

CITY PLANNING AND RE-DEVELOPMENT -- BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

It is recognized that the major responsibility for city planning and re-development lies with the established agency known as the City Planning Commission. ^{this} ~~Planning~~ Commission has representatives from the city, county and the public; however, all programs authorized and planned by this board are public in nature and the ~~sole~~ responsibility of public agencies.

^{also apparent} It is ~~becoming increasingly obvious~~ that there is a great area of urban re-development and construction which must fall to private groups and individuals. ~~In order~~ To provide ~~the~~ coordination of plans and programs ~~which are~~ necessary both on a public and private level, it is important that the private organizations and individuals be organized into an association, such as a Greater Minneapolis Association. ^{this new} ~~This type of an association has long been needed in Minneapolis. The pattern of unity which has been established through the Civilian Defense Council as a war time effort can be re-directed into a peace time organization such as~~ ~~this new~~ ^{assn.} To be more specific, the Minneapolis Defense Council, which mobilized the combined efforts of this community for war purposes, should be converted into a peace time organization for community purposes. Quite obviously, the alignment of functions and personnel will have to be changed. For example, there will be no need for air raid warning systems or emergency police and evacuation units as well as other units within the Civilian Defense Council set-up. However, the method used by the Civilian Defense Council to coordinate the resources and skills of this community should be followed in the establishment of a community association for peace time purposes.

^{should} The Greater Minneapolis Association ~~must~~ ^{should} include ~~all~~ ^{all} groups within the community. Its primary ~~purpose~~ ^{objective} should be ~~that of re-habilitating blighted areas and~~ ^{to} ~~within the city and lending itself and its facilities towards the promotion of~~ community economic and social programs. Its composition will be primarily of private individuals and organizations. It should include business, labor, churches, education, professions, civic and social groups, etc. The scope of its program, as mentioned in general, should include programs of educational advancement, recreational development, housing, public safety, public health, social welfare and general community betterment.

It is recommended that representatives of the City Council, County Commissioner's and Mayor's offices be included within the Greater Minneapolis Association. This recommendation is made in order that coordination between private and public groups may be facilitated. It is also recommended that the Mayor of the City give impetus to this development by calling together a group of responsible citizens laying out the preliminary plans for such an association and aiding those persons in the drafting of a statement of principles, purposes and objectives for the association.

I think it should be re-emphasized that the problem that faces the modern city is one that cannot be handled by ~~modern~~ ^{city} institutions alone. We are either going to lift the face of our city, in other words engage in extensive city planning, or we must resign ourself to an ever increasing period of deterioration and disintegration. We are living in a competitive economy. Just as individuals and business concerns compete with each other, so do cities compete with one another. If such cities as Milwaukee, Louisville, Omaha, Kansas City and others of similar size in the midwest, through constructive community planning both on a governmental and private level, re-develop their city facilities, it becomes obvious that such cities will attract new investment capital and new economic enterprises in preference to the city that has permitted itself to become a second class municipality.

Returning veterans and those seeking new business opportunities and constructive employment will search for an area that provides good homes, progressive education and community facilities which are conducive to family life and personal development. It becomes the task of every city to so adjust itself to the post-war period as to provide the opportunity for better living and economic development.



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