

UPTOWN 5 CONGRESS

TASK FORCE & WARD REPORTS AND PROPOSALS

DECEMBER

1975

UPTOWN 5 TASK FORCE DESIGN

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ECONOMIC TASK FORCE	CULTURAL			POLITICAL TASK FORCE
	EDUCATION TASK FORCE	SYMBOL TASK FORCE	STYLE TASK FORCE	
COMMUNITY ECONOMICS	COMMUNITY EDUCATION	COMMUNITY SYMBOL	COMMUNITY STYLE	COMMUNITY CONSENSUS

The Economic Task Force enables the business sector of Uptown to engage in the larger community. It works closely with local businessmen, plans for funding community activities, and conducts economic surveys.

REPORT

1. The Task Force initiated four meetings with local businessmen during the fall quarter. The first was a luncheon where concerns were listed and signal actions decided. The second and third were smaller "cluster" meetings where particular actions were planned to be accomplished Saturday December 6th. The fourth is a dinner for all the businessmen on December 11th to decide the future direction.
2. In the midst of recruiting to the meetings this quarter, well over half of the businesses in Uptown 5 were visited.
3. The Task Force spear-headed an effort that netted 10 different in-kind donation items for the Ward Miracle Day.

PROPOSALS

The Economic Task Force PROPOSES THAT:

1. an on-going form of Uptown 5 businessmen working together for the whole community be developed; that a rhythm be established for business task force meetings; that the Guild maintain contact with existing business organizations in Uptown; and that businessmen be encouraged to participate in community events and programs.
2. a community center be located in Uptown 5 which would provide space for community programs and meetings and would serve as a gathering place and information center for the community.
3. a financial plan be developed and implemented for the Valentines Ball in February.
4. at least three businessmen from Uptown 5 attend the community methods training course, LENS (Living Effectively in the New Society) to be held in the winter quarter, Quarter III, March 1976.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Education Task Force trains local residents to operate effectively in a complex urban community. It sponsors training courses such as LENS (Living Effectively in the New Society) and publishes The Voice, a community newspaper.

REPORT

1. The Task Force sponsored a LENS Reunion Party for those in the community who had taken the social methods seminar. Forty-five attended witnessing to the positive effects of LENS on their lives.
2. Two fall issues of the community newspaper, the VOICE of UPTOWN were published and distributed to 10,000 Uptown residents.
3. A training construct for those who made calls on Hello Neighbor Day was developed and implemented.

PROPOSALS

The Education Task Force PROPOSES THAT

1. the community newspaper, The Voice of Uptown, be published monthly.
2. the Uptown 5 Guild sponsor a seminar called LENS for training in community development. This would be held in March 1976 with at least thirty people in attendance.
3. the Guild sponsor a Practical Methods Seminar series where practical leadership skills would be taught such as leading meetings and conducting workshops.

The Symbol Task Force impacts the community's consciousness with signs of new life in Uptown. It catalyzes community festivals, creates imaginal decoration for Uptown, and opens ways for religious groups to engage in neighborhood activities such as caroling at Christmas time.

REPORT

1. Four study luncheons for leaders of religious institutions in Uptown 5 were held in November. Thirteen people were present representing seven institutions in the community. The group has already decided to meet in January and continue discussing how they can actively participate in meeting the needs of the community.
2. A chorus was recruited for the community worship service on Thanksgiving morning at Peoples Church. Several clergy representing various faiths in Uptown participated in the event.
3. Repair work was done on the five mini parks in Uptown 5.

PROPOSALS

The Symbol Task Force PROPOSES THAT:

1. a community Christmas Caroling evening be held Monday, December 22, 1975 with 500 people participating from all the wards and community organizations.
2. involvement of Local Religious Institutions in common Uptown 5 events be expanded beyond the present level.
3. a Winter Festival be held in the wards of Uptown 5 including a snow sculpturing contest and other events.
4. there be a Mass Impact Day in Uptown 5 where in a short period of time the whole community would be saturated with Uptown 5 identity symbols; for instance, billboard and storefront displays, buttons, and imaginative decor in visible locations..

STYLE TASK FORCE

The Style Task Force creates and sustains programs of community care. It coordinates the care ward structure of Uptown, develops elder and youth programs, and maintains a computer care system.

REPORT

1. An Hello Neighbor Day was held where 50 guilders called on 1000 residents of Uptown 5 in a five hour period of time to tell the Uptown story and hand out brochures.
2. An Elders Node, consisting of fifteen elders of Uptown 5, was initiated in September and has been meeting weekly since that time. The group discusses how senior citizens can be actively responsible for their local community. They recently decided to sponsor a Valentines Ball next February in the Aragon Ballroom.
3. A luncheon for representatives of Elders Agencies in Uptown was held with over 40 in attendance. The group dicussed how they could work together in Uptown to enable more participation by agencies and elders in community projects.
4. A Ward Miracle Day held in November in each ward simultaneously did cleaning, painting, and built one mini park.

PROPOSALS

The Style Task Force PROPOSES THAT:

1. a mechanism be developed to enable regular contact with residents to ensure consistent communication and participation in community events.
2. the elders of Uptown 5 sponsor a Valentines Ball in February for the whole community emphasizing the inclusion of the diverse ages, cultures and backgrounds of Uptown residents.
3. the elders of Uptown 5 begin the creation of curriculum for an Urban Heritage Course to be taught by them in the elementary schools of Uptown.
4. a system be developed which would organize the elder services data in Uptown and enbale the dissemination of the data to every Uptown elder.

The Political Task Force engages Uptown residents in the decision-making process of the community. It is responsible for the Uptown Congress, and is helping to plan for Town Meeting '76, a bi-centennial activity in Uptown.

REPORT

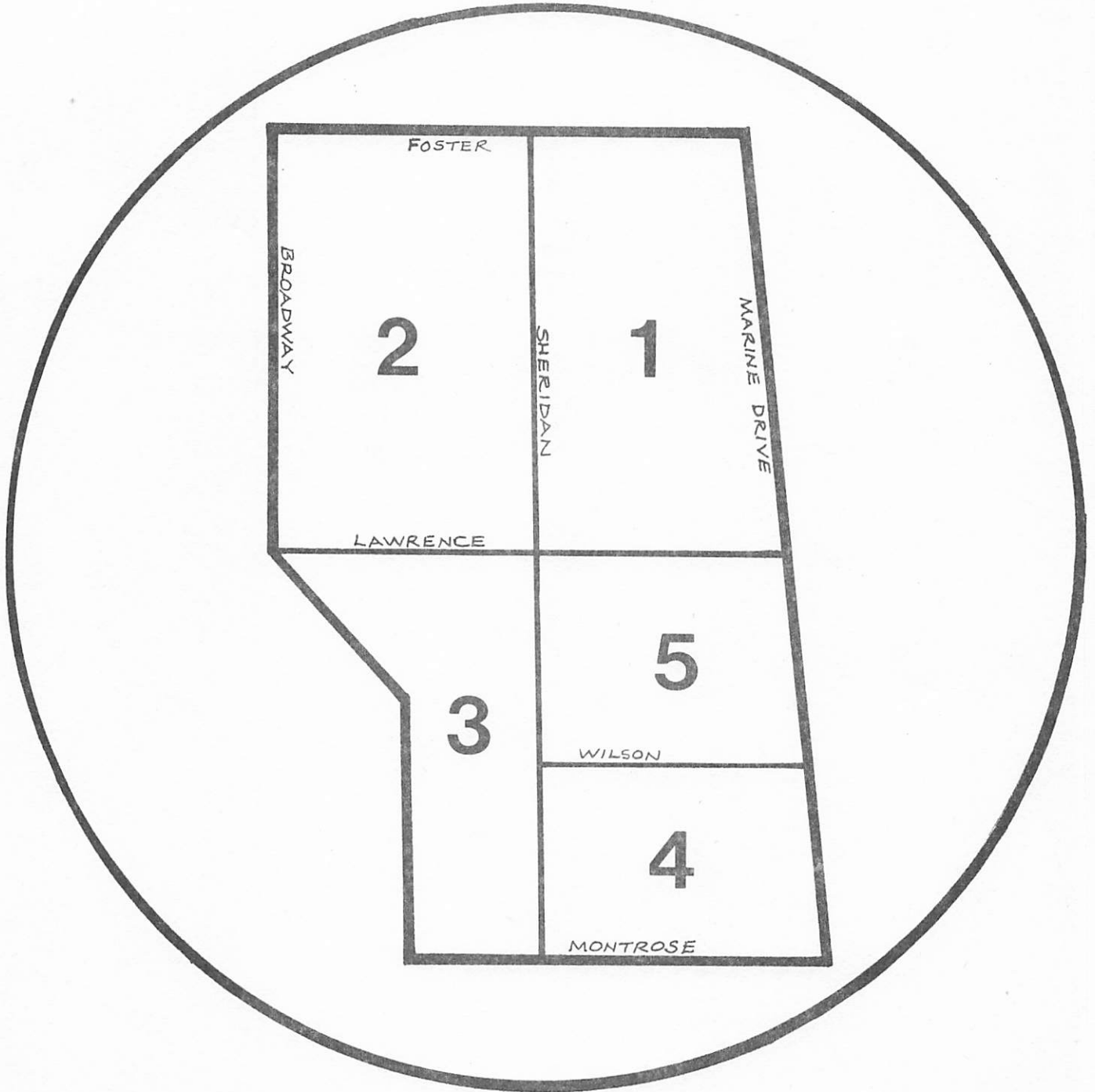
1. The Task Force initiated the search for a steering committee for Town Meeting '76 to be held in Uptown 5 next year. It also sent observers to two Town Meetings held in the Chicago area.
2. The Task Force developed and implemented the model for the fall quarter Uptown 5 Congress held December 5, 1975.

PROPOSALS

The Political Task Force PROPOSES THAT:

1. the community sponsor a Town Meeting '76 of 200 people which would address the issues and challenges facing the nation and enable Uptown to celebrate the nation's bicentennial.
2. an Uptown 5 Congress be held after the Town Meeting '76 with 200 people in attendance.
3. the Political Task Force begin preparations for a comprehensive Land Use Design Day for Uptown 5 to be held in the spring.
4. the Political Task Force begin preparations for a Youth Program Planning Day for Uptown 5 children and youth to be held in the spring.

uptown 5



care wards

WARD 1 REPORT

This past quarter has seen more people involved in the life of Ward 1 activity. From a one-family oriented stronghold the group has expanded to include persons from the peripheral regions of the ward.

The Hello Neighbor Day event served to break-loose a consciousness of care and catalyzed greater involvement and commitment. The mini-park continued to be a focal point of community interest and catalyzed new concerns for care.

Future strategy is to include all 5 stakes in ward activity.

WARD 2 REPORT

Ward 2 began the quarter with a core group meeting at 4826 N. Sheridan. By moving the ward meetings between this location and Winthrop Towers twice as many people have been in attendance. This move allowed ward formation to develop around the focus of peoples passion and concern which was the deterioration of property and litter covered lots along Winthrop.

Hello Neighbor Day was key in developing Ward consciousness and need, and breaking loose stake penetration.

Creating the mini-park in the vacant lot across from Winthrop Towers focused on spicific concerns and created a concrete sign of possibility in the midst of what was previously a desert.

WARD 3 REPORT

Ward 3 began the quarter with a small core of concerned people who has met regularly for over a year. The mass visitation day broke loose a larger and more representative group.

The painting of the Winthrop playground was a significant happening and which created a solid sign of the possibility of neighborhood cooperation and work. Although there are still a few holes, a steady network of concerned leaders is developing and assuming responsibility.

Systematic visitation and expanded projects should overcome present spotiness and enable the present expansion to continue.

WARD 4 REPORT

The journey of Ward 4 in quarter II in 1975 has been from a group of curious elders to an increasingly disciplined body whose ages range from 14 to 84 years. Ward meetings have been established with an average attendance of 18 people. Several persons from the ward have engaged in regular neighborhood visiting. The catalytic power of this group has been demonstrated when their work to clean Sheridan Road and a vacant lot stimulated many others to clean their property.

The key within Ward 4 has been the regularity of Ward meetings. Ward 4 now faces the possibility of engaging the spanish speaking population, extending its program of regular visitation and beginning to work within the several high-rise buildings.

WARD 5 REPORT

Ward 5 began quarter II faced with the need to rebuild the contacts and structures of engagement. During this quarter a small group of residents have begun this process through regular ward meetings held in two different apartments in 920 Lakeside.

One key event in the life of the ward was the Miracle Day when residents of the ward cleaned up the large lot next to Peoples Church and laid bricks on the muddy corner of Sheridan and Lakeside.

The task presently facing Ward 5 is broadening the base of participation through larger group of contacts and a way to tie the ward together after the middle school has taken out large segments of the ward.

WARD CARE NETWORK PROPOSALS

The Ward Care Network PROPOSES THAT:

1. a way for each ward to create a mechanism for ongoing care of ward projects be developed.
2. that the wards build a battleplan to further develop and expand the effectiveness of the Uptown 5 care network to include the concerns of the community such as personal security, jobs, and vacant lot use.