

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 29, 1976

MINUTES

PRESENT

W. Howard, Chairman, Preservation
Trust
F. Marino, Common Council

ALSO PRESENT

D. Cohn, Press
W. Kuehn
Approximately 40 members of public

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by W. Howard, Chairman, in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building. The Chairman indicated that, due to a lack of quorum, the Council could not conduct business; however, testimony concerning the housing site proposal will be heard.

W. Kuehn explained the status of the social services funding requests with HUD for the Community Health Center and Turtle. Of concern to the City was the expiration of temporary funding from the Mayor's contingency fund as of December 31, 1976.

W. Howard felt that, since the housing site subcommittee members were not present, subsequent meetings and hearings should be held on the North End housing site. W. Kuehn then explained the process by which the City applied for a housing site grant and the terms of grant approval. He further detailed the activities of the housing site subcommittee in assessing the site availability in the North End.

W. Howard then opened the meeting to comments from the public.

V. Amato, Ridgewood Road: doesn't feel Middletown needs any further subsidized housing. City has mechanism to fill existing subsidized housing with local residents; however, this has never been exercised. Surrounding communities should build their own subsidized units. Shouldn't build any additional clusters of such housing because they have a detrimental effect on people within and outside the cluster. Public housing should be in 2 - 3 family units scattered about. Doesn't feel the overcrowding criteria will be served by moving 20 - 25 families onto one acre of land. Suggests use of Roosevelt Field.

F. Grockowski, 16 Pease Avenue: felt the letter should have been sent to area residents. Suggested that additional families would overcrowd MacDonough School. Life style of existing residents would be adversely affected.

F. Franco, Ridgewood Road: speaking in behalf of property owners on Spring Street and Rome Avenue; strong objection to site; feels that street is too narrow to handle increased traffic.

R. Connelly, 48 Spring Street: said that all properties in area are well cared for; only problem is Greco property, resulting from family dispute.

O. Misenti, 31 Rome Avenue: cited existing traffic problems; traffic avoiding Main Street by using Spring and Stack Streets.

Mrs. F. Franco, Ridgewood Road: requested names and whereabouts of subcommittee members.

J. Woodcock, 581 High Street: asked several questions regarding grant conditions, including location of five potential sites under consideration; felt that additional families and their cars would severely overcrowd area. W. Kuehn explained the financial limitations of the grant and some of the problems inherent with Miller Street area and Portland Street.

J. Filanda, 2 Marlon Place, Cromwell: speaking in behalf of his mother who has lived next to Greco property for 60 years; in response to a question, W. Kuehn explained that the Greco parcel would provide only the core of the site, that other properties would have to be acquired.

F. Franco, Ridgewood Road: suggested use of parking lot near firehouse or use of 634 Main Street area.

J. Woodcock, 581 High Street: since funds are insufficient, why not return it to HUD and reapply for more money.

F. Grockowski, 16 Pease Avenue: asked about site selection process. W. Howard responded by advising that the site selection subcommittee would have to conduct a hearing prior to recommendations from the C.A.C. to the Common Council.

V. Amato, Ridgewood Road: what assurances are there that overcrowding conditions in the North End would be abated. W. Kuehn suggested means that the City could use for selecting a housing developer and further suggested using a committee appointed by the Common Council to screen applicants as City residents. F. Marino felt that as long as there is re-development in Middletown, there will be a need for new housing.

W. Satagaj, West Street: questioned useable land on north side of Miller Street.

C. Tyaack, 14 Annette Place: related Municipal Development Committee concerns in the Miller Street area and use of CD rehabilitation monies in surveying North End for problem areas.

O. Misenti, 31 Rome Avenue: suggested moving into really blighted area-Portland Street and Miller Street.

Mrs. R. Grillo, 32 Spring Street: questioned realtor contact with City. Doesn't feel that neighborhood should suffer because one property owner desires to sell to City.

At this point, the taping of the session ceased. Other who spoke in opposition to the housing site were: Mrs. T. Laverty, 52 Spring Street; S. Franco, 40 Spring Street; J. Trotta, 23 Rome Avenue.

Several persons suggested that future hearings be held at MacDonough School. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 P.M.