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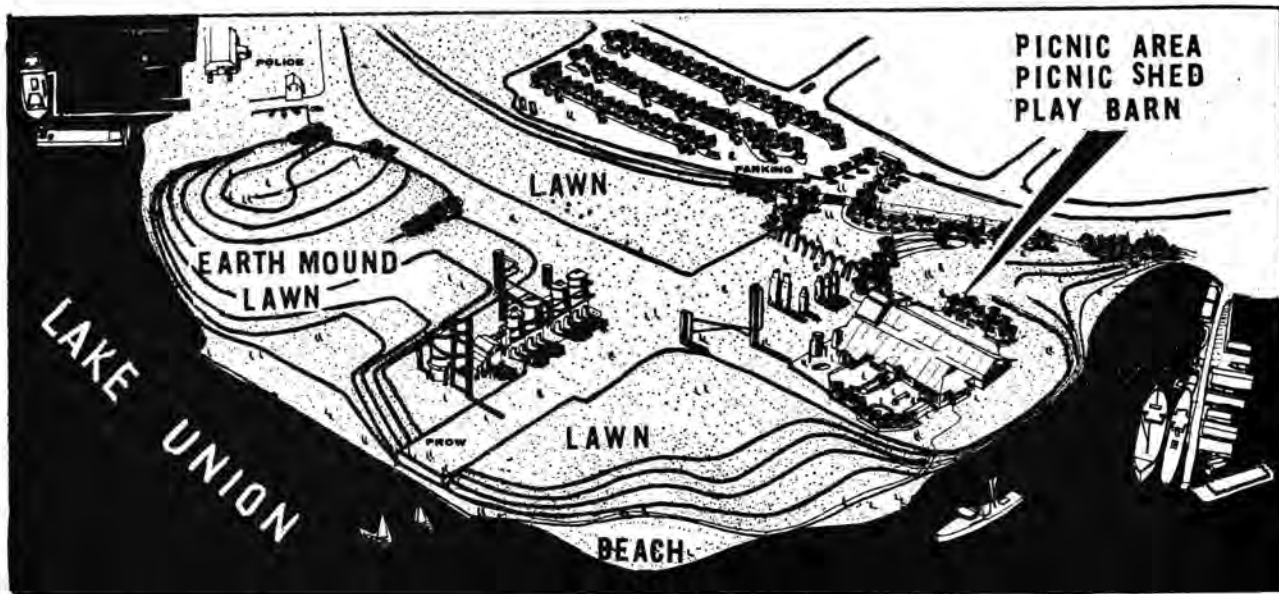
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Newsletter

October, 1973

GASWORKS PARK DREAM COMING TRUE



(See story page 4)

Mayor Uhlman Urges Passage of "Save-Lake" Plan:

CITY COUNCIL HAS ISSUE FOR FIRST TIME

While adoption of specific land use controls will likely await the drafting of an environmental impact statement, a municipal program to realize the potentials of Lake Union as a unique body of water, moved a significant step forward when the City Council Planning & Urban Development Committee considered the issue for the first time in a decade.

The public hearing Oct. 17th was highlighted by the personal appearance of Mayor Wes Uhlman to urge adoption of an amended "Lake Union Special Review District" Ordinance which would prohibit the further destruction of the Lake surface and encourage the development of a diversified marine environment.

Mayor Uhlman drew applause from the over-flow crowd at the evening hearing when he said: "It is important that the long years of discussion and studies be brought to a fruitful close before Lake Union is studied and discussed to death."

The Council committee, which is having its first opportunity to consider specific Lake Union proposals, consists of John M. [unclear], Chairman; Phillis Lamphere, Sam Smith, Tim Hill and Ann Ormsby. On Oct. 31st at 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers the Committee will have a public briefing on the proposals from Jerry Jones, Lake Union Coordinator for the Department of Community Development. No public testimony will be taken at this session but public hearings are expected later.

The Ordinance before the Council consists of a draft proposal issued last June which would permit over water construction up to 80 feet. (See NEWS LETTER, July, 1973). The amendments proposed by Mayor Uhlman would restrict this to 35 feet, stop the paving of the Lake and encourage water-needing uses, particularly marinas and moorages which are in short supply.

"The purpose of the proposed changes," the mayor said, "is to recognize that Lake Union is a unique and valuable resource within the City of Seattle and its future directly affects the citizens of this City. What I am proposing not only will allow the continuation of our marine manufacturing and commerce, but will also minimize over-water construction and preserve the view from upland properties.

"It is my feeling," he continued, "that the amendments, although more restrictive, are necessary in order to protect the public interest associated with the shorelines of Lake Union and at the same time, recognize and protect private property rights consistent with the public interest. Our express purpose is not to restrict uses, but to permit only those uses which enhance the shorelines of Lake Union and are consistent with the notion that Lake Union shorelines are a major resource from which all people of Seattle may derive benefit."

Supporters of the amended Ordinance include officers and members of the newly formed "Lake Union Coalition" organized under the slogan "A Lake For All The People" (See Page 3). The amended Ordinance was supported by the official Citizen's Shoreline Advisory Committee now drafting a master program for Seattle's 75 miles of waterfront under the State Shorelines Management Act. Other groups in support include: Wallingford Community Council, Allied Arts, Cascade Community Council, Eastlake Community Council, Sierra Club, Landscape Architects, 43rd District Democratic Club, CHECC and the Floating Homes Association.

Lake Union's Future is an issue. VOTE NOVEMBER 6th

Opposition was expressed by Jim Francis, president of the Lake Union Association, and several property owners who said the proposed restrictions amounted to "confiscation of private property without due process." One opponent suggested that the City pass a bond issue to buy up all the privately owned shorelands.

At the conclusion of the hearing the Committee voted to order an environmental impact statement as is required under state law. Chairman Miller later said that he is asking the Corporation Counsel for legal advice "as to which City bodies should review the statement and to what action may or may not be taken during the required review period."

In commenting on the fact that Lake Union has "been studied to death", Councilman Miller pointed out that this is the first time the Council has had anything before it. "Final passage of a land use Ordinance for Lake Union is some time off but I hope that all sense that the Council is serious about moving with all deliberate speed to develop a definitive plan for the Lake.

"Lake Union," he added, "must be considered one of our foremost urban amenities. It is, perhaps, the most fruitlessly studied body of water this side of Lake Erie. For years and after countless studies, nothing has been enacted to treat the special problems confronting the Lake and to balance the myriad and often competing interests which share its beauty, utility and other assets. This time something will be done and relatively soon but we ask patience as we strive to formulate informed actions which will secure the health of our unique Lake Union."

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FOUR FIRMS NOW OFFERING FLOATING HOME POLICIES

Four insurance agencies are now offering comprehensive "home-owner" type policies covering owner-occupied floating homes. The Association's ten-year campaign for fair treatment got results last spring when the first policy was offered through the McCants Co. Since then three others have notified us that they were writing such policies.

The firms are: McCants & Co., 623-8886; Don Hart, 634-0600; Falkenberg & Co., 282-5533 and Ransom-Calkings, 522-3346. In contacting the firms notify them of your Association membership. All will furnish details as to coverage and rates. If any questions arise contact the Association. Please note that the home owner policies apply only to owner-occupied dwellings.

Substantial discounts on fire extinguishers and fire protection equipment is offered by the AAA Fire Extinguishing Co., 307 Nlickerson St., 284-1721. To receive the discount you must show your Association membership card. For information ask for Bo Shay or Sid Hall.

Remember fire extinguishers in the hands of a novice are no substitute for the professionalism of our outstanding Seattle Fire Department. Before doing anything yourself dial 9-1-1-.

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COALITION ASKING CANDIDATES WHERE THEY STAND

The Lake Union Coalition announces that it is contacting all candidates for City office asking their position as to the proposals now before the City Council. As this NEWS LETTER goes to press the returns (due to a shortage of time) are incomplete. A news release will be issued before election day. Watch the media. Also members should ask candidates for their position. Campaign meetings offer an excellent opportunity. Also those who wish to express themselves can write to: John Miller, Chairman, Planning & Urban Development Committee, Municipal Bldg., Seattle 98104.

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It's Not Too Early to Plan For:

OUR 10th ANNUAL HOLIDAY VIRGINIA V CRUISE

and Greater Seattle's

SPECTACULAR PARADE OF LIGHTED SHIPS

- The urgent need to conserve power will result in a "black out" of our usual outdoor lighting so the parade may be the city's only Holiday "light show". (Boats generate their own electricity).
- Our Cruise and participation in this delightful event will be Saturday, Dec. 15th. Sail at 4 p.m. Return at 8 p.m. Tickets are at the "pre-inflation" price of \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children under 12.
- Requests for tickets are already coming in. In past years we have had a sell-out long in advance. We believe members should have first call. Maritime safety laws strictly restrict the number of passengers.

PLAN AHEAD – ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW.

Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview E. – 98102



LAKE UNION COALITION

"A LAKE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE"

2035 FAIRVIEW AVENUE EAST • SEATTLE, WA. 98102 • EA-9-0235 • EA-9-1517

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The Lake Union Coalition specifically approves of the following basic

Land Use Controls

PROGRAM

Lake Union has been the subject of proposals, studies, reviews, public hearings and commissions for more than a decade. While much useful information has been obtained, no action has resulted. The effect of this has been to perpetuate incomparable uses, discourage sympathetic development and to perpetuate neglect of the public areas.

The Lake Union Coalition has been formed to end this impasse and to remedy the above undesirable condition. The Coalition is a group of people sympathetic to the preservation of our shorelands who believe the time for study and information gathering has ended and the time for official action on Lake Union is now. Sufficient information is at hand to make intelligent, long range decisions concerning the future of the Lake. It is our intent to bring these issues before the City Council now and to insist that decisions be made.

The present Manufacturing and Commercial General zoning is incompatible with proper development. Shorelines are a limited natural resource. Lake Union is a priceless urban asset. Development over water should be restricted to water requiring and water related uses and not more than 35 feet in height. Shoreside (dry land) developments should be sympathetic to the Lake, provide a maximum of public access, and be consistent with the Master Program now being developed by the City of Seattle in conformance with the State Shorelines Management Act of 1971. Heights of such dry land developments should not be more than 50 feet. The Coalition basically supports the amended Review District Ordinance now before the City Council.

Public Area Improvements

Insufficient governmental attention to public areas has discouraged quality development on private property. The Coalition recommends an integrated program of landscaping, underground wiring and right-of-way surfacing. The Coalition specifically supports the inclusion of the Westlake Avenue undergrounding, landscaping and parking improvements in the forthcoming municipal Capital Improvement Program.

Lake Area Improvements

While water quality has been improved in recent years, the long-range solution will require sewer separation in the entire drainage basin, strict enforcement of water quality laws, and an effective debris collection program. The Coalition supports:

- Continued efforts by the City to finance the separation of storm and sanitary sewers; and
- Re-establish an on-going clean-up and debris collection program.

Public Access

The exciting potentials for expanded public use and enjoyment of the the Lake will be furthered by a bicycle-pedestrian pathway, development of the many Street Ends (27) and State Waterways (21) financing the speedy completion of the Gas Plant Park and immediate action of the proposed South End Park and the acquisition of additional shorelines for public use. The Coalition believes the time has come for a comprehensive program of development between the public and private sectors to create for the entire Lake Basin a stimulating environment in which to work, to live and to play.

UGLY, POLLUTED INDUSTRIAL SITE BEING TRANSFORMED

The dream of a beautiful and exciting park arising from the blighted Gas Works site jutting out from Lake Union's north shore is becoming a reality under the guidance of Richard Haag, landscape architect, working under a contract with the Seattle Park Department.

Last spring the City made the last of ten annual installment payments and took title to the 20 acres. As is the case so often with departures from conventional paths, Haag's vision of what could be done with an obsolete industrial catastrophe resulted in a flurry of controversy. Now the skepticism and opposition seems to be melting into enthusiastic support.

In the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (10/14/73) Michael Sweeney, Urban Affairs Writer, reported on the results of a long, hard look:

"In a project that is unique in the world, landscape architect Haag is transforming an ugly, contaminated, abandoned and useless industrial site into a major park that will return to the people 20 acres, 1,900 feet of shoreline and an unparalleled panorama of the city.

"From a distance the site of the old Washington Natural Gas Company's gas works looks like it has for 60 years: a dirty black scar on the face of Seattle. But get up close atop the viewing mount that has been built on the west edge of the site, and the healing power of Haag's master plan is obvious."

The first phase, that of site preparation, is about 60% completed. Working under a \$228,000 contract the Iconco Co. some 30,000 cubic yards of "junk soil", hopelessly polluted with tar, chemicals and oil, has been removed with 5,000 cubic yards to go along with the ripping out of ten miles of buried, oil filled pipe. Once reclaimed the entire area will be fertilized and seeded for grass to serve until permanent sod can be laid down in 1975.

All but the northeast corner of the site will be opened to the public next spring. This area is the site of the two decrepit buildings to be converted into a "playbarn" and a "picnic shelter". Under a contract, soon to be awarded, both buildings will be renovated, re-roofed with translucent panels and connected to a central comfort station. Outdoor areas adjacent to the buildings will be landscaped into play and picnic areas.

Upon the completion of Stages I and II some \$2.5 million in Forward Thrust funds will have been spent on land acquisition and development. The final stage for which some \$1.5 million needs to be appropriated includes an irrigation system, sodding, landscaping, completion of the shoreside promenade and renovation of the six controversial cracking towers. This to start in 1975.

See you come spring in the Gas Plant Park.

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NEWS NOTES FROM HERE & THERE: A want ad in the Seattle Times offers "\$10.00 reward for information about a rentable houseboat". Obviously a very scarce item . . . The Planning & Urban Development Committee of the City Council will hold another public hearing on the proposed "Goals & Objectives" for all city shorelines at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1. Will be in Council Chambers, 11th floor Municipal Bldg. . . We have two experienced persons on our referral list for flotation. You might want to make a note: George Johnston (228-1660) and Charles Everett (323-8886) . . . Seattle in general and our community in particular is on the itinerary of a group of University of Oregon students doing a "living-on-the-water" project . . . Julie North, our secretary-treasurer, says it would help if members notified office of any change of address. Also save on postage which is going up again come Jan. 1 . . . The Executive Committee needs volunteers to help out on our 10th Annual Holiday Cruise Dec. 15th aboard the historic SS Virginia V.

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WHAT THE LAKE UNION REVIEW DISTRICT ORDINANCE IS ALL ABOUT:

The purpose of the District is to provide for the development of the Lake Basin in such a way as to improve physical and visual access to the shorelines: to promote a mixture of water-requiring, water-related and other suitable residential and commercial uses to locate in the Lake Basin and on the shorelines: to encourage development which is in character and scale with important natural and man made features of the Lake Basin: to insure proper operation and function of those uses which choose to locate in the Lake Basin and to encourage citizen participation in future Lake Basin development.

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION
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