MINUTES

PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

September 21, 1951

Present: Messrs: Buckley
         Burke
         Heymann
         Hopkinson
         Yarnall

Absent:  Costello
         Downs
         Kelley
         Percival

Others present: Edmund N. Bacon, Executive Director
                Paul F. Croley, Assistant Executive Director
                A. R. Jennings, Chief, Div. of Land Planning
                A. Levine, Senior Land Planner, Div. of Land Planning
                Hans Blumenfeld, Chief, Div. of Planning Analysis
                F. N. Sass, Planning Analyst, Div. of Planning Analysis
                Al Paul Lefton Co., Inc., Public Relations Consultants, represented by Messrs. Lefton, Morrison and Elliott.
                Rufus S. Reeves, M.D., Director, Dept. of Public Health

The meeting was held in the offices of the Commission, eighteenth floor, Market Street National Bank Building, and was called to order at 2:05 p.m.; Mr. Hopkinson in chair.

There being no amendments, changes, or corrections, minutes of the meeting held August 17, 1951 were approved as distributed.
Hospitalization Facilities for Tuberculosis Patients:
(previous reference pp. 539-551)

The Executive Director read Controller Clark's letter of September 19 and a proposed reply by the Planning Commission.

Rufus S. Reeves, M.D., Director of the Department of Public Health, was invited to the meeting to advise the Commission of the status of negotiations toward the acquisition of additional facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis patients.

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission approved the proposed reply to Controller Clark, to be dated September 24, 1951, and subject to clearance with The Mayor and Councilman Crossan, after revising certain wording as suggested by Dr. Reeves. The exchange of correspondence is not to be released to the Press by the Planning Commission.

Federally-aided, Low-rent Housing Project Sites:

Southwest Temple and West Poplar Area Plan:

Displayed: Plan of Southwest Temple and North Allen Sites Combined (with 3-dimensional models)

The Executive Director described the approach to coordinated site planning portrayed in the plan displayed, which, in this instance, attained unity in these two adjacent sites through the development of a wide promanade and open spaces.

Upon motion of Director Buckley, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission approved proceeding with this type of work and the necessary negotiations with the Housing and Redevelopment Authorities.

Independence Mall-Plans Progress:
(prev. ref. p. 562 & prior)

Displayed: Plans-Sections Independence Mall (by H.H.L.&L.)

Upon motion, duly seconded and carried, the Commission approved the displayed plans for further discussion with the State.
Old City Redevelopment Area:

A model of proposed redevelopment in this area (by Harbeson, Hough, Livingston and Larson) was shown for the information of the Commissioners.

Study of Parking Habits in Philadelphia:

Displayed: Types of Charts to be Included in Report

The subject report was prepared by the staff from the Origin-Destination Traffic Survey data. It was instructed that copies be sent to the Commissioners, also to the Parking Authority, Highway Traffic Board, and the City Traffic Engineer, with a request that comments on it be returned to the Commission within a week of its receipt. It was authorized that the report be published following such review.

New Redevelopment Areas - Request for Certification:

Displayed: Maps showing present and proposed redevelopment of -

North Central ("N"): extending from the Delaware River to Pennsylvania Avenue, lying between Spring Garden Street, the Old City and Triangle Redevelopment Areas and Market Street, including Penn Square; and, Fairmount ("O"): bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Spring Garden Street, Broad Street and Girard Avenue.

Upon motion of Director Buckley, seconded by Mr. Heymann, and carried, the Commission authorized that a request be made for certification of the above described parcels as redevelopment areas.

Parking in Relation to Roosevelt Boulevard:

Displayed: Plan (C.R.& H) of Section of Roosevelt Boulevard showing Areas Available for Parking.

The Executive Director spoke of the need for parking facilities in the business area adjacent to the route of the proposed Roosevelt Boulevard Extension. He read a letter of September 18 from the Brown Instruments Division, Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, stressing the need for parking for that plant.
Parking in Relation to Roosevelt Blvd. (ctd):

The Commission authorized that a recommendation be made to the Department of Public Works for a conference with the State Highway Department and the Parking Authority toward consideration of utilization of the land under the elevated portion of the Roosevelt Boulevard extension for surface parking facilities.

It was suggested also that the question might be explored as to whether there would be any advantage in having the Parking Authority acquire some, or all, of the right-of-way for parking purposes in advance of acquisition for the highway.

Delaware Expressway Route:
(Schofield Tract adjoining Holmesburg Prison)

Displayed: Plan for Delaware Expressway, Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to City Line (C.R.& H.)

Upon motion, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission authorized that the plans displayed be forwarded to the Department of Public Works, without recommendation, as a basis for discussion with the State Highway Department.

Roosevelt Boulevard:

The Commission authorized that a request be made to the Department of Public Works for plans covering the entire development of Roosevelt Boulevard from Broad Street to Oxford Circle, for the review of the Technical Advisory Committee on Local Transportation at its next meeting. Director Buckley expressed his approval of the request.

Franklin Institute-Air Pollution Study; (prev. ref. pp. 559 & prior)

Upon motion of Mr. Yarnall, duly seconded, and carried, the Commission approved acceptance of the receipt of the report and authorized final payment to the Institute.

Mr. Yarnall stated that the report was a credit to the Institute and he felt that it was quite a distinction for the Planning Commission to be one of the group which has taken this pioneering step.

No publicity release on the report will be made by the Commission at
Franklin Institute-Air Pollution Study (ctd):

present. Al Paul Lefton Co. will proceed toward the preparation of material for a publicity release at the time authorized.

Capital Program 1952-57:

The City Controller called attention to some changes necessary on pp. 19 and 20. These corrections are made and being sent to those receiving the preliminary copies released.

Technical Advisory Committee on Local Transportation:
Chairmanship

Mr. Samuel Littlejohn tendered his resignation as Chairman of this Committee as he is moving to another city.

The resignation was accepted and the Commission authorized the Chairman to express its appreciation and commendation of the service rendered by Mr. Littlejohn.

Mr. Leonard A. Drake, presently Vice-Chairman, was appointed to the Chairmanship. Mr. Drake will be consulted regarding the designation of a Vice-Chairman for the Committee.

Airport Construction Work Photographs:

The Executive Director advised that the series of five photographs shown were available upon request.

Staff Positions-PCPC:

The Commission authorized the following:

(a) that a request for change in job title from Assistant Graphic Designer to that of Graphic Designer, be processed through the Civil Service Commission;

(b) a provisional appointment on a temporary basis be made to a vacancy in a position of Planning Analyst (Mr. J. Dunn on Military Leave);

(c) a request to the City Council to immediately establish a position titled Junior Executive Assistant.
Inspection Trip of City Improvements, Oct. 9, 1951 sponsored by Philadelphia Section ASCE and the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter APWA:

The Commissioners were extended an invitation to join in the trip, details of which will be mailed to them.

Proposed Bus Terminal:

In response to Mr. Yarnall's inquiry, the Executive Director reported developments and progress to date on this proposal.

The Commission instructed that the subject be discussed with the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital and Commissioner Heymann.

Vine Street Extension-Schuykill Expressway:

Director Buckley advised that the State Engineers, now working on the design for the Vine Street Extension, advocate an open cut for the section in front of the Library and the Court Building. The Art Jury insist on covered type of construction. The Director asked the Commission's support of the State's plan, citing the tremendous difference in costs covering construction, ventilation, maintenance, etc., which would absorb funds which might be utilized for other highway projects.

Public Respect for Improvement Projects:

Director Buckley related various instances of vandalism committed throughout the city on public improvements and requested the aid of the Commission through suggestions for curbing such acts.

The Chairman authorized use of the Commission's name in support of an educational program through the schools, Citizens' Council on City Planning, neighborhood and civic groups, PAL, Boy Scouts, etc.

Mr. Lefton suggested that this be made a publicity campaign through the newspapers and civic organizations, with the support of the Commission. A plan of action will be worked out and submitted to the Department of Public Works.

Meeting adjourned 3:15 p.m.

M. S. Travers
Confidential Clerk