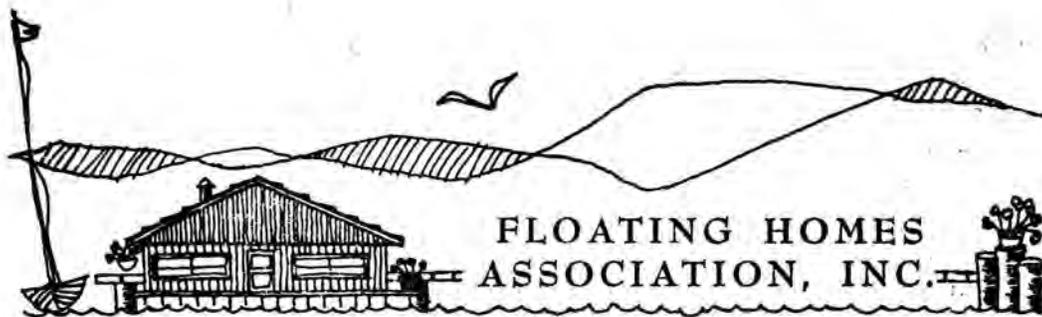


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FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Newsletter

September-October, 1968

FLOATING HOME INSPECTION STARTS UNDER CITY MINIMUM HOUSING CODE: An inspection program of all floating homes and moorages under the city's Minimum Housing Code, enacted in 1960, is now getting underway with the cooperation of the Floating Homes Association. The Code, designed to eliminate unhealthy and dangerous conditions in the city's dwelling units, is administered by the Housing Advisory Board under the Department of Buildings. Mr. Vincent H. Hoefling has been assigned as the inspector and has met with our Executive Committee. Mr. Hoefling will also attend the Moorage Council meeting October 7th (see story below) to outline procedures and answer questions.

As the title indicates, the Code establishes minimum standards. Its application is an ongoing program during which every housing unit in the city will be inspected. Since its enactment eight years ago the inspection of shoreside dwellings indicate that the most frequent deficiencies were (1) inadequate plumbing (2) dangerously overloaded power circuits and (3) unsafe steps and porches.

The Code provides that the minimum standards of health and safety shall "apply to buildings or any portion thereof which are used, or designed or intended to be used, for human habitation together with appurtenant structures and premises." Through cooperative efforts at the moorages it is hoped that as many inspections as possible can be made during the day. The program began with Flo-Villa (14 floating homes) at 2207 Fairview E. Those who work made arrangements with neighbors to open their homes. It is hoped that Moorage Representatives can organize such an arrangement elsewhere.

Inspection of the homes is made only upon presentation of proper credentials and with the consent of the owner. However the Housing Advisory Board, if it is deemed necessary, can obtain a warrant to make the inspection. President Robert Brown emphasizes that the Code requiring minimum standards is not to be confused with the Association's continuing program to upgrade floating homes, particularly in respect to appearances.

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MOORAGE COUNCIL MEETING AT MONTLAKE CENTER OCTOBER 7th: All Moorage Representatives and interested members are invited to attend the Moorage Council meeting to be held in the Montlake Recreational Center, 16th East & East Calhoun Sts., Monday October 7th. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:45 p.m. and adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

The agenda will include discussions of such matters as (1) the Minimum Housing Code with Mr. Vincent Hoefling present (2) recent zoning developments for Lake Union (3) suggestions for leases for floating homes (4) "Operation: Good Neighbor" (see story elsewhere) (5) the 1968 Christmas Cruise and (6) an Open Forum for discussion by any participant of any matter of mutual concern. The Executive Committee suggests that non-members should be invited. The meeting would give them a vivid picture of what the Association is all about.

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"WHAT'S NEXT FOR LAKE UNION" IS SUBJECT OF BROAD PANEL DISCUSSION: Representatives of the Lake Union Assn., Northwest Marine Industries and the Floating Homes Assn. were participants on a broadly based panel for a kick-off discussion on the future of the lake. The long-awaited, free-for-all was held in Seattle Center, Sept. 25 under the auspices of the Seattle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as a part of its comprehensive "Action: Better City" project.

A.I.A. Chapter President Clayton Young was moderator of the panel which also included representatives of the City Planning Department, City Council Zoning Committee, City Planning Commission, Park Department, City Light, Metro, Port of Seattle, State Department of Natural Resources, Wallingford Community Council and Army Engineers. Some 200 were in attendance.

The three hour session was able only to hit the high spots of a penetrating series of questions posed by Mr. Young. These included: (1) Jurisdiction: how can the many governmental units be brought together (2) What can be done about the restrictive railroad right-of-ways on the north and west shores (3) water pollution, particularly from city sewer overflows and outlets (4) as density increased where is parking to be found (5) what zoning changes are desirable and should the lake have a special category (6) the public's right to use, access and view (7) the role of water-needing uses and the future of floating homes, marinas, services and repair businesses needed by the growing pleasure boat population.

Hans Thompson, newly appointed Park Director, announced that the city will acquire title to the Gas Plant property in 1973 and that development funds will be available from the Forward Thrust bond issue. Many wanted to know why design work could not start before that time and he indicated it probably could. He said the new park should be "water oriented" and take full advantage of its unusual view possibilities.

Planning Director John Spaeth raised the desirability of the entire Lake Union basin being included in "an urban design approach" and drew some pointed questions when he indicated that some specific re-zoning proposals have already jelled in City Hall. Joseph Burke, Lake Union Assn. vice-president, asked a "yes or no" answer to the question as to whether or not concerned associations and property owners will have an opportunity to participate in the formulation of any program. He received a "yes" answer from Mr. Spaeth, Councilman Tim Hill and Planning Commissioner Johnathan Whetzel.

Mark Freeman, Lake Union Assn. president, called attention to the constructive accomplishments of the City Council's Advisory Committee on Floating Homes, and suggested that something similar could be set up for interested groups and governmental agencies, to work on all lake problems. Mr. Freeman said that the three Lake Associations have a joint Zoning Committee and that work has started on getting the opinions of shoreland property owners and professional assistance retained. Max Agather of the Northwest Marine Industries and Terry Pettus of the Floating Homes Assn. stressed the importance of Lake Union as a commercial boating center.

John Franco, Lake Union Assn., secretary, drew applause when he pointedly outlined some improvements that could be made without further delay or discussion. These include: (1) street paving (2) underground wiring (3) ending of pollution (4) improved fire protection particularly the long-needed fire boat (5) an area wide clean up campaign with governmental agencies leading the way (6) use of street ends by abutting property owners if no public use is indicated and if there is public access.

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"OPERATION: GOOD NEIGHBOR" SMOOTHS LARGE SEWER INSTALLATION PROJECT: An unusual cooperative project got underway Sept. 23 when 16 floating homes were temporarily moved from their moorings to permit work to begin on the installation of the underwater, gravity sewer installation. Instead of going into "dead storage" which would require families to seek temporary housing elsewhere, the floating homes were nudged alongside a nearby neighbor where access, water and other needs made continued occupancy possible.

The project, which will provide collection facilities for a total of 66 floating homes is underway at the Freeman-Gibson moorage (three piers) at 2017, 2019-21 and 2025 Fairview and the Jeffery moorage (one pier) at 2027-31 Fairview. When completed all of the 79 floating homes in the 2000 block on Fairview Ave. will have a sewer connection.

When the first phase is completed the floating homes will be moved back and another group will be temporarily displaced, also alongside a "good neighbor". As "dead storage" would create considerable hardship and pose serious security problems, the "Operation: Good Neighbor" program was sponsored by our Association with the cooperation of Moorage Representatives Boyd Knauss, George Levin, Robert Buchholtz and Don Barton. The installation is being done by Leiter Hockett Marine Contractors.

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WE'RE BRANCHING OUT! TWO CHRISTMAS CRUISES PLANNED THIS YEAR: The Executive Committee Sept. 24 approved a suggestion of the Christmas Cruise Committee for two holiday events this year aboard the MV SIGHTSEER. Christmas falls on Wednesday and the plan calls for a "Party Cruise" (adults) on Friday, Dec. 20th and a "Family Cruise" on Sunday, Dec. 22. This year the SIGHTSEER will be decorated with more lights and a Christmas Tree. The Friday cruise will leave the Riviera Restaurant at 8 p.m. Virginia Myers, Riviera owner, will once again offer the special pre-cruise, prime rib dinner at a special rate. The "Family Cruise" is planned for an early start, probably 6 p.m. Ticket prices for adults will be \$2.50 with a special low price for children. The Christmas Cruise Committee, Mrs. Gladys Mattson, chairman (EA 2-2643) is anxious to determine how much interest there is in the "Family Cruise" and would like to hear from families who would participate.

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