

MINUTES OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR URBAN RENEWAL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROOM  
TRUST COMPANY OF GEORGIA  
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1969

The Executive Committee Meeting of the CACUR was called to order promptly at 2:45 P.M. by the Chairman, Dr. Noah N. Langdale, Jr. Those attending were: Mr. Bob Bivens; Mrs. Leonard Haas; Mrs. Grace Hamilton; Mr. George Kennedy; Mr. Charles C. Mathias; Mr. A. B. Padgett; Mr. Richard H. Rich; Mr. Edgar E. Schukraft; Mr. Clayton R. Yates. Committee member in attendance was: Mrs. Adah Toombs; for the Planning Department of the City of Atlanta: Mr. W. F. Kennedy; and for the Atlanta Constitution: Mr. Alex Coffin.

Invitational Notice, Agenda and other related Documents for the meeting are attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Chairman Langdale opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

The Chairman went to the second item on the agenda because Mr. Bob Bivens was late to the meeting. Second on the program agenda was a presentation by Mr. Frank Sheetz of Sheetz and Bradfield, Architects, on "What is Public Housing?"

The presentation dealt mainly with small towns rather than large cities, about the requirements that are set up that make a town or city eligible for public housing. The presentation also gave the number of Housing Authorities that are located in the southern part of the United States, which are:

Georgia	192
Florida	63
South Carolina	19
North Carolina	72
Kentucky	99
Tennessee	78
Alabama	137
Mississippi	40

The Chairman thanked Mr. Sheetz for his presentation to the Committee and asked him about an example of Public Housing he used in his presentation.

Mr. Sheetz stated that that particular project was the Bankhead Project. This project has 500 units, including 4, 5 and 6 bedrooms and cost from \$16,800 to \$18,000 per unit.

Mr. Edgar Schukraft congratulated Mr. Sheetz on his presentation and stated that was the best presentation on Public Housing he had ever seen and the best understood.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Sheetz if Atlanta is behind in Public Housing?



Mr. Sheetz commented that this is really a policy matter, but Atlanta is behind in Public Housing because of the many slum areas that have not been cleared away.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Bob Bivens to make his report to the Committee.

Mr. Bivens reported that he, Doris Lockerman and Mr. W. L. Calloway had made a list of suggested candidates for membership of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal. He further stated that this list is not to be interpreted as final or complete, but rather as a work list to include both additions and deletions. Mr. Bivens made a recommendation that the Chairman review the entire list of Committee appointees in light of newly defined Committee purposes and functions and appoint an 8-12 member Executive Committee for assisting him in carrying out the mission of the Committee.

Mr. Bivens then stated that CACUR needs a re-definition of purpose. This Sub-Committee consists of Mr. Bivens, Dean Alex Lacy and Mr. A. B. Padgett. Mr. Bivens stated that much of the success of Atlanta's urban renewal activity is directly attributable to the fine, active participation of a representative cross-section of citizens who have helped guide the program, ask questions and provide liaison with various sectors of the entire community.

He continued that over the past several years, the approach of urban renewal has changed in many ways, both nationally and locally:

1. Greater emphasis is now being placed on citizen participation in the planning process,
2. Rehabilitation and upgrading are superseding bulldozing and clearance,
3. The new "Model Cities" program introduces a bold new approach,
4. The Neighborhood Development Program (NDP) represents a new, fast-moving approach capable of accelerating the planning and execution of renewal activity to accomplish community goals.

That because of these changes, this is a good time to re-define the mission of the citizens' organization, determine the membership composition necessary to accomplish such mission, and organize the committee to move forward in facing the new challenges ahead.

Mr. Bivens also stated that the Committee is not being approached for advice, but rather is being informed after plans have already been developed and vital decisions and commitments made, and that in fact the Citizens Advisory Committee has become largely a "rubber stamp" organization, in which the intent of Federal requirements is not only aborted, but also in which the valuable resource of talent and mature advice is not brought to bear on vital renewal programs.



If the Committee is to serve in the more constructive role, then the following suggestions are recommended, and membership constituted accordingly:

1. That all plans by the Housing Authority, Model Cities Group, Planning Department and others related to rehabilitation and renewal be presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee or its Executive Committee during the development and before approval so that the Committee may perform its functions of review and be in position to advise, and so that the Committee can help sell the programs through a real understanding of the plans and their importance to the City.

2. That the business community continue its active financial participation in the staff costs of this program, perhaps to the extent of 1/3 of staff costs, with the City paying 2/3 of such cost.

3. That the staff offices be housed in City Hall as close to the Mayor and Assistant Mayor as possible.

4. For retirement purposes and other City benefits, that the Executive Director be an employee of the City of Atlanta.

5. That duties of the Executive Director include the following:

- a. Primarily serving the Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal,
- b. Provide liaison between the Mayor's Office and CACUR through continuous communication with the Chairman,
- c. Keep well-informed on various activities related to urban renewal by continuous communication with the City Planning Department, Atlanta Housing Authority, Model Cities Staff and others working on renewal related activities,
- d. Through newsletters and other communications, keep Executive Committee and full Committee well-informed on renewal matters,
- e. Suggest pertinent agenda items and review with the Chairman for Executive and full Committee meetings; make all arrangements,
- f. Preparation of the necessary reports and documentation for certification of the Workable Program insofar as applicable to citizens participation,



- g. That he constantly seek ways to strengthen renewal activity and citizens understanding of and participation therein,
- h. Preparation of frequent news releases aimed at building public understanding and support,
- i. Maintain good lines of communications with other organizations such as the Community Relations Commission, Atlanta Youth Council, and others.

6. That a carefully picked cross-section of established and rising community leaders be developed, reviewed by the Chairman, and appointed by the Mayor. (A sub-committee exists on inactive status at the pleasure of the Chairman, ready to propose a list of nominees as soon as the mission of the Committee is agreed upon. This sub-committee consists of R. W. Bivens, Doris Lockerman and W. L. Calloway.)

7. That an Executive Committee be appointed, such Executive Committee to consist of 8 to 12 persons.

8. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly; and the full Committee shall meet quarterly.

9. That special sub-committees shall be appointed as necessary by the Chairman to accomplish specific purposes.

10. In summary, that the Citizen Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal aspire toward achieving a higher standard of excellence in the building and renewal of our great City to serve better our present and future generations.

Because of the time element involved Mr. Bivens stated that the Executive Committee should study the revised list of members (the names that were passed out to each member of the Executive Committee), so that names could be taken off or others added.

The Chairman agreed to discuss this at the next Executive Committee Meeting next month.

The Chairman stated that by 1972 all the money will be used up out of the City funds to build housing (matching funds for NDP areas) that the plan now used is that you must pay as you go.

Mr. Richard Rich stated that therefore money is needed before any action can be taken. Discussion ensued between the Chairman and Mr. Rich on clarification of the matter.

Mr. Edgar Schukraft stated that he has been working on the West End project for about 18 months with the Park Street Methodist Church about building a shopping center. He stated that he wrote the Housing Authority but as yet has not heard from them.



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The Chairman then asked if there any objections to having an analysis of the West End Project first on the agenda for the next meeting. There were no objections.

The Chairman then stated that the agenda for the next meeting would be:

1. Analysis of the West End Project
2. Bivens Report
3. New Budget
4. New Members
5. Staggered Terms
6. Sub-Committees
7. Financial Situation of U.R. Program (status of matching funds)

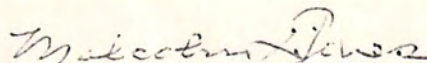
Mr. Padgett stated that it should be recommended to the Mayor that all members have staggered terms.

Dr. Langdale then asked if 2:00 P.M. was a better time for having the meetings? Everyone agreed.

Col. Jones then presented Dr. Langdale with the Financial Report and a draft of the CACUR's Proposed Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Malcolm D. Jones  
Executive Director

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Encls: As stated