MINUTES

PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

December 12, 1951

Present: Messrs: Buckley
Burke
Costello
Heymann
Percival
Yarnall

Absent: Downs
Hopkinson
Kelley

Others present: Edmund N. Bacon, Executive Director

Paul F. Croley, Asst. Executive Director

A. R. Jennings, Chief, Division of Land Planning

A. Levine, Senior Land Planner, Div. of L.P.

Charles A. Howland, Chief, Division of Projects

Hans Blumenfeld, Chief, Div. of Planning Analysis


Robert K. Sawyer, Managing Director Designate

Walter M. Phillips, City Representative Designate

The meeting was held in the offices of the Commission, eighteenth floor, Market Street National Bank Building, and was called to order at 2:00 p.m.; Vice-Chairman Yarnall in chair.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Messrs. Sawyer and Phillips as prospective members of the Planning Commission. Mr. Lennox L. Moak, Finance Director Designate, was unable to be present.
There being no amendments, changes, or corrections, minutes of the meeting held November 14, 1951 were approved as distributed.

The practice of displaying an over-all orientation map covering agenda items was initiated at this meeting.

Mayor Samuel's letter (11/19/51) reappointing Mr. Joseph F. Burke as a member of the Planning Commission for an additional five-year term from December 1, 1951, was read.

Pennsylvania State Highway Report (let. 12/6/51) re: Commission's Plan for New Delaware River Bridge Approach Highway:

Displayed: Plan of Portion of Delaware Expressway (by Clarke, Rapuano and Holleran)

Upon motion of Director Costello, seconded by Director Buckley, and carried, the Commission authorized that the State Highway Department report "The Philadelphia Roadway Approach to the New Delaware River Bridge-1951" be reproduced for distribution to the Delaware River Joint Commission of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and to the members of the City Planning Commission.

The Commission instructed that permission to release the report to the Press be requested of Mr. E. L. Schmidt, Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania State Department of Highways.

Art Jury Resolution (let. 12/4/51) re:
Proposed Street Layout for Triangle Area:

Displayed: Proposed Street Layout for Triangle Area-PCPC

Upon motion of Director Buckley, seconded by Director Costello, and carried, the Resolution of the Art Jury was received and filed.

American Institute of Architects-Philadelphia Chapter Resolution (10-23-51) re: Triangle Area:

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission instructed that the A.I.A.-Philadelphia Chapter be advised of the Commission's appreci-
A.I.A.-Philadelphia Chapter
Resolution re: Triangle Area (ctd)

...ation for the interest shown in its work and will give consideration to the suggestions by the Chapter in any future action on this project.

Art Jury (let. 11-27-51) re:
Apartment House Development on Logan Circle:

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission tabled this subject for further consideration at its January 1952 meeting.

Philadelphia Museum of Art (let. 11/30/51) re:
Proposed Exhibit of "Downtown Model":

Upon motion of Director Costello, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission approved exhibiting the "Downtown Model" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (ap. June 14 to October, 1952) with the provision that the Museum provide for the maintenance, cleaning, guards, and such other services as may be required to keep the model in good condition during the period for which it is in the Museum. The Commission will provide for the moving of the model to and from the Museum.

Presentation of Penn Center Plan at Citizens' Council on City Planning Delegates' Meeting of February, 1952:

Upon motion of Mr. Heymann, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission approved cooperation with the Citizens' Council on City Planning in presenting the Penn Center Plan at its Delegates' meeting in February, 1952.

Old Mill Creek Sewer Project:
(prev. ref. p. 595)

Displayed: Report of present status in map form.

Upon motion of Director Buckley, duly seconded and carried, the Commission instructed that a reply be made to the West Philadelphia Citizens Planning Committee letter of October 24, 1951, outlining the present status of this project. The entire matter is to be reconsidered in connection with the preparation of the 1953-1958 Capital Program and the 1953 Capital Budget in the light of information.
Old Mill Creek Sewer Project (ctd):

revealed by a survey about to be undertaken by the Department of Public Works to determine those portions needing immediate attention.

Southwest Temple Redevelopment Area, Unit #1:
(Redevelopment Authority let. 11/20/51)

Upon motion of Mr. Burke, seconded by Director Buckley, and carried, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Redevelopment Authority (Resolution #341) that the subject plan should be changed so as to eliminate the proposed rehabilitation of the dwellings on the Eleventh Street side of the project.

Southwest Temple Redevelopment Area Plan Revisions:

Displayed: Southwest Temple Area Plan (Kahn, Day, McAllister)

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission tabled this subject for further consideration at its January 1952 meeting.

Harrison Public Housing Project:
(Housing Authority let. 12-10-51)

Displayed: Preliminary Site Plan Changes (Carver)

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission approved this preliminary site plan (PA-2-15) with the understanding that the details of the landscape treatment, along Tenth Street, would be subject to revision after the Redevelopment Authority's consultants had prepared recommendations for its treatment. Both the Housing Authority and the Redevelopment Authority are to be so advised.

Byberry Public Housing Project:
(Housing Authority let. 12-11-51)

The Commission reviewed the Housing Authority's report (12-4-51) on public housing sites referred by the Planning Commission to date.

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission tabled consideration of the proposed Byberry Site for further consideration at its January 1952 meeting. Meanwhile a field trip is to be arranged to view the proposed Byberry site and determine other appropriate sites in this general locality.
Proposed Railroad Spur Crossing Northeast and Bustleton Avenues:

Displayed: Freight Facility Plan of Philadelphia Air Map—Far Northeast Philadelphia

Upon motion of Mr. Burke, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to appear at the Council hearing (12-13-51) to voice opposition to this proposal.

The Executive Director was instructed to report on the Council hearing at the January 1952 meeting of the Commission.

Roosevelt Boulevard Plans—Oxford Circle to 9th Street:

Displayed: Traffic Volume Study—PCPC
Map of cross sections of existing highway and as proposed by the Commonwealth.

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission tabled action on this subject for further consideration at its January 1952 meeting.

Industrial Defense Plant Location Committee for Greater Philadelphia—South Jersey Area, Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia:

Upon motion of Mr. Burke, duly seconded and carried, the Executive Director was authorized to accept an invitation (let. 11-28-51) to serve as a member of the subject committee.

Traffic Planning Suggestions (let.12-7-51)
Philadelphia Real Estate Board:

The Executive Director was instructed to advise that the Commission appreciates the interest shown by the Real Estate Board and will consider representation of the Board on the Commission’s Technical Advisory Committee upon submission of suggested names from which to make a selection.

Contract—Property Service, Inc.: (prev. ref. pp.530, etc.)

Upon motion of Mr. Burke, duly seconded and carried, the Commission authorized a contract with Property Service, Inc., for a study relating 1951 realty
Contract-Property Service, Inc. (ctd):

sales to 1952 assessments, at a cost not to exceed the sum of $3,500.

Staff Christmas Party:

An invitation was extended to the Commissioners to participate in the staff’s Christmas Party, scheduled for Friday, December 21, 1951.

Messrs. Croley, Jennings, Levine, Howland, Blumenfeld, Morrison and Elliott left the meeting at this point.

Instructions re Commission Representation
by Mr. Hans Blumenfeld:

The Commissioners reviewed the letter of April 2, 1951 from the Executive Director to Mr. Hans Blumenfeld, Chief, Division of Planning Analysis, also a letter dated November 22, 1951 from Mr. Blumenfeld to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, signed by him as Chief, Division of Planning Analysis, Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

Upon motion by Mr. Heymann, duly seconded and carried, the Commission authorized that the Chairman notify Mr. Blumenfeld that he is to make no public statements, written or oral, which involve or appear to involve the City Planning Commission or its staff, without first obtaining the approval of the Executive Director. Failure on the part of Mr. Blumenfeld to comply with these requirements will be considered as a basis for his dismissal by the City Planning Commission.

Director Buckley’s Resignation:

Director Buckley stated he was resigning as Director of the Department of Public Works and therefore said good-bye to the Commissioners.

Vice-Chairman Yarnall said he was certain that if the Chairman were present, he would agree, that of all the qualified men, Director Buckley had contributed, in counsel and sound engineering advice, as much, if not more, than any other one.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m.

M. S. Travers
Confidential Clerk