nancy Pritchett. Thanks for this positive result also go to Anthony Cattania of Seattle Restaurant Store, who listened to the case for the park and sold the needed property. Without his foresightedness, the park would not have been possible.

To discuss future plans for this park and other shoreline parks in the neighborhood, the Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission will hold a meeting jointly with Friends of Lake Union on Wednesday, March 22, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Seattle Police Officers Guild, 2517 Eastlake Avenue. Please join us.

--Chris Leman

Eastlake Transportation Plan Underway

More Parking on Eastlake

The Seattle Engineering Department is moving ahead on recommendations in the neighborhood transportation plan developed in August by residents and businesses in a process coordinated by the Eastlake Community Council. Our application for City neighborhood funds for Fairview Avenue (see related story) has the support of the Engineering Department. On Eastlake Avenue, pedestrians and business owners alike were pleased to see the reinstatement of parking at non-peak hours south of Lynn Street. And on Eastlake north of Hamlin, center turn lanes are proposed. Where sufficient support exists and no driveways will be blocked, the City will install planted medians. If you didn't get a chance to see the proposals at the public meeting on January 23, a set of maps is available for public review at Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. Also available are plans for sewer excavation. For questions about the planning process, and suggestions regarding Eastlake Avenue, call Chris Leman at 322-5463.

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****Free Parking****

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Membership Application

New
Renewal

Eastlake Community Council
117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle 98102

Dues

Household	\$25
Senior Citizen/Student	
Low Income	\$10
Business	\$50
Donation	\$ _____

Interests

- Parks and Open Space
- Traffic/Parking issues
- Building Guidelines
- Newsletter Distribution
- Fundraising
- Work Parties
- Eastlake History
- Community Art Projects
- Community Meetings

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____