

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISPLACED  
PERSONS EMANUEL URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

Location: Matt Dishman Center

Date:

Time: Evening - 7:30 or 8:00

Physical Arrangements: Table for members of Human Relations Commission in front of the auditorium. Microphone for Commission and those addressing the Commission

Format: Commission calls on Mrs. Warren, chairman of the EDPA for an opening statement. Mrs. Warren to have statements read by people being displaced. Commission calls on attorney from Legal Aid who will verify that statements read by displaced persons were given under oath.

Counsel for EDPA to be questioned regarding agreement between EDPA, Emanuel Hospital, Housing Authority, Model Cities and Portland Development Commission.

Following these presentations questions by members of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. Meeting then open to Portland Development Commission for any statement they may have. Questions by Commission members and counsel for EDPA.

Statements from organizations such as Comprehensive Health Planning and etc.

Following the meeting, then open for questions from the floor.

METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 21, 1971  
3:00 p. m. , Water Services Building Auditorium

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Marlene Bayless, Paul Bender, Dr. Lewis, Richard Brownstein, Thelma Wilson, Mark Holmes, Richard Boyer, Rose Marie Scott, James Jackson, Tom Sloan

Excused: Dr. Unthank, Walter Sakai, Dr. Gregory Lee Brown, Fred Rosenbaum

Staff Present: Russell Peyton, Jim Sitzman

Visitors: Vera Katz, Robert Nelson, Charles Bradwell, Deputy Chief Carr, Ron Buel, The Clark Press, The Oregonian

MINUTES of last meeting approved as mailed.

EMANUEL HOSPITAL URBAN RENEWAL

Chairman Brownstein asked the director to introduce for the Commission the subject of Emanuel Hospital Urban Renewal. The director read a letter addressed to Mr. John Kenward of the Portland Development Commission which the Commission had prepared following receipt of numerous complaints. It was hoped that this letter would elicit the opportunity to discuss means of resolving some of these issues. The reply acknowledging the letter stated that any complaints we had received should be forwarded to PDC for action.

The Chairman opened the floor to discussion by members and guests. Discussion took place for nearly ninety minutes. Following are key portions of the discussion and the resulting decision.

Mr. Robert Nelson, staff of the Emanuel Displaced Persons Association, stated that in his estimation the basic problems concerning relocation of citizens from the Emanuel Project area are that people were not involved in development of a plan, they are now being forced to give up their homes without adequate compensation and that PDC is not living up to its signed agreement with EDPA, Model Cities, Planning Board, City Demonstration Agency, Housing Authority and Emanuel Hospital. He pointed out that since this agreement is part of the relocation plan the entire plan can be questioned as a valid document. He testified that there are still 134 families to be relocated.

In response to a question concerning the purposes of a hearing, Mr. Nelson stated that a hearing would serve to make visible the human suffering and to show what urban renewal does to a community. In response to further questioning, Mr. Nelson indicated that the concern was not only over the present situation but the overall actions of the Portland Development Commission. Mr. Bradwell of Albina Citizens Together gave examples of people injured and unfairly treated.

Vera Katz of the Comprehensive Health Plan summarized a report prepared by the CHP in which PDC was asked to review and revise its Emanuel Project plan for the area north of Monroe street. Their report outlined other requests aimed at aiding minority residents of the community. She indicated her support for a hearing.

Ron Buel, assistant to Commissioner Goldschmidt, recounted the conversation he had had with Fred Rosenbaum, chairman of the Housing Authority, in reference to the charge from EDPA that PDC is failing to abide by its signed agreement. Mr. Rosenbaum stated to Ron Buel that neither the Housing Authority nor Model Cities have been contacted by PDC since the agreement was completed in March of 1971.

Marlene Bayless moved and Tom Sloan seconded that a hearing on relocation in the Emanuel Project area be conducted by the Commission within the next two months. The motion was unanimously passed. The purposes of a hearing would be to : (1) determine from citizen testimony the nature of whatever problem exist; (2) to secure testimony on actions by PDC to comply with the agreement and (3) to get information that might be helpful in outlining a City policy for insuring adequate citizen participation in future PDC or other projects.

The chairman instructed staff to work with EDPA in drawing up a format for the hearing. He called for a special meeting of the Commission to review these plans before the hearing was held. With Commission consent, the chairman will appoint a small committee to work with staff in developing this format. Tom Sloan asked that the hearing be conducted in an informal style so that all attending may participate if they desire. It was agreed that PDC board members and staff together with members of the City Council should be notified in writing about the time and place of the hearing before it is held.

#### EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The director read letters from Congressman Wendell Wyatt and Congresswoman Edith Green thanking the Commission for its role in negotiating the Hometown Agreement. Staff referred Commission members to the minutes of the Employment Committee meeting contained in the member's packets.

Marlene Bayless introduced the subject of City and County affirmative action and contract compliance policies, reiterating her feelings that the Commission should proceed with due speed in placing this matter before the City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Staff reported that material it had prepared on affirmative action and contract compliance clauses had been submitted for review and are awaiting opinions from the City Attorney and the District Attorney. The subject will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

EDPA Meeting  
August 19, 1971  
Cascade Community Center

Attendance: Approximately 100 persons (including residents of urban renewal area, media and other interested citizens).

Report of Proceedings:

The meeting was opened and conducted by Mrs. Leo Warren, chairman of the Emanuel Displaced Persons Association. She announced the subject of the evening to be the concern of EDPA for fair and equitable treatment of Project area residents facing relocation. She questioned whether or not agencies which are set up to serve people are giving proper consideration to human values. Residents of the community, home owners and tenants, were invited to make statements focusing on what is happening to people as a result of urban renewal programs. Mrs. Warren stated that although she had personally gained much from participating in EDPA she had become disturbed by the way public agencies treat citizens. In this connection she read a letter from Mrs. Pat Bell (an assistant to Commissioner Ivancie) declining use of the Dishman Community Center on October 19th for this meeting, implying that Commissioner Ivancie was responsible for obstructing the effort of citizens to protect their welfare. She expressed disappointment that Model Cities had not complied with an EDPA request for expert assistance. Also questioned was the good faith of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission relative to their intentions to conduct a hearing. Both the Albina Citizens Together and the American Friends Service Committee were praised for their loyal support.

Mrs. Warren then opened the floor for comment and called upon the following people in this order.

Mr. Ocie Trotter described his concern as being the personal welfare of people forced to leave the familiar surroundings of their home at the risk of financial loss. He briefly outlined the history of EDPA efforts to assist people caught in this predicament. He closed with the statement that EDPA is "Still in need of support" and welcomed such support.

Mr. Bob Nelson (staff of EDPA) gave some history leading to tonight's meeting in which Russell Peyton of MHRC was credited with the suggestion of conducting a hearing. Encouragement for this idea by Commissioner Goldschmidt was noted. As part of describing the chain of events involved in establishing a time and place for such a hearing, Mr. Nelson very clearly

indicated that in his opinion MHRC had been overpowered by the Development Commission. Specifically, he alleged that MHRC cancelled its part in the hearing on August 19th immediately after a meeting with PDC and before it was known that a quorum of MHRC members would not be available on the 19th.

Mr. Nolan (a law school student who has specialized in affairs of the northeast community) indicated some of his opinions from a legal point of view concerning the activities of PDC. In conclusion he suggested the community lend its influence to help abolish PDC.

Mr. Jim Barnes (Legal Aid lawyer representing EDPA) made note of the agreement signed by PDC and the Housing Authority providing one for one replacement of housing destroyed by the Emanuel Hospital Project. He testified that several weeks after signing the agreement no evidence of progress could be noted. He intimated that as a result of his letter asking for evidence of progress and announcement by MHRC of intentions to hold a public hearing that PDC is making headway in implementing the agreement. Mr. Barnes welcomed the day when MHRC conducts a hearing on relocation of the Emanuel Project residents.

Mrs. Eaton (a resident of the Project area) stated that PDC had made an offer on her property which she had declined. A reappraisal promised her by PDC has not been made, leaving the future of her home up in the air.

Mr. Yaun (sp.?) stated in general terms his displeasure over treatment he had received from PDC representatives. Although it was difficult to understand all that was said, he did recommend that land owners in urban renewal areas be given first priorities at jobs created by the project. He further suggested that renewal programs include employment training components for the benefit of residents.

From this point on statements commenced to drift beyond the issue of relocation.

Mrs. Allen questioned the right of big agencies to make decisions affecting communities without consent of the residents. She questions the sense of there being a Human Relations Commission that does not listen to people's problems. She was quite critical of the Urban League and NAACP for failure to represent the welfare of black citizens.

Mr. Bob Boyer (Boise community representative to the Model Cities board) referred to a statement of promise by the City Council to protect the rights of citizens in the Emanuel Project area and indicated that the

Council has done nothing to fulfill this promise. He stated his intention to bring the problem of Emanuel Project citizens before the appropriate committees and the board of Model Cities.

Additional statements were offered by Kent Ford, Alfred Pompon (sp. ?), Walter Morris and Willard Thomas, a resident on N. Cook Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned following presentation of the redistricting plan developed by Secretary of State, Clay Myers. This issue entered the meeting at the urging of Walley Priestley on the basis that ability of black citizens to control their affairs was in further jeopardy as a result of this redistricting plan.

Note: Only two residents from the Emanuel Hospital Project area spoke about specific problems they have encountered in relocation efforts. The feeling was expressed that this was due to the late removal of the meeting to a location some distance from the community.



**METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
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**Russell A. Peyton**  
*Director*  
**Vernon Summers**  
*Assistant*  
**James R. Sitzman**  
*Assistant*  
**Gloria Johnson**  
*Secretary*

**September 1, 1971**

**AGENDA**

✓ **Roll Call**

✓ **Approval of Minutes**

✓ **Correspondence**

✓ **Report on Home Town Plan**

**I. A. O. H. R. A. Conference Report: Vern Summers**

✓ **Emanuel Hospital Project**



September 16, 1971

Minutes of Meeting with EDPA on Arrangements for a Public Forum

Present: Mrs. Leo Warren, three EDPA Campaigners, Bob Nelson, Annie Allen, Ben Webb, Paul Bender, Marlene Bayless, Tom Sloan, James Jackson, Russ Peyton, Vern Summers, Jim Sitzman.

At the request of EDPA the meeting was held at the C-CAP office starting at 2:30 p.m. Russ Peyton chaired the meeting and opened by stating that the purpose was to discuss the notice to residents about the forum, the time, location, format and need for transportation.

LOCATION:

It was agreed that the Immaculate Heart School Auditorium is a suitable location.

TRANSPORTATION:

It was further agreed that this location is central enough for all residents to get to on their own.

TIME:

The suggested date of September 21st was not acceptable with EDPA. EDPA stated that they needed time to discuss this matter with their executive committee. They indicated that the executive committee would have to decide whether or not they still want a forum before worrying about a date and time. They pointed out in addition that time would have to be provided for their campaigners to talk with residents before the forum.

FORMAT:

After lengthy discussion, there were some who agreed that the format might move from specific to general issues. This means that persons wishing to state specific complaints or concerns about their relocation problems would be given an opportunity in the first portion of the meeting to comment. Following these specific complaints, the floor would be opened to persons desiring to express their feelings about the larger issues of the urban renewal process.

The chairman indicated that MHRC's chief concern is about relocation complaints. The larger question of whether or not the urban renewal process is right is not an appropriate concern at this time, although residents should

also have the opportunity to express feelings on this subject if they desire.

The chairman stated that the questionnaire circulated by MHRC identified some people who wanted to discuss their concerns with EDPA. The names and addresses of these people were offered to EDPA. EDPA was also informed that those people desiring to discuss their problem with MHRC will be contacted by the Commission.

Mr. Webb of PDC inquired of EDPA concerning their knowledge of people in the community who have concerns about PDC. EDPA indicated they knew of individuals with complaints. Mr. Webb asked why EDPA is reluctant to refer such cases to his office in order to correct the problem. The question was left unanswered.

ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER:

A letter prepared by MHRC would be mailed to all residents announcing the forum was read. EDPA expressed the feeling that the purpose for the hearing was not contained in the letter.

NOTE: A sample of the notice to residents is attached.