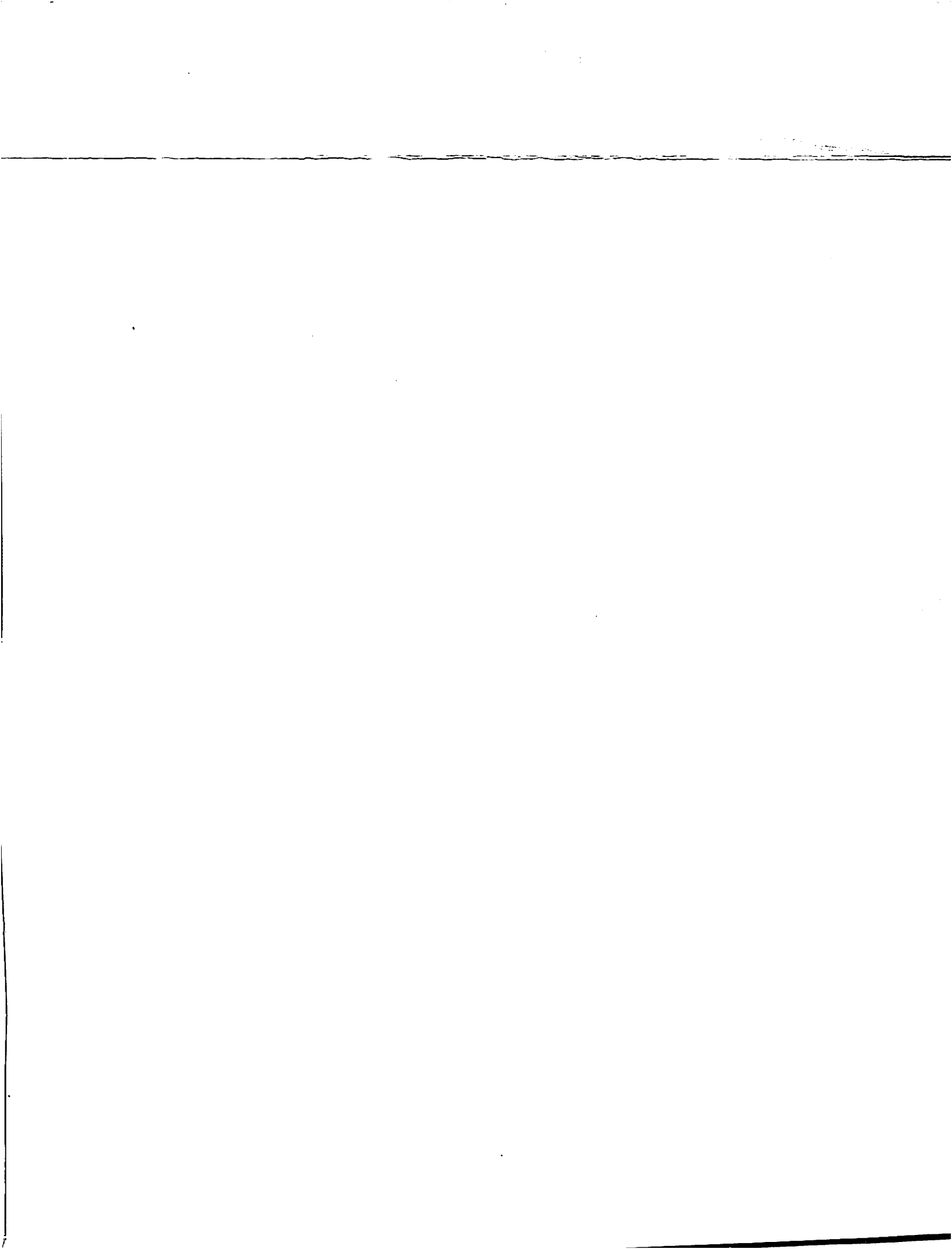




Town Meeting: Nebraska

IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ICA INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS





8 7 T O W N M E E T I N G S I N N E B R A S K A

- ONE IN A TOWN IN EVERY COUNTY -

W A ONE-DAY COMMUNITY FORUM WHERE CITIZENS
H --REFLECT ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY
A --DISCERN THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES
T --SHARE ONE ANOTHER'S WISDOM
--CREATE A CORPORATE VISION WITH A STORY, SONG AND SYMBOL OF THE COMMUNITY
--MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE
--CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

W --It is a great and effective community event;
H --It is a sign of serious citizen engagement;
Y --It's a chance for training in comprehensive methods;
--It strengthens the community's identity and possibilities;
--It develops local leadership;
--It supports community pride and action;
--It brings all parts of the community together;
--It works in any community, small or large, urban or rural.

H --Local people decide this is helpful and needed;
O --Statewide, sector and local steering committees are established;
W --Steering committees of one or several communities meet;
--A variety of promotional materials are available;
--Training events scheduled;
--Coordinated publicity;
--Cooperation of local groups.

W --Developed by The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)
H --Approved by leading organizations and corporations
O --Endorsed by state and local community leaders
--Carried out by local sponsors, as individuals and organizations

SOME NEBRASKA ENDORSEMENTS:

Dutton-Lainson
Northwestern Bell
Northern Natural Gas
Roberts Dairy
T.R.W.

Senator Edward Zorinsky
Dr. Reuben Swanson
Archbishop Daniel Sheehan
Rabbi Kenneth Bromberg
Senator Carl Curtis

For information contact the Nebraska ICA office:

The Institute of Cultural Affairs
4619 North 34th Ave.
Omaha, Nebraska 68111
Phone: 457-5166 or 457-5172

Purposes

Methods

1. To expand grassroots initiative in determining the future of the community.
2. To identify the broad range of issues as they are seen and felt by the community.
3. To engage creative imagination in response to all of the old and new challenges facing the community.
4. To provide group methods which encourage cooperation among members of institutions and organizations in the community.
5. To deepen the community's pride and the consciousness of its history and greatness.

1. Brainstorming issues and concerns blocking the hopes and dreams of the community gives everyone the chance to contribute.
2. Plotting and clustering, as methods for grouping, dramatize and clarify how issues are tied up with each other and enable discovery of their root causes.
3. Cross Gestalting or grouping responses by similarities demonstrates how several challenges can be worked on at the same time by organizing practical suggestions into a common direction for action.
4. Drafting and writing allows clarity and preserves the best insights on the actual challenges and the ways they can be dealt with by existing resources in the community.
5. Composing a new community story and song and creating a new symbol builds community identity and motivates continued constructive action.

Town Meeting Is Not

Town Meeting Is

A GRIPE SESSION
 THE ACTIVITY OF A SINGLE GROUP
 JUST A ONE DAY EVENT
 A FREE-FOR-ALL OR BULL SESSION
 A PARTY WITH FIREWORKS FLAGS AND BALLOONS

A TIME OF CONSTRUCTIVE PLANNING
 THE ENGAGEMENT OF A BROAD CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY
 A PROCESS INVOLVING PREPARATION AND FOLLOWTHROUGH
 A STRUCTURED METHOD FOR FOCUSING COMMUNITY WISDOM
 A CELEBRATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S LIFE AND THE FORGING OUT OF ITS FUTURE

Town Meeting: Nebraska

STATE-WIDE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER, 1977

Betty Abbott, former Council Member
Omaha City Council, Omaha

Michael Albert, Commissioner
Douglas County, Omaha

Kenneth Bromberg, Rabbi
Beth El Synagogue, Omaha

Dr. Monk Bryan, Bishop
United Methodist Church, Lincoln

John J. Cavanaugh, Representative
U.S. House of Representatives, Omaha

Carl T. Curtis, U.S. Senator, Honorary Co-Chairperson
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Leon Evans, President
Community Bank of Nebraska, Omaha

Msgr. Floyd Fisher
Archdiocese of Omaha, Omaha

Rev. Robert Folkers, Pastor
Ogallala United Methodist Church, Ogallala

Alvin M. Goodwin, Jr., Director
Urban Business Development Center, Omaha

Jim Griess, Human Relations Director
Nebraska State Education Association, Lincoln

Ralph Kelly, Senator
State of Nebraska, Grand Island

Gerald Koch, Senator
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Eugene A. Leahy, Vice-President
Putnam, Anderson, Leahy, Omaha

Dr. Leo Lucas, Dean & Director
Cooperative Extension Service, Lincoln

Roland Leudtke, Speaker of the Legislature
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Kellom Community Day Care Center, Omaha

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University of Nebraska, Lincoln

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Edward Zorinsky, U.S. Senator
U.S. Senate, Omaha

Town meetings: Don't quit now

The organizers of the original seven Omaha neighborhood town meetings are now taking appropriate follow-up measures in pursuit of their goals.

Last week some 30 leaders representing each of the meetings met together to polish proposals for improving their neighborhoods. They came from Benson, Ak-Sar-Ben, Field Club, North Omaha, Sarpy County and Carter Lake.

By the end of that meeting, neighborhood leaders had identified some disturbing realities about themselves, their neighbors and their communities. They concluded that people "do not trust and work together as a community," and that they are "afraid to risk trying change for fear of failure."

The leaders also found a lack of communication between city officials and the communities, a sense of community isolation among neighborhoods, citizen apathy and a lack of local leadership.

Definite plans of action to counter some of these problems were drafted by the neighborhood delegations. Firm commitments were made to hold community cleanups,

festivals and youth rallies. Block parties and newsletters are also planned.

Another meeting this weekend will reunite the delegates to formalize their findings and conclusions for presentation to city officials and others in government responsible for taking action.

Citizens involved with the town meetings seem on the right track in their approach. Their demands for action, however, will require persistent checks to ensure progress is made.

The timing seems right for citizen groups to present their interests and concerns to City Hall, considering the arrival of a new mayor and several City Council members . . . each proclaiming to be a citizen advocate.

Mayor Al Veyes, especially, has promoted an image of being a strong supporter of neighborhood involvement through business and civic councils. He will have a good opportunity to prove his sincerity when the town meeting groups come to him in the near future.

The City Council and mayor traditionally have been responsive when confronted by organized citizen groups, but those experienced in government know that it takes a sustained effort on the part of such groups to get the job done.

- Editorial, Sun Newspapers
Omaha, Neb. 6/9/77

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 Dutton-Lainson, Hastings
 Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, Omaha
 First National Bank, Ogallala
 Minute Man Printing, Inc, Omaha
 Nebraska Federal Savings and Loan, Omaha
 Northern Natural Gas, Omaha
 Northwest National Bank, Omaha
 Northwestern Bell, Omaha
 OEMI, Ogallala
 Omaha Printing Company, Omaha
 Rapid Printers, Inc, Omaha
 Redfield & Company, Omaha
 Roberts Dairy, Omaha
 Western Printing, Omaha

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 US Senator Carl Curtis
 US Representative John J Cavanaugh
 US Representative Charles Thone
 State Senator Ralph Kelly, Grand Island
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 Mr George Woods, Chief, Tech Assistance Agency,
 State of Nebraska, Lincoln

Ak-Sar-Ben
 Nebraska Legislature
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Human Development ICA's social demonstration program, is concerned with co-ordinating the total social and economic development of a community in such a way that the local people themselves will become self-sustaining. Each of the projects has replication built in from the beginning. Projects are located in twenty-four sites around the world, in the U.S.A., the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Kenya, Zambia, India, the Republic of the Philippines, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Venezuela, the Marshall Islands, Canada, Italy, Nigeria, Malaysia, Hong Kong, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and Japan.

Global Community Forum is a one-day Town Meeting that enables local citizens to participate in the planning and development of their own community. During the celebration of the American Bicentennial, five thousand such programs, entitled "Town Meeting '76" are being held across the United States. Concurrently the project is being done in Canada as "Community Forum Canada," in Australia as "Community Meeting Australia," in India as "Gram Sabha," and in nineteen other nations as well.

LENS Living Effectively in the New Society, is an innovative forty-four hour seminar in management planning for corporation executives and the leadership of other organizations concerned with operational effectivity. Through uniquely designed "Think Tanks," LENS demonstrates the process of tactical planning, corporate decision-making and methods of motivity necessary for effective achievement.

Planning Consultations may be arranged with the ICA staff by corporations, local communities and other groups. The planning process deals with the organization's unique situation and assists in clarifying its operating vision and building the necessary tactical system for effectively overcoming the blocks to that vision.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a not-for-profit intra-global group working autonomously in twenty-five nations with more than one hundred offices around the world. Headquarters are located in Nairobi, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Chicago and Brussels. The Institute is supported by foundations, corporations and concerned individuals, and specific programs also receive support from governmental agencies.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. For some fifteen years ICA was a program division of the Ecumenical Institute. In 1973 it was formally incorporated as a separate yet coordinate group. The work of ICA is broad and varied, ranging from management seminars for executives to comprehensive community development projects around the globe.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs operates with two directing boards: The Board of Directors and the Board of Consultants. The Consulting Board, a unique network of more than two hundred business and professional men and women located throughout the world, represents many fields of expertise. These advisors meet semi-annually to review and plan the specific programs of the Institute.

The research of the ICA relates entirely to its practical program arenas. Presently there are four major training and demonstration programs.



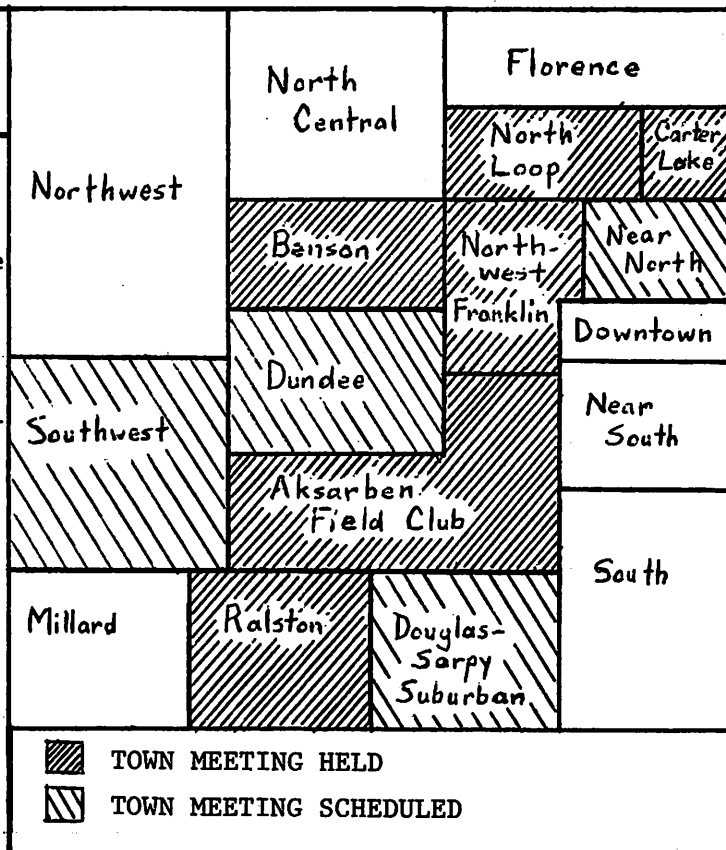
THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

THE TOWN CRIER

TOWN MEETINGS COVER DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS IN OMAHA

Five Town Meetings have been held in the month of April, 1977 in the communities of Northwest Franklin, Benson, Aksarben Field Club, North Loop and Carter Lake.

The City-Wide Steering Committee and concerned citizens from across Omaha and surrounding areas are looking toward several more yet this spring. Two more communities have set their sights for the fall. One local coordinator suggested having a Town Meeting a month in different communities to keep the spirit alive. Several dignitaries have commented that it is great to see citizens concerned and have praised the prospect of strong neighborhoods building our city's future together. One participant said the Town Meeting was the first time she had ever attended a community meeting where even the smallest issues were important.



Join your neighbors in this unique, lively and effective citizen effort by coming to one of the next 3 Town Meetings:

Near North: May 14, 9 AM - 5 PM, Zion Baptist Church, 2215 Grant

Douglas-Sarpy Suburban: May 14, 9 AM - 5 PM, St. Bernadette's Church, 7600 S. 42nd

Southwest: May 21, 9 AM - 5 PM, Rockbrook United Methodist Church, 9855 W. Center

AND COME TO THE TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY to develop next steps for Omaha neighborhoods where Town Meetings have been held:

June 4, 10 AM to 4 PM, Northern Natural Gas, 2027 Dodge

For more information call the Town Meeting Office, 457-5172.

STATE-WIDE TOWN MEETING UPDATE

Community orientation, registration and training continue in the Southeast with meetings every two weeks in Lincoln. Then next meeting is May 12 at 7:30 PM at the Salvation Army Community Room at 2625 Potter. Norfolk is looking into the possibility of a summer Town Meeting, with citizens in Hastings and Grand Island hoping to begin their seven week countdowns in the fall. Other communities recently contacted about the possibility of holding Town Meetings include Holdredge, Sutherland, Gothenburg, Columbus, York and Fremont.

New members of the State-wide Committee for Town Meeting: Nebraska are: John Cavanaugh, U.S. Representative, Omaha, Carl Curtis, U.S. Senator; Ralph Kelly, State Senator, Grand Island; Leon Evans, President, Community Bank of Nebraska, Omaha; and Tom Osborne, Head Football Coach, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Newest State-wide sponsors are: Dutton-Lainson, Hastings; First National Bank, Goodall Electric, O.E.M.I. and T.R.W., all in Ogallala.

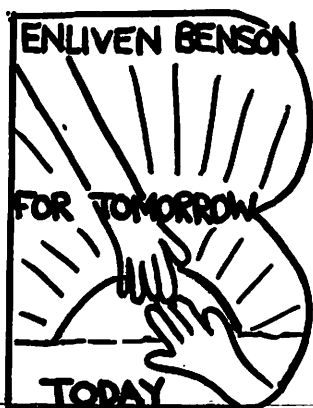
BENSON TOWN MEETING REPORT

What happened at the neighborhood Town Meeting on April 2nd in the Benson area? It was a day when your neighbors got together to talk about the future of their community. The people who attended became active in workshops creating proposals for challenges that face everyone and made concrete solutions to deal with those problems. Everyone agreed that a Benson Community Council should be established.

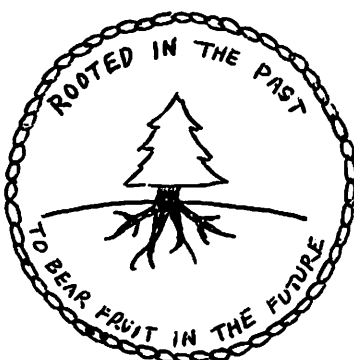
The symbol and slogan chosen for Benson was "Enliven Benson Today for Tomorrow." This means creating a life for the future of children and old alike and was symbolized by a large hand reaching out to a small hand, meaning that this is just the beginning. Now is the time to begin a new tomorrow for every community and we are all in it together. QUOTES: "It was a great day." "It was well prepared and a lot of thought went into the preparation." "A lot was accomplished."

COMMUNITY SYMBOLS CREATED AT THE TOWN MEETINGS:

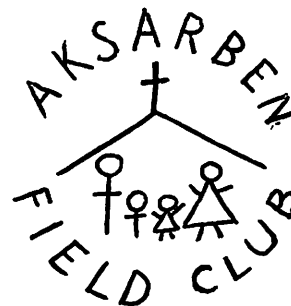
BENSON



NORTHWEST FRANKLIN



AKSARBEN FIELD CLUB



A CHAIN IS NO STRONGER THAN ITS WEAKEST LINK.

UNITED WE STAND TOGETHER, BUT DIVIDED WE FALL APART.

NORTHWEST FRANKLIN TOWN MEETING REPORT

What happened at the Neighborhood Town Meeting in Northwest Franklin April 2nd? Lots of things happened! People discovered that some neighbors really care for the community at a time when everyone thinks nobody wants to be bothered. You saw many people giving their time, energy and insight to get to the root of the community's problems and create solutions to the issues that are practical and effective.

It was not just another meeting, it was a happening, an event of work and celebration, singing and talking. It was the people's meeting, with everyone being a guest and a host at the same time, and with many people giving a helping hand as coordinator, Master of Ceremonies, workshop leaders, cleaning up, nursery set-up and serving the Children's Town Meeting.

Dignitaries included Mike Albert, Mayor Cunningham, John Cavanaugh, George Dean, Jerry Hassett, Fred Conley, Rowena Moore, Tim Rouse, Warren Swigart, Rev. Owen Taylor, Rev. James Thomas and others.

The proposals suggested block meetings and neighborhood education regarding the problems, resources and responsibilities in the community. They recommended economic education through regular media spots and called for more structured as well as informal Town Meetings to increase citizen participation and involvement and also for more expeditious trials and prescribed sentences.

A most attractive and meaningful local entertainment event was provided for by a wide variety of community groups and individuals: Martin Luther King School's Ninth Grade Voices, a North High School Sophomore Choir, Mr. Ivan Griswald on his harmonica and finally "Dance 76" of the Junior Theater with its great play, dance and musical, "He Beckons It".

QUOTES: "The only way to do it is with people. We have lost our sense of neighborhoodness and close community. The Town Meeting can help restore this." --Representative John Cavanaugh.

AKSARBEN FIELD CLUB TOWN MEETING REPORT

The Aksarben Field Club Town Meeting was held on April 2, 1977 at Hanscom Park United Methodist Church. Area residents along with visiting "political figures" including Representative Cavanaugh, Mayor Cunningham, Betty Abbott and several City Council candidates met to discuss civic problems of all types and propose positive suggestions. The Town Meeting was supported by city merchants, local organizations and concerned citizens in the form of time, money, products and services. A recognized workshop format was used which raised issues, discussed problems and suggested solutions. Most importantly, participants felt drawn together in a common purpose.

Results from the Town Meeting are already being seen with action taken by the Steering Committee on issues brought up on April 2. Three action committees have already been established. They are looking into solutions to the problems of: more adult supervision on school busses; mothers needing an occasional day free of their children for shopping, free time or community volunteer work; advance notification of hearings on zoning changes. Suggestions were also made for a community event, such as a lot clean-up, an arts and crafts fair and a community garden.

The aim of the Aksarben Field Club Committee has been to encourage continued citizen involvement for community betterment.

CARTER LAKENS, HERE WE COME
Tune: California Here We Come

Carter Lakens, here we come
Right back where we started from
We're going, we're going right to the top
It's growing, it's growing, we're not going to stop.

Iowaskans, we're on our way
No more troubles, now we'll stay.
We've opened up our border gates,
Iowaskans, here we come.



CARTER LAKE - AN OFTEN FORGOTTEN COMMUNITY PICKS UP NEW POSSIBILITIES

It's hard to say what was the greatest thing about the Carter Lake Town Meeting. Maybe it was the creation of a symbol for the community (above), or of the story that pointed out the glory as well as conflicts in Carter Lake's present and past. Or it was the singing of five different songs written by spirited individuals before the Town Meeting and finally the singing of the victorious Carter Lake Town Meeting Song written during the day itself. Certainly the presence of 70 or more eager kids was an essential contribution to the lively and hopeful spirit of the day. They could hardly wait until it was their turn to report in the closing plenary and present a list of 32 issues they had noticed in their community and 24 proposals, and a new song of their own, describing all kinds of good things about Carter Lake.

Among the major challenges identified in the adult workshops were law enforcement, family discipline, citizen involvement, cooperation between existing groups, unity between the representative bodies and the low image of Carter Lake among its own residents and outsiders. The proposals included an annual Carter Lake Day on the day of the already happening parade in May, including a regatta on the Lake, bumper stickers, a Carter Lake brochure and the unveiling of a sign: "Welcome to Carter Lake." Other proposals called for the formation of common interest groups, quarterly Town Meetings with an on-going steering committee and a business task force, a paragovernment liaison group to coordinate the different organizations, work on public relations and finally for a Carter Lake Newspaper or a Carter Lake column in the Nonpareil.

Thanks to all the small and tall iron people who pounded stakes of hope and courage into the ground for a humane future.

NORTH LOOP TOWN MEETING REPORT

The North Loop Town Meeting held on April 23, 1977 at Fort Omaha was a beginning point for creating a new kind of North Loop Neighborhood. Throughout the day, the excitement and fun was contagious as everyone who attended had a great time and made some important commitments to their neighborhoods.

Some of the dignitaries who attended were Tim Rouse, Richard Takechi, Jerry Hassett: city council candidates and State Senator Dave Newell. The proposals included some very workable things to do such as a Miller Park Festival, initiating block clubs and parties and coordination between existing groups. The first block club meeting was held during one of the proposal workshops to see how it would work.

STORY CREATED AT NORTH LOOP TOWN MEETING

POINT TO POINT

Reaching the crest of Belvedere Point, the scout saw the sparkling river among the bluffs, the small fort below his feet, the stately homes rising on the ridge along the trail that later became Florence Boulevard, and further in the distance the young maverick city of Omaha. Dodging the low altitude observation balloon and coming down the hill in the pages of time, he leaves his mount aside and catches the trolley, finding himself in an already established community of schools and churches and small businesses. He hops off the trolley at Ft. Omaha, the famous cavalry command post, now an educational institution. He finds himself at lunch in Little Italy, Mr. C's. Reaching the technical age, he is overwhelmed by the quickening pace, yet he is greeted warmly by the new citizens proud of their community past and facing the challenges of community cooperation. He observes the movement from apathy to involvement and sees the community becoming viable and its people caring for one another. After lunch he takes a breath of clean fresh air, getting into his electrically powered vehicle. He makes a detour around a block party and passes recently restored historical homes. He is attracted by a sign saying "To Omaha Lookout"; and finds himself back at Belvedere Point, beautifully landscaped because of citizen involvement and political clout. As he gazes over the city, a friendly landowner approaches him, inviting him to a winter sled and block party and he slides down into the time machine and disappears.

SYMBOL CREATED AT
NORTH LOOP TOWN MEETING



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THE TOWN CRIER UPDATE

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES GATHER FOR TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLY

Representatives of the seven communities in Omaha that held spring Town Meetings came together June 4, 1977 at the Town Meeting Assembly at Northern Natural Gas Annex Training Room A. The day included a slide show of the past seven Town Meetings, coffee and donuts, singing, reports from each community, identification of the challenges facing the whole city, a report on Town Meeting across the state, nation and the world over lunch, development of proposals for each neighborhood and training in how to get the proposals implemented down to the last detail. Using the documents from each Town Meeting, participants named the common challenges facing communities today. Some of these are: 1) broadening our images of who needs to be involved in decision-making, 2) developing local leadership, and 3) creating structures to allow people to realize their full potential. Again using the documents, twenty-eight events were developed for local citizen action. A major happening was planned for each community for each quarter of the coming year. These proposals will be brought back to each local community for implementation.

COMMUNITIES BEGIN FOLLOW-UP

Many proposals have already been implemented. Three neighborhood newsletters have been started: Carter Lake, Near Northside and Northwest Franklin; more are on the way, some through existing newspapers. Three new community councils have developed from the Town Meetings and are now functioning: Benson, Douglas-Sarpy Suburban and North Loop. Other neighborhoods are working through existing groups. Northwest Franklin reclaimed a long forgotten park with the Erskine Park Spring Fling Festival on June 19.

People who have participated in the neighborhood Town Meetings are eager to gain further skills in effective methods for working with their communities. Many of them would also like to see every neighborhood have the chance to make use of this practical community forum. As a result, the Omaha Town Meeting Task Force was formed and is meeting twice monthly on Saturday mornings from 9 - 11 A.M. to continue to discern the needs in the communities and build practical models, and be trained in leadership methods. Anyone with an interest in Town Meetings or who cares about the future of communities in the Omaha Metropolitan area is invited to join in these sessions. For more information please call the Town Meeting Office at 457-5172.



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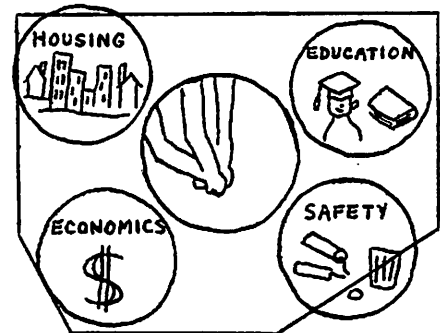
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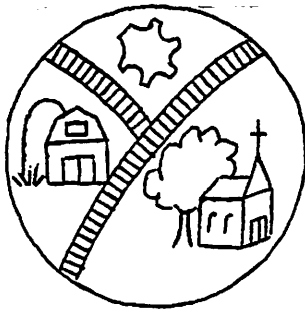
NEAR NORTHSIDE TOWN MEETING REPORT

The Town Meeting held on May 14 at Zion Baptist Church reflected the new spirit in a part of Omaha that's been considered dead for many years. The smoked and barbecued chicken lunch and the performance of the Zion Baptist Church Junior Choir were two of the many unique happenings of the day. City Councilman Richard Takechi stayed for the morning workshop and reaffirmed his belief in the Town Meeting process. The proposals covered subjects as diverse as black membership on the Chamber of Commerce Board as a way to pursue new business in North Omaha, and a community newsletter that spreads vital information in an imaginative and comprehensive manner.

YESTERDAY'S DREAMS
ARE
TOMORROW'S REALITY



DOUGLAS-SARPY SUBURBAN TOWN MEETING REPORT



GETTING TOGETHER
TO GET
THINGS DONE

When a suburban community fills up and is still growing, where does it go? It may spill over city and county lines to unincorporated areas as has happened in the South Suburban area of Omaha. In our community, the county line which divides it became the name to unify it at the Douglas-Sarpy Suburban Town Meeting, May 14th. De-emphasizing divisions was the order of the day, symbolized by the presence of Mr. H. H. Harper, 93-year-old "father" of this area. Present to encourage the citizens were two state senators and Mr. Henry Greenberg, a long-time concerned businessman of South Omaha.

FUTURE TOWN MEETINGS BEING PLANNED FOR FALL

Several Omaha neighborhoods are looking at fall Town Meetings. Dundee, Florence, North Central, Near South, South, Northwest, Southwest and Millard are all neighborhoods which felt that spring was too early for their Town Meetings. In Dundee, September 24th has been suggested as a likely date. A series of evening gatherings, with refreshment and conversation, is being planned to introduce Town Meeting to interested residents of these neighborhoods. Several people who have already been introduced to Town Meeting are gathering twice monthly with the Omaha Town Meeting Task Force to plan these and other events together. For more information on your neighborhood's Town Meeting, call 457-5172.

TOWN MEETING: NEBRASKA - STATEWIDE UPDATE

Blue Valley Community Action, Inc., is spearheading a 4-county demonstration Town Meeting project, aiming for participation by 8 or more communities. Large communities will be paired with one, two or more smaller towns for training and funding. The next training session will be July 14 in Bruning. A similar demonstration begins in July with Central Nebraska Community Services with Orientation Meetings for 10 to 15 communities each, scheduled for July 12 in Fullerton and July 13 in Broken Bow. A number of groups in Crete have expressed their desire for a November Town Meeting.

Omitted from our last issue of the Town Crier was a new State Committee member, Rabbi Kenneth Bromberg, Omaha. Other new members are Mayor Robert Sargent, Sr., of Beatrice and Jim Miller, Mayor of Norfolk.

Valmont Industries has joined the list of state-wide sponsors. Major in-kind contributions were received from Redfield and Company, Roberts Dairy, Colonial Printing, Commercial Federal Savings and Loan, Addressograph-Multigraph and A. B. Dick.

Concrete results of the Town Meetings include:

- Community clean-up**
OMAHA, NEBRASKA: In 1976 the Northside Guild and 70 businesses sponsored a Town Meeting attended by 350 persons from the black, Indian and white populations. A grassroots Community Council was created to make sure the proposals were implemented. Immediately two major clean-up campaigns were held, removing 28 tons of trash from the community. Rat and roach sources were eliminated, and, for the first time, the rat control agency could do an effective job.
- Newsletters and councils**
7 OMAHA NEIGHBORHOODS: Many proposals have already been carried out since the Town Meetings held in April and May of this year. Neighborhood newsletters have been started in the Near Northside, Northwest Franklin and Carter Lake. Three new community councils have developed from the Town Meetings and are now functioning: Benson, Douglas-Sarpy Suburban and North Loop. Northwest Franklin reclaimed a long-forgotten park with the Erskine Park Spring Fling Festival on June 19.
- Town Symbol**
RALSTON, NEBRASKA: The Mayor has convened bi-monthly citizens meetings to continue the planning process. The town won first prize in a contest with the symbol created at the Town Meeting.
- All organizations committee**
OGALLALA, NEBRASKA: Since the March, 1977 Town Meeting the following things have happened due to the analysis and proposals: an Industrial Development Committee has been formed; efforts of the Jaycees have enabled the City to start recreation programs for young children; a County-wide group for young adults has begun and for the first time has a regular meeting place; a youth-police dialogue program is underway; and a comprehensive steering committee including the President of every group in town and the Mayor is now in being to oversee continuing work on the proposals.
- Coalition formed**
ST PAUL, MINNESOTA: Hamlin Midway community was saturated with service organizations which often produced wasteful duplication, fragmentation and stalemates of opposing programs. One week after the Town Meeting, a coalition of all groups was formed to coordinate the efforts and implement the proposals.
- Bus for Seniors**
FRIDLEY, MINNESOTA: An immediate result of the Town Meeting was a task force which created a bus service tailored to the needs of the senior citizens to participate in the community.
- Community development**
PACE, MISSISSIPPI: The first Town Meeting in January, 1977 resulted in citizen based groups working on comprehensive community development. In March, programs were operating in all proposal arenas, such as Economic Development, Employment Stimulation and Improved Telephone Service.
- Safe Street Patrol**
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: The neighborhood Town Meeting enabled the community to see that existing formal law enforcement efforts needed to be backed by citizen participation. To make police more effective, a group of residents started the Safe Street Patrol, volunteering their time, gasoline and CB equipment in order that their entire neighborhood could be under protective eyes.
- Government response**
QUINCY, ILLINOIS: The city government responded directly to a Town Meeting proposal by putting police officers back on the beat.
- Community economics**
PAYSON, UTAH: A proposal implemented immediately was the instituting of a Community Economic Course at the local high school, taught by the town's businessmen through the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Education.

- Educational commission** **MT. AIRY, CINCINNATI, OHIO:** One of the proposals led to the formation of an Educational Commission joining PTAs and public and parochial school administrations. Their first proposal is to reinstate crossing guards, for which the Commission has raised over \$1000 in case the city is unable to fund it.
- Fill potholes** **WASHINGTON, D.C.:** Residents followed up their Town Meeting by filling potholes in the neighborhood streets as part of a clean-up campaign.
- Comprehensive follow-up** **SALINA, KANSAS:** Town Meeting follow-up includes ½ hour TV report, the song being played on the local radio station, presentation of the Town Meeting document to the City Commission and preparation and distribution of a concise statement of the proposals to city and county commissions, School Board, Chamber of Commerce and other official bodies.
- 1000 immunized** **PICO UNION, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:** The first immunization clinic ever held in the district gave over 1000 shots in a single day as a result of a Town Meeting proposal.
- Voters turnout** **BRILLION, WISCONSIN:** After the Town Meeting, high school students called everyone in town before the election--it was the largest voter turnout ever.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a not-for-profit, privately funded corporation chartered with the State of Illinois. The ICA is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development.

