

THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS

Thursday, November 20, 1980
Housing Court, 83 1/2 Lafayette Street
Hartford Connecticut

Attendane:

Marie Langan
Robert L. Senkow
Patricia Augur
Jessie Collins
Carol Maurer
Robert Kor
Raphael Podolsky
Rudolph P. Arnold
Adriana Falcon Trafford
Tom Kruwucak
David A. Pels
Sheila L. Scott
Elaine Di Nigris

The meeting was convened at 4:45 p.m. Member attendance and meeting dates were discussed. The Secretary of State must receive a copy of CAC regular meeting schedule by 1-1-81.

C.A.C. Membership vacancy/Mike Sharpe's replacement

There is presently one (1) C.A.C. opening. The Department of Handicapped has requested a slot for Cathy Coffin. The need for a replacement of Michael Sharpe.

The question of whether or not it was better to have a liason person (i.e. from the Planning Department rather than the deputy commissioner representative attend CAC meetings was discussed. Pat Augur questioned whether the CAC members would support her writing the Governor requesting that Mike Sharpe be replaced. Adrianna Falcon Trafford made the motion that a letter be written to Governor Grasso requesting that the Deputy Commissioner position be held open in order to appoint a strong Housing Advocate. Rudy Arnold seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Rafie Podolsky made a motion to request the Department of Housing to designate an employee to attend CAC meetings. Rudy Arnold seconded the motion. Adrianna Falcon Trafford questioned if this motion included staffing from the DOH planning department. All were in favor. Rafie Podolsky said that Pat should feel authorized to do as she wishes.

Three Year Housing Plan re: writing to Governor/Canale to retain Housing Court section in the 3 year plan

Rafie Podolsky mentioned that no one knew what happened in the procedure. The task force (a mandated public citizen group) submitted a proposal to strengthen the Housing Court increasing staff and to expand statewide. The DOH staff wrote the three year plan which contained both proposals but under the recommendations, moved up to higher authorities certain items were dropped. Pat Augur mentioned Mike Sharipes statement that the Governor's plans included strenthening the court. Pat Augur requested a resolution. Adrianna Falcon-Trafford moved that Commissioner Canale and Governor Grasso be requested that the Housing Court component of the three year plan be left intact. The vote was four in favor, three against.

Report on Court Facilities

Jessie Collins reported his inspection of listed property. In his opinion the 322 Washington Street site was excellent in terms of parking, space, and accessibility. This site is the former Youth Detention Court. Rudy Arnold mentioned that there is a good probability that this site was already taken. Jessie Collins discussed 140, 150 Washington St. (former Chris Dodd Headquarters) These sites were ok. The availability of parking space was discussed.

Rafie Podolsky suggested 217, 215 Washington St. providing that sites were not designated for housing. These sites were discussed. 217 Washington Street lacks parking space, 215 Washington may be Kinsella owned. Both 1935 and 1841 Broad Street are vacant factories with sq. footage parking. The site 1020 Broad St (near Madison) is not acceptable due to poor parking and the prospect of displacing tenants.

Art Greenblatt has been asked to inspect Union Place Property. The Masonic Lodge on Ann St. has private parking but has 28,000 sq. ft. and is for sale not for lease. Greenblatt felt that the owners are reluctant to lease to the State due to red tape. More information to follow on this site. Art Greenblatt wrote a letter in support of the Morgan St. site. The letter stated that it was a key location with ample parking and accessibility.

WFSB aired an editorial concerning the inaccessibility of the Housing Court.

The Judicial Department requested a space requirement of 6,500 sq. ft. for handicap accessibility. OPM's approval is awaited. Pat Augur asked Jessie Collins to narrow his site selections down to the four best possibilities. One site will be assigned to a CAC member for further research. Rafie Podolsky asked if Morgan St. was still a possibility. Pat Augur responded that it is.

Judicial Selection

Judge Spada and Pat Augur will have lunch Monday, November 24, 1980 no further action was taken.

New Britain Housing Court Issues

CAC members discussed whether or not fines should be lowered in order to avoid jury trials. Elaine Di Nigris made a motion to keep the \$500.00 fine and to keep the 30 days. The motion was seconded by Adrianna Falcon Trafford. Vote was unanimous except for Jesse Collins who abstained.

New Procedures

Court procedures are being streamlined. This is the 4th revision. Individuals and groups are expressing dissatisfaction with the Housing Court. Rafie Podolsky has been commissioned by the Capitol Region Conference of Churches to write an evaluate report on the housing code enforcement in the Housing Session. This report will document past experiences and lay out recommendations.

According to Rafie Podolsky the Citizen's Advisory Council needs more authority.

Housing Specialist are no longer monitoring court cases.

Carol Maurer suggested that the report be finished and presented to CAC at the next meeting

Elaine DiNigris made a motion to recommend that the Prosecutor Ray Wiezalis, be replaced Rudy Arnold seconded the motion. Except for one abstention, Carol Maurer, all were in favor.

Emergency Heat Issues were discussed. Bob Korr volunteered to work with Pat Augur in getting information on heat issues.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 1980.

Sincerely

Sheila L. Scott
Secretary, Pro Tem