

MINUTES

HOUSING RESOURCES COMMITTEE

July 17, 1969

The regular monthly meeting of the Housing Resources Committee was held at 10:30 A.M., Thursday, July 17, 1969, in the main auditorium of the John O. Chiles Home at 435 Ashby Street, S.W.

Invitational notice, list of those invited, with attendance of members and guests indicated, and other related documents are attached to the file copy only of these minutes.

Chairman Alexander opened the meeting by greeting and thanking all the members for attending the meeting.

The Chairman then asked if the members would rather meet at different places such as Public Housing Projects, etc., than to meet at the same place every month. He explained that if meetings were held at other places, the meetings could be educational. There was general concurrence for holding some meetings at other places than the City Hall.

The Chairman then called on some of the Chairmen of the different Panels for reports on the activities of their Panels. He called first on Mrs. Dorothy Gibson, Chairman of the Social Aspects Panel.

Mrs. Gibson stated that she made a telephone survey of five different organizations to find out their reaction as to the need for emergency housing. She called the Butler Street YMCA, Urban League, Atlanta Police Department and the Community Council. Mrs. Gibson also stated that she then called the Salvation Army to get their reaction. The Salvation Army stated that they do not feel that there is much need for emergency housing; and that most of the Salvation Army Shelters are inadequately staffed and cannot provide any more shelters for emergency cases.

Mrs. Gibson stated that the Community Council recommended to its Executive Committee for emergency assistance on all needs.

She then stated that the Salvation Army has an apartment type hotel, (four units) to rent at 44 Delta Place, N.E., near Euclid Ave. and Edgewood Avenue, but that the Salvation Army will not rent it out unless they have more staff and that they will not rent to just anybody.

Tom Gibson, son of Mrs. Dorothy Gibson, was then called on by Mrs. Gibson to make a report in conjunction with Mrs. Gibson report.

Mr. Gibson made a report of a survey he had conducted of part of the personnel of the J. P. Stevens and Company. He reported that there were 269 houses and out of the total number there were 169 vacant and 100 still occupied.

He stated that he visited 62 houses for questioning and that 33 of these were vacant. Eleven were occupied but heads of households were not available; that he questioned 18 heads of households.

As a result of the questioning, 45% did at that time have definite plans for new housing before the deadline of September 1, 1969; 37% had looked for new housing without success; 18% had not sought new housing; and that 0% were moving to public housing (only one man had even applied and said he received no answer).

As for finding jobs, 100% of the people in this area stated that J. P. Stevens had helped them to find new jobs and 11% said that Stevens had helped in finding new housing.

There was an average number of 2 children per house. The average rent for the houses in the J. P. Stevens property was \$25.00, which had been taken directly from the individuals' paychecks.

The Chairman then pointed out that the Veterans Administration 48 Hospital is vacant and the houses around the hospital that were the staff quarters are also vacant. He stated that a meeting was held July 16 with Mr. William Allison, Executive Administrator of EOA, and Col. Malcolm D. Jones regarding this location. There is open land for play area that would make this place ideal for emergency housing. General Services Administration (GSA) and EOA are working together to find some way to fund this project so that it may be used as temporary emergency housing.

Mr. Jones then commented on a telephone conversation he had received that day from Mr. Golden, Plant Manager of the J. P. Stevens and Company. Mr. Golden stated that the majority of people were simply staying and taking advantage of the free rent and utilities until the first of September. Mr. Golden did state that some of the Elderly and families with many children are having a hard time finding apartments that will take them. Mr. Golden suggested that a Housing Assistance Office be set up to help these families in finding other places to live. He also stated that he would send notices around to these people indicating place and location of this office. He would have a representative of the J. P. Stevens and Company to work with the City, EOA (presumably Mr. Hess's Office) and a representative of the Housing Authority; that he would like for this office to be set up on the 28th of July or no later than the first Monday in August.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Robert Watkins, Executive Director of the Greater Atlanta Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit housing sponsor, to see if his Corporation can do anything about this situation. Mr. Watkins stated that the Junior Chamber of Commerce is working with him on this project and that they are trying to buy these homes, relocate them and rehabilitate them.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Watkins if there is any practical way the houses could be moved to another site? Mr. Watkins stated he believed so.

Mr. Augustus Sterne, Co-Chairman of the Housing Locations Panel, stated that the Committee should talk to Mr. Ed Harrison.

Mr. Alexander then called on Mr. Les Persells, Executive Director of the Housing Authority and asked him if he could provide a representative from the Housing Authority to work with the J. P. Stevens project.

Mr. Persells stated that he could provide 2 or 3 people but it would be on a part-time basis because of a shortage in personnel. He then stated that he could provide a full-time employee for about \$30.00 a day.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Ed Benson to make a report for the Construction and Design Panel.

Mr. Benson stated that Mr. Jim Wright and Mr. A. T. Connell made a presentation to his Panel for a proposal for an Urban Design Study within the Model Cities area. The Construction and Design Panel was asked to endorse their request to the Model Cities Executive Board for funding of the proposed study.

The Panel did not feel that the proposal as presented was specific enough to warrant endorsement. Mr. Benson stated that he and Mr. Frank Clarke, Georgia Tech, were requested to check further with Mr. Wright and Mr. Connell concerning the proposal. He stated that now they are satisfied that this is a worthwhile proposal and it is therefore the recommendation of the Construction and Design Panel that the Housing Resources Executive Committee either endorse the proposal themselves or permit the Construction and Design Panel to endorse this proposal to the Model Cities Executive Board.

A motion was made, seconded and adopted that the Housing Resources Committee as a whole endorse the proposal by Mr. Wright and Mr. Connell.

The Chairman then called on M. Archer Smith, Chairman of the Legal Panel, to make a report for his Panel.

Mr. Archer Smith reported that the Legal Panel is working on a proposal which they intend to make as a recommendation to the entire Housing Resources Committee for establishment of a new City Housing Department to keep all detailed information on housing and to have sufficient employees to be able to keep all records current and to do all research and statistical work that needs to be done.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Richard Harvey, Chairman of the Public Relations Panel.

Mr. Harvey stated that the Public Relations Panel would like for each Panel to make recommendations to the Committee on the goals of the Committee as a whole and any other ideas on which the Public Relations Panel could set up some type of Publicity Campaign to get across to the citizens, business, agencies, etc. the necessity for having Public Housing and Low-income Housing.

Mr. Harvey also stated the Public Relations Panel is charged with setting up meetings with the candidates for Mayor, to have each one of the candidates to come before the Committee as a whole at one of our meetings. It was suggested that the meetings be set up with the candidates the week of September 1st. A motion was made, seconded and adopted that the Public Relations Panel would set up meeting with the candidates for the week of September 1st.

Chairman Alexander then called on Col. Jones to comment on the Public Hearing on revision of the Building Code.

Col. Jones stated that at the first Public Hearing by the Building Committee July 15, as result of request by three organizations, one of which was the HRC, that action on the Code was deferred until after another Public Hearing scheduled for 10:00 A.M. July 29.

Col. Jones stated that there are only 40 copies of the proposed revision of the Building Code in existence. Col. Jones stated that he had sent a letter to the Chairmen who were involved in this project. One copy of the code was sent to Mr. Elliott for the Construction and Design Panel; one was turned over to M. Freeman Hutton for the Legal Panel and one is in the Office of the Housing Resources Committee for review by any of the members. Col. Jones said he would like constructive comments to be sent to him no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, July 21, and he would endeavor to consolidate and to get these comments to the Building Official in time for the 10:00 A.M. Public Hearing by the Building Code Advisory Board set for July 22. This Committee will need 12 copies of the comments (nine for the Advisory Board and 3 for the staff).

Col. Jones then commented on the requirements for admission to Public Housing, recently given to him by the Housing Authority.

Col. Jones stated that the first basic requirement for eligibility is that a family must be residents of Atlanta when making application. Families just moving to the City are eligible, but they come way down the list of priorities. By the way of priority, urban renewal families are housed first, then in following order - code enforcement, families without housing, families about to be without housing and families in substandard housing.

Col. Jones said the following are net income limits for admission to Public Housing:

<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>Income Limits</u>
1	\$3,200
2	3,900
3	4,100
4	4,300
5	4,500
6	4,800
7	4,900
8	5,000
9	5,100
10 or more	5,200

Col. Jones also stated that as of July 1, 1969, applicants for public housing may apply at any public housing development or the Central Office in the Hurt Building.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Frank Sheetz, Sheetz and Bradfield, Architects, to show a sound and slide presentation on What is Public Housing?

Mr. Sheetz gave a presentation on Public Housing and the basic requirements for Public Housing. Also stated in the presentation was the number of Housing Authorities as of March 31, 1969, in the Southern part of the United States, which consist of:

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

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This presentation was concerned mainly with small communities rather than larger cities, but illustrated the need for low-income housing in small towns, thereby easing the pressures on large cities such as Atlanta.

The Chairman then stated that anyone who would like, could take a tour of the John O. Chiles high rise building for the Elderly. The tour consisted of visiting the craftsroom, the library and a tour of an apartment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm D. Jones
Malcolm D. Jones
Housing Coordinator

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Encls: As stated (with file copy)