The next general meeting of the Eastlake Community Council will take place on Tuesday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m., at A Small Cafe (near the corner of Eastlake and E. Lynn). The subject will be the topical one of the Lake Union seaplanes, or floatplanes as they are often called.

We'll approach the subject from a variety of angles. On the historical side, Paul Spitzer, the Boeing Co. historian and an Eastlake-area resident, has kindly agreed to present an account of the early days of seaplanes on the lake. Paul will cover the period from 1916, when Boeing and Westervelt built and tested their first seaplane, to the early 1930s.

A more contemporary view will be presented by the other featured speakers, including floatplane operators who use Lake Union. These speeches and the resulting discussion will cover such subjects as existing flight patterns and frequency, safety records, noise abatement efforts and expectations for the future.

The potential for conflicts between the needs of the various users of Lake Union is growing. We’ll explore alternatives for the amicable and effective resolution of those conflicts. Controversial - maybe. Confrontational - no. Interesting - definitely.

Bring friends, questions, comments and a few dollars for the soups, salads, pastries and beverages available at A Small Cafe. All are welcome.

Vision Seattle to Announce City Council Candidates

As we were going to press, a neighborhood-oriented group called Vision Seattle was about to announce at least two candidates for this year’s City Council elections. The candidates included Grace Jansons, running against Sam Smith, and Margaret Pageler, contesting the seat currently held by Dolores Sibonga.

Jansons is best known locally as the founding president of the Seattle Neighborhood Coalition, a citizen-advocacy group that has worked actively with the City on such issues as land use, affordable housing, solid waste, and parks policies. Pageler is an attorney and president of Allied Arts, an organization that focuses on downtown arts, land use and historical preservation. Both were recently involved in the effort to have Westlake Mall changed to a park.

A third candidate affiliated with Vision Seattle was expected to run for one of the Council seats, though at press time this had not been confirmed.

Many local neighborhood activists welcomed the news of the campaigns, which are a response to the apparent lack of serious opposition to the five Council incumbents running for reelection this year. Long frustrated at the City’s ineffectiveness in responding to the concerns of residents of Eastlake and other neighborhoods throughout the city, a number of ECC members are planning to help with the campaigns.

Vision Seattle is composed primarily of officials from the city’s community councils and other neighborhood activists. The group seeks a revitalized city leadership that would, among other things, deal more actively with the problems of Seattle’s neighborhoods, de-emphasize downtown development, and achieve a balance between new construction and the preservation of existing buildings and streetscapes.

More news on these campaigns as they develop. The primary elections will be held on September 15, and the final elections on November 3. Deadline for voter registration is August 14.

Land Use Updates

ECC Appeals to City Council

On July 9, Hearing Examiner Margaret Klockers rejected all the ECC’s arguments against the proposed four-story office building at 2343 Eastlake, next to the Yates apartments. Klockers accepted the recommendations of the DCLU, and rejected the ECC’s concerns about parking, traffic access, and the incompatible height, bulk and scale of the proposed building. As a result, the ECC has appealed to City Council, and is hoping for a large turnout at the hearing, which will take place within the next couple of months.

More in the next issue of this newsletter.

Although this proposed project (for a 29-unit condo) remains highly controversial, there have been few developments since the last newsletter. The lawsuit by developers Shelter Ventures and the countersuit from the ECC and the Floating Homes Association are still ongoing. It appears that discussions between the ECC/FHA and the developers may take place early in August. We’ll keep you posted.
Relocation of Seaplane Base

The relocation of a seaplane base, first mentioned in last month’s newsletter, is proposed for 901 Fairview Ave. N. The white board actually reads: "...to relocate an existing air flight/charter service (Air Harbor) from Waterway #8 to Waterway #6 at Chandler’s Cove.” Our research has found that the company is in fact Kenmore Air Harbor, that the "existing" service refers to Kenmore’s recent leasing of Chrysler Air’s dock, and that the business name of the Chandler’s Cove operation will be Kenmore Air. The proposal will be discussed at the August ECC general meeting.

Neighborhood Notes

Mark your calendars! Friday August 14: Last day to register to vote for the City Council primary elections. Sunday August 16: Mason Williams (“Classical Gas”) free concert at Gasworks Park. Tuesday August 18: ECC General Meeting, 7 p.m. (see above). Tuesday August 25: Eastern European wine tasting, 7:30 p.m., A Small Cafe ($5 advance). Weekend of Sept. 19-20: Floating Homes Association 25th anniversary street fair on Fairview Ave.

Patrick’s Fly Shop. James LeMert, a native of the Seattle area and an avid “reelator,” took ownership of the fly shop (2237 Eastlake) on April 1. Jim has expanded the business hours to Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6, and has added tying and casting classes to the existing services. Established in 1946, Patrick’s Fly Shop is believed to be the oldest fly shop in the state. Founder Roy Patrick died in 1971, but Frances Patrick continues to be active in this unique Eastlake enterprise.

Steam Plant Next-Use Survey. Response to last month’s survey has been good. Early returns show little support for residential use, a steady preference for mixed-use commercial, and a certain very active element favoring the swimming-pool idea....more survey blanks will be available at the August meeting, and the final results will be announced in the September Eastlake News.

Misc. Council Notes

New membership fees. We regret to announce that as of September 1, the fees for membership in the Eastlake Community Council will be increased. Regular household membership will go up from $10 to $15, senior citizen membership from $5 to $10, and business membership from $35 to $40.

This is only the second time since 1972 that the ECC has had to increase its membership dues. The increases are needed to help offset the ECC’s large operating and mailing costs.

CLASSIFIED ADS.

Classified ads. Starting with the September issue, the Eastlake News will be accepting classified ads in addition to our regular ads. The basic rate is 25 cents per word, with a $2.50 minimum; boldface, italics and centered headlines are $1 per word. Call 324-1716.