

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
REGULAR

HELD: Tuesday, June 23, 1964
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers Annex

ATTENDING: Chairman Fred H. Mohr, City Manager Donald E. Ghel, Rev. Arthur E. Adams, Willis E. Littlefield, Walter W. Fischer, Mrs. John E. Boyle, Mrs. William E. Johnson, Robert T. Sheldon, Arthur J. Dubiel, James F. McCoolle, Rev. Robert C. Sneed, Robert W. Lapointe, Fred E. Easter, Arthur J. Grimes, Thomas F. Schofield, Raymond R. Ouellette, Roland A. Jenkins, Thomas P. Duffy, Mr. John D. McCarthy.

ALSO ATTENDING: Mayor Walworth Johnson, Planning Director Henry Neil, Assistant Planner Robert J. LaPointe, Mr. Richard Hinkley of Grant's and Mr. Lawrence Pratt of Montgomery Wards.

Chairman Mohr called the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee to order at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 1964 in the Council Chambers Annex at City Hall. He welcomed the following members present.

Mayor Johnson then informed the Members that Mr. Hinkley of Grant's and Mr. Pratt of Montgomery Wards were present at his invitation this evening so that they might be made aware of the effects of proposed actions upon their respective streets.

Chairman Mohr reminded the Members that the purpose of the evening's meeting was to discuss proposed redevelopment action in downtown Dover. He then asked Planning Director Henry Neil to present his plan to the Committee.

Mr. Neil presented a vision of establishing the location of traffic, fire and structural problems in the downtown area. He then proceeded to the Members a map showing the existing view of improved property parcels in the downtown area. In addition, he presented a map indicating the areas of structures in downtown Dover.

The Committee Members were then shown an overlay of the land use map showing the various planning proposals for the downtown area. These included a revised traffic pattern involving the bridge and an extension of Chestnut Street through to Washington Street, increased parking areas involving the widening of the River and extension of the First Street Parking lot through the property presently occupied by United Tanners and development of certain areas for commercial use.

Some discussion then followed concerning the proposed uses and various Committee Members asked questions. The belief was expressed that the proposed actions and reasons for them be explained to various groups in order that all might understand the proposed technique. Mr. Neil stated that the plans as expressed were open to inspection and question by any citizen of Dover. He further expressed a willingness to address any group interested in the proposed actions.

Chairman Mohr asked Committee Members to inform any interested parties of the proposed actions.

Mayor Johnson then noted that the City Council would be very interested to hear the views of various City groups on the proposed plans.

Mr. Grimes asked if the proposed action would in fact result in increased employment in downtown Dover.

Mr. Fischer answered that in his opinion as based upon inquiries he has received from several major stores, Dover must take some action in order to create interest in its downtown area.

Motion by Chick, seconded by Grimes that a Subcommittee be established to investigate interest in downtown Dover property. Motion adopted unanimously.

In answer to question Mr. Neil then stated that if the plans were followed through exactly as proposed approximately 195 families would be affected. Mrs. Boyle then asked if it were not true that rather than 195 families being affected 195 dwelling units would be affected and that some of these units might already be vacant. Mr. Neil confirmed this fact.

Some discussion then followed as to the relocation needs of these displaced families.

The group was then informed that if carried far as proposed property in the City assessed at approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ million would be affected if the area on First and Second Streets were relocated for commercial use at approximately the same value as assessed good quality downtown property then they would add approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ million to the City's assessed valuation.

There being no further discussion Chairmen thanked Mr. Neil for his presentation and declared the meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Lapante