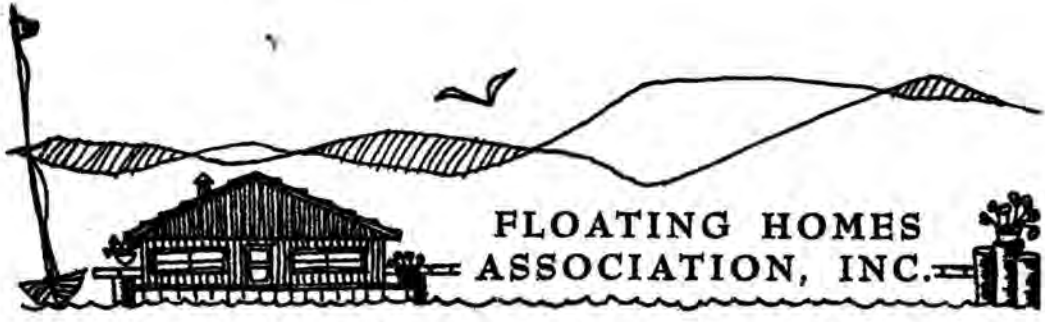


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2329 Fairview East

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NUMBER 8

JULY 29, 1964

COMPREHENSIVE HOUSEBOAT ORDINANCE PROPOSED: In accordance with our Association's policy of seeking to have houseboats officially recognized in law as a "particular kind of a dwelling," the following letter has been sent to the Seattle City Council requesting that the necessary steps be taken towards the drafting and eventual adoption of a comprehensive floating homes ordinance. The need for such an inclusive ordinance has long been apparent. Some time ago the Public Safety Committee of the City Council suggested such a step to the Association. Such an Ordinance is a key point in our "Program for 1964," adopted unanimously by the membership at the annual business meeting last February. The letter follows:

Dear Council Members:

Our Association respectfully requests that the necessary steps be taken to involve all interested parties in the preparation of proposals leading towards the adoption of a "Comprehensive Floating Homes Ordinance." As we see it this involves amendments to the existing Ordinance No. 82223, adopted August 13, 1953, and a review of all other provisions and codes relating to or which have been applied to, Floating Homes by the various municipal departments.

In offering our cooperation towards this end, we believe such an ordinance is needed to implement the official policy of the City of Seattle. This policy was emphasized by the Public Safety Committee in its statement of September 19, 1962, which said in part,

"In 1957, when the new Zoning Ordinance was adopted, the City placed itself fully on record as favoring houseboats in the right place and in accordance with acceptable standards."

In supporting the adoption of the Planning Commission's "Lake Union Study" the Citizens' Planning Council outlined a number of suggestions which would come under the heading of "acceptable standards" for Floating Homes. Our Association is a member of the Citizens' Planning Council and is assured of the cooperation of its Lake Union Committee in making this proposal. We are also members of the newly formed Lake Union Association and will work with and through this organization in the preparation of "guide-lines" which will make it possible for owners of Floating Homes and owners of Houseboat Moorage property do do their part in improving Lake Union as an esthetic as well as economic asset to our city.

Most sincerely,
Esther Carhart, President
Terry Pettus, Administrative Secretary

LAKE UNION ASSOCIATION IS ORGANIZED. Articles of incorporation have been filed and officers elected by the newly organized Lake Union Association. Major purposes of the organization are: (1) to further and promote the development, beautification and improvement of the area of the City of Seattle surrounding Lake Union and Portage Bay, so that said area can more adequately, effectively, efficiently and pleasantly serve the residents of Seattle, (2) to advance, conserve and protect the business activities, property and investments of its members, and (3) to sponsor, further and promote such municipal improvements, services, utilities and conveniences that will reasonably serve to make the area surrounding Lake Union and Portage Bay obtain and maintain efficient standards for modern living consistent with proper development of such area.

At a meeting July 23 with Mayor Dorm Braman and Council members A. Ludlow Kramer, Charles M. Carroll, and Mrs. Harlan Edwards, the officers of the Lake Union Association were assured of the cooperation of the municipal government in "helping private enterprise to improve the lake and its surroundings." Officers are: President, Stan Gallup, exalted ruler of the Elks' Club; Vice Presidents, George Gunn, Jr., president of the Gunn Investment Company, and Tom P. Youell of the Diesel Oil Sales Company; Secretary-Treasurer, John Franco, owner of Franco's Hidden Harbor Restaurant. Miss Esther Carhart has been elected to the Board of Trustees where she will represent the Floating Homes Association.

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FLOATING HOMES GET PERMANENT REGISTRATION NUMBERS: Something new and needed has been added to our floating neighborhood with the assignment by the King County Assessor's office of permanent registration numbers for all floating homes and other structures. Appropriately enough our office was given "No. 1." The numbering system will not only help the Assessor's office in putting and keeping Floating Homes on the tax rolls but provides us with a positive and legal method of identification. The assigned number will remain with the houseboat as long as it is in existence. Also our 1964 taxes (payable next year) will be based for the first time on a standardized formula for arriving at an assessed valuation. Your valuation will be based on your square foot living space (not float size) multiplied by either \$0.75, \$1.00, \$1.25, or \$1.50, depending on your rating which is either "Poor," "Fair," "Medium," or "Good." The taxes you will pay next year are computed on the basis of 6½% against your assessed valuation or \$65.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. A check of the Assessor's records shows that 20% of the Floating Homes are classified as "Poor"; 58% as "Fair"; 19% as "Medium"; and 3% as "Good." It should be pointed out that age was taken into consideration. In spite of a stupid rumor everyone can be assured that participating in the "Clean-Up, Paint-Up, Fix-Up" campaign will NOT result in an increase in taxes.

* * *

NEWS BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE: Contracts for three of the Lake Union sewer pumping stations will not be let until August. Maybe somebody should tell the P-I's MAILWAY ...Jim Reinhardt's brand new houseboat at 2822 Boyer E. was featured on a recent KOMO-TV news program...A "Don't Litter the Lake" reminder: It is a violation of a City Ordinance as well as state and federal laws to throw anything into the lake whether it sinks or not. (Duck food excepted, of course)...President Esther Carhart's unusual career as a school teacher (in Bulgaria and Turkey among other places) was the subject of a Dorothy Brant Brazier column in a recent issue of the Seattle Times ...An unusual multi-colored roof can be seen on a floating home at an end moorage at 2025 Fairview E. If you want more information contact the Association...Seems the news media overlooked an important "pollution" story when owners of the Marina Mart on Westlake N. asked for a tax reduction because a 42-inch sewer outfall at the foot of Galer Street is hurting business at their covered moorages...Citizens for Outdoor Recreation lists the Floating Homes Association among organizations turning in signatures. The measure, which will allow unclaimed boat fuel taxes to be used for marine park purposes, will be on the November general election ballot. Sponsors need funds. Contributions should be sent to sponsors at 1411 Fourth Avenue Building, Seattle 98101...Now listed with the Association are several high quality Floating Homes for sale as well as several unusual rental opportunities...Now under consideration by operators of one of our largest moorages is a "Rental Agreement" with teeth in it. If owners do not keep their houseboats up to certain standards a dock owner will, and assess costs against the moorage fees...Our Christmas Decoration committee is now being organized. It hopes to have a program worked out by September. Needed are representatives from Portage Bay and Westlake North. Volunteers should contact the Association. Suggestions from members are welcome...A Seattle firm has contacted the Association in regard to its line of fireplaces. Prices range from \$49.00 for 17-inch to \$79.00 for 40-inch. Colors and two tones \$5.00 extra. Contact the Association for more details.

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FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.
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