

JOINT MEETING  
Of The  
NEW JERSEY FEDERATION OF OFFICIAL PLANNING BOARDS  
And The  
ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

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October 30, 1957

A dinner-meeting was held jointly by the New Jersey Federation of Official Planning Boards and the Advisory Planning Commission on October 30, 1957, at the Hotel Stacy-Trent, Trenton, New Jersey.

Those present representing the New Jersey Federation of Official Planning Boards' Legislative Committee were:

Mr. William A. Sutherland, Chairman  
Mr. Henry R. Williams, President of the N.J.F.O.P.B.  
Mr. Leo J. Carling, President of the Central Jersey Area N.J.F.O.P.B.  
Mr. William E. Roach, Jr., Secretary of the N.J.F.O.P.B.

Those present of the Advisory Planning Commission were:

Mr. Fred G. Stickel, III, Chairman  
Mr. Herbert H. Smith, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. H. Thomas Carr, Secretary  
Mr. William A. Bloom  
Mr. B. Budd Chavooshian  
Mr. Alfred H. Fletcher  
Mr. Denis W. Maloney  
Mr. Philip A. McLaughlin  
Mr. William A. Sutherland

The Chairman of the Advisory Planning Commission, Mr. Fred G. Stickel, III, chaired this meeting which was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Stickel expressed his appreciation to the above-named members of the N.J.F.O.P.B. for their attendance at this meeting. He explained that this meeting was called expressly to clarify a situation that had developed which was somewhat disturbing to the Advisory Planning Commission, and, in speaking for the Commission, stated that its members were somewhat upset over the Legislative Committee's Report; not so much of the Committee's disagreement with the conclusions at which the Advisory Planning Commission

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arrived, but because of some ill-chosen words in the introduction of the report, and, primarily, because of the wide distribution of the report before discussing it with the Advisory Planning Commission, which report was severely critical of the Commission's First Annual Report, and stated that that sort of approach to the situation would tend to render useless the Commission, itself.

Mr. Stickel reminded those present that the Advisory Planning Commission was created by the Legislature and appointments to the Commission were made by the Governor under Joint Resolution No. 16, which appointees are representatives of agencies either interested in or affected by the field of planning. He also remarked that most of the organizations which participated, through their representatives, in drafting the original and initial draft of the 1953 Planning Act are represented on this Commission; other organizations which made a request to be added to the list were included.

The Chairman of the Advisory Planning Commission proceeded to tell those present that it is believed that the New Jersey Planning Act is one of the finest in the country, which Act was the product of a great deal of hard work. Mr. Stickel gave a brief history of the Act at which time he commended Mr. Herbert H. Smith, Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Planning Commission, and others, who worked so diligently in the preparation of the above-mentioned Act.

The Chairman stated that there are certain groups which will always try to undermine the value of planning and stated that the N.J.F.O.P.B. and the A.P.C. should work cooperatively, remarking that he believed it to be poor policy for an organization, whose representative served on this Commission, to circularize a report such as the report of the Legislative Committee



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without first having its representative discuss the matter with the A.P.C. to determine if there were some way in which the differences of opinions could be resolved.

Mr. Stickel remarked, however, that the purpose of this meeting was not to discuss pros and cons of the criticisms mentioned in the Legislative Committee's Report, but solely to discuss ways and means of arriving at a solution to effectuate better cooperation between the two groups involved and asked Mr. Henry Williams, President of the N.J.F.O.P.B. to say a few words in this connection.

Mr. Williams informed those present that the Legislative Committee of the N.J.F.O.P.B. did not intend personal offense to any individual, stating that the Federation's concern was in the way their report had been received and interpreted, and expressed hope that the results of this meeting would contribute to the mutual job of interpreting any future written statements. Mr. Williams also stated that the Committee is determined that the liaison procedure shall keep the Federation currently abreast of the A.P.C.'s studies and proposals in the future, and also stated that in the future, as a Committee representing the N.J.F.O.P.B., greater assistance will be given to its representative, Mr. William A. Sutherland. Mr. Williams remarked that the Legislative Committee is very much interested in any possible action on the part of the A.P.C. in respect to the Committee's criticisms of the Commission's First Annual Report, which was presented to the Legislature and to the Governor. Mr. Williams emphasized at this time that the N.J.F.O.P.B. is representative of all planning boards in the State and its primary function is to bring about better planning in the State of New Jersey, to which end, he stated, the Legislative Committee will continue to work realistically, forthrightly, and diligently through its every effort.

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Mr. Stickel pointed out at this time that it is not the A.P.C.'s obligation to go beyond the scope of Jt. Resolution No. 16, which resolution created the Commission, and explained that the power of the Commission is simply to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature and make a report thereof each year. Mr. Stickel told those present that any recommendations which might be questionable are subject to further consideration and discussion by the Commission.

The Chairman of the A.P.C. stated that he thought it was unfortunate that the views of the Federation, as reflected in the Legislative Committee's Report, hadnot been communicated to the A.P.C. prior to publishing and issuing such a report, reminding those present that the A.P.C. is a public body at the services of the organizations represented on the Commission and the public at large. He also stated that the Commission has made strenuous efforts to hear from the organizations represented on this Commission to determine the evaluation of the Act in relation to the organizations affected by it. At this time he remarked that the Act in itself is not in need of extensive correction. Through the Study and review of the Act it was found that only a few items had caused trouble through misinterpretation, which items were thoroughly reviewed, discussed, corrected, and voted on.

Mr. Stickel informed all at the meeting that the Commission would be more than happy to receive suggestions which, he believed, should be discussed around the table before action is taken. This, he emphasized, is very important, suggesting that action should be taken in concert in order to bring about a united-front -- either in opposition to, or in favor of a recommendation.

Mr. William E. Roach, Secretary of the N.J.F.O.P.B., remarked



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that it was his belief that from this experience -- [The First Annual Report of the Advisory Planning Commission vs. the Legislative Committee's Report] -- both groups have, no doubt gained a great deal. Mr. Roach continued, stating that the Committee took the action which it did believing that there was no other effective way of reaching the Legislature with viewpoints of the Federation; he stated the Legislative Committee is most anxious to correct this, if possible.

The Chairman of the A.P.C. stated that, inasmuch as the Federation has a representative of its organization on this Commission, he hoped that a united-front could be brought about in this situation.

Mr. Williams suggested that the two groups involved work cooperatively on points of differences and on suggested items for study. At this time Mr. Stickel said that agreement should be reached with regard to arriving at decisions on all questionable matters, through the Legislative Committee's representative, Mr. William A. Sutherland.

Mr. Herbert H. Smith, Vice-Chairman of the A.P.C., remarked that the basic purpose of this meeting was to discuss any differences of approach and philosophy of technique; to forget what has passed in this connection and to determine how to proceed in the future so that a similar situation will not arise.

Mr. Stickel emphasized that it is not the intention of the Commission to stifle each organization's stand, but that he firmly believes that when differences of opinion arise they should be discussed with those involved 'around the table'.

Mr. William A. Sutherland, representative of the N.J.F.O.P.B., stated that the Federation wishes to arrive at a mutual understanding as to how they can proceed in the future to avoid any such incidences which had appeared

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in the past. He stated that offense was taken where none was intended and expressed regret for that, and reiterated that the Federation is most anxious to know how to proceed in the future. Mr. Stickel suggested that in the future if the Federation had any questions concerning the amendments or revisions to the Act it should make it known to the Commission through its representative, who, in turn, would report to the A.P.C. which Commission could arrange for a meeting with the Federation such as this meeting where differences could be resolved.

Mr. Leo J. Carling, a member of the Legislative Committee of the N.J.F.O.P.B. expressed his belief that this meeting was indicative of the faith the two groups had in each other; however, he remarked that he thought that both groups were, more or less, 'feeling their way around'. He also stated that the Federation, in this connection, had not done the most perfect job of which it is capable, but that it is most anxious to proceed from this point. Mr. Carling thought it would be better not to spend any time on discussing a past incidence, but to step from this point forward, stating that better liaison with the Federation's representative, Mr. Sutherland, will be had in the future. Mr. Carling raised the question, however, as to how the points raised in the Legislative Committee's report should be presented. Mr. Stickel suggested the report be put in the proper form for presentation to this Commission through its representative, Mr. Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland suggested that this matter be taken into consideration at the next meeting of the Federation after which he will report to the A.P.C.

Mr. Alfred H. Fletcher, representing the New Jersey State Department of Health on this Commission, remarked that he believed much had been learned, with regard to the workings of this Commission, during its first year, and suggested that in getting ready for the second report, which is to be sub-



mitted February 1, 1958, ideas should be formulated much in advance in order that each organization represented on this Commission would have ample time to study and review recommendations before putting them in their final form. It was suggested that at the next Commission meeting a policy should be set up by which the Commission could abide in compiling its next annual report.

Mr. Stickel read a telegram received from Mr. Evan Spalt as follows:

= REGRET ALL CAUSES FOR MISUNDERSTANDING  
AND CONFIDENT MEETING WILL REESTABLISH  
BASIS FOR FINE WORKING RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN COMMISSION AND FEDERATION =  
SORRY ILLNESS PREVENTS MY ATTENDANCE =  
EVAN SPALT ORTHO PHARM CORP =

Mr. Stickel expressed his appreciation of the Committee's attendance at this meeting and felt sure that any differences of opinions could be worked out satisfactorily.

Mr. B. Budd Chavooshian, representing Commissioner Joseph E. McLean on this Commission, remarked at this time that there would, no doubt, always be differences of opinions, but he, too, believed that in the future a concerted effort should be made to come to some agreement 'around the table' and expressed his thanks for the opportunity of having the two groups convene.

Mr. Williams, President of the N.J.F.O.P.B., in speaking for the Legislative Committee, also expressed gratitude to have been afforded the opportunity to meet with the A.P.C., stating that he felt certain that through this meeting better liaison could be expected in the future; stating that the Federation would always stand for good, sound community planning as planning board members see it.

The meeting was concluded at 9:00 p.m.