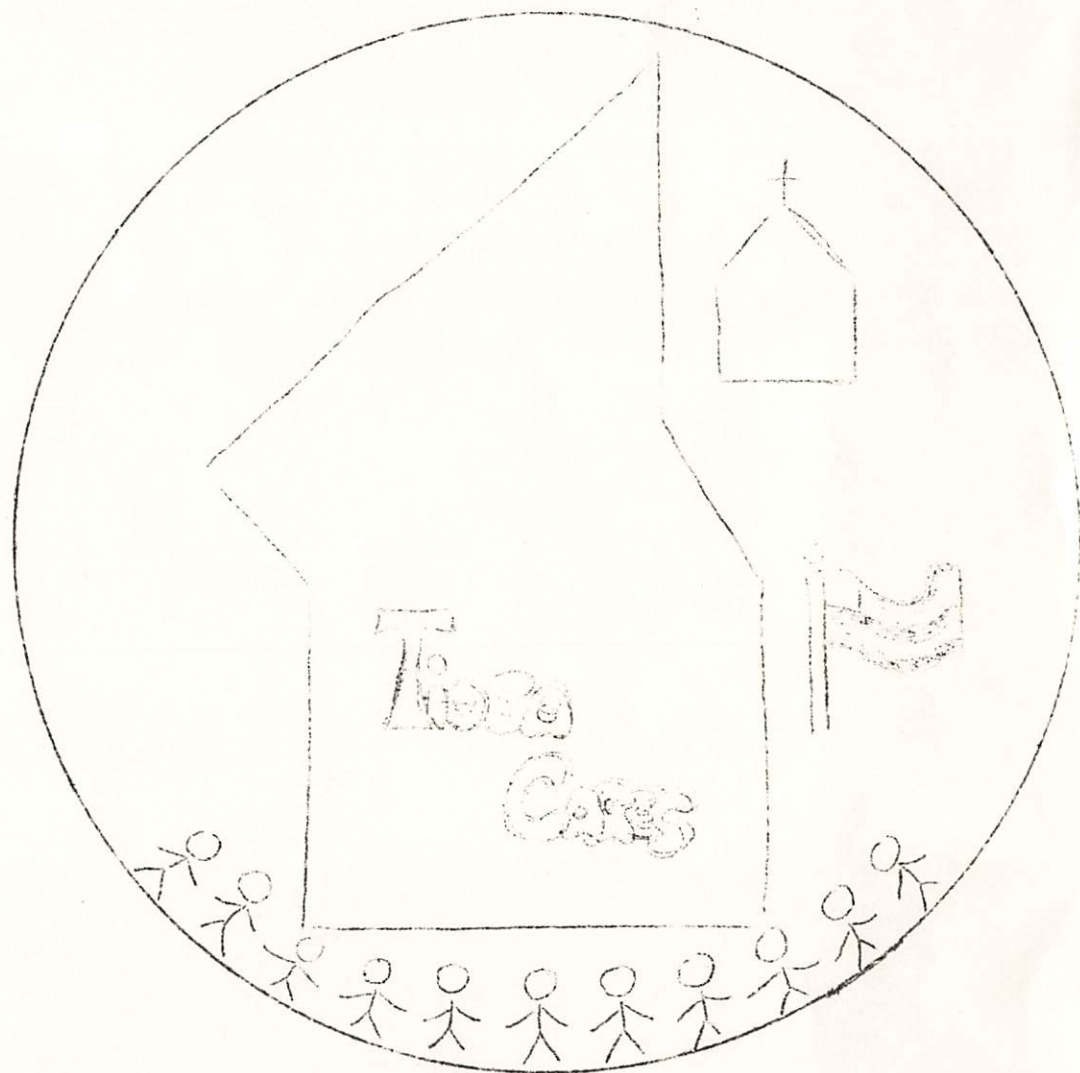


TIOCA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHOOL TOWN MEETING



May 15, 1980

Gethsemane United Methodist Church

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Queen Farrow  
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3725 Chestnut St.  
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Mary Work  
Harrisburg, Pa.

TOWN MEETING

THE COMMUNITY STORY

TIOGA

Tioga's past consists of the first Block Association in America. It was called The Tioga-Nicetown Civic League, and located in the heart of Tioga. Also, Tioga had the first community group to take over a major health care service from a jamor hospital. The community corporation is called The North Central Philadelphia Group, Inc. or The North Central Philadelphia Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. It also has an abundance of community health clinics located in every corner of Tioga, almost!

To add to this, we have had the honor of creating the TV series called Sesame Street. This was created out of the need to maintain the interest level of the preschooler.

Tioga also has the best public transportation system of anywhere in Philadelphia. It has over five major transportation lines.

Today, Tioga is on the Move! Working together corporately, new visible signs of hope appear. The Marcus Foster Stadium is located on Hunting Park Avenue, and many urban gardens flourish within the Venango Street area. Positive thrusts forward include the determination for improved housing and knowing that community is not just one family. A Town Watch was also developed. As a sign of all positive working together is the Human Development Training School in Tioga!

Tioga residents share a sense of pride in their community and hope for the future. They anticipate a more unified community through a community newspaper and TV station; and through improved services and economic situation. Among the improvements will be renovated houses, an improved school, a newly-completed hospital, and new industry. Local potential will be realized through a youth corps, increased youth skills training, and a black-owned co-op. All of this will demonstrate to Philadelphia and beyond that Tioga is a great place to live!

TOWN MEETING

THE COMMUNITY SONG

YOU ARE IN MY LIFE, TIOGA

(Tune: 'Til There Was You)  
Tioga,

Tioga,

You are in my life, Tioga,

I will never let you go,

You are my dream.

With your trees

And your youth

And your houses and your block clubs,

You have built a new world for all

Communities.

And there is struggle

And there is determination to create

The new urban lifestyle

Of hope for the world,

Out of pain,

Forging hope,

Tioga marching through the Urban,

You beckon new life for all

Communities.

THE COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

Better Political Justice

In the arena of better political justice, the following conditions exist: low voter turnout, politicians faced with bureaucratic setup.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is: community organizations face only their own particular interests and are not cooperating.

This is illustrated by politicians being out of step with the public, varied forms of justice, city hall does not listen, and community care and poor government representation.

Strong Municipal Protection

In the arena of stronger municipal protection, the following conditions exist: poor transportation, rising crime, and over-crowded parking, lack of employment.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is a need for greater community cooperation. This is illustrated by: need for stricter enforcement, inadequate recreational facilities, easy access to places of crime for youth (example: beer gardens, dope), apathy on the part of motorists (example: leaving cars unlocked, leaving packages on car seats).

Community Identity

In the arena of community identity, these conditions exist: a loss of personal and cultural symbols for youth, and competing special interest groups.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is unfocused community identity. This is illustrated by fighting between different groups.

Rundown Buildings

In the arena of rundown buildings, the following conditions exist: no renewal or investment; residents do not own property or business.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is: fear of commitment to the neighborhood, related to the uncertain future of the blocks. This is illustrated by: unused buildings, need for housing, businesses not owned by community people, and delapidated houses.

Poor Education and Recreation

In the arena of poor education and recreation, the following conditions exist: few after-school programs, lack of sufficient education in school for future leaders.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is: lack of professional concern due to the misunderstanding of Street Style between past and present. This is illustrated by: no concern and care between parent, teacher, student; communication gap between elders of the past and youth of the future.

TOWN MEETING

Community Challenges, continued

Inadequate Services

In the arena of inadequate services, the following conditions exist: competing community groups, poor image, and absentee ownership of property.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is: declining community image inhibits pride and morale. This is illustrated by: uncoordinated community services, abandoned housing, and red-lining.

Weak Economic Base

In the arena of weak economic base, the following conditions exist: lack of incentives for business to remain within the community.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is: high taxes pushing industry out of community. This is illustrated by: not enough local industry, industry moving out, absence of community shopping, and massive unemployment.

Inadequate Community Programs

In the arena of inadequate community programs, the following conditions exist; indifference, apathy, low community image, and lack of community pride.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is: a lack of a rallying cause which would produce community pride and citizen involvement. This is illustrated by: unengaged youth, uninvolved adults, lack of organized youth clubs, and loss of the community vision.

THE COMMUNITY PROPOSALS

Reduced Unemployment

We the citizens of Tioga-Nicotown, in order to reduce unemployment and increase local shopping incentive, propose: to establish a local community industry, through:  
1) research on kind of markets available; 2) find funding possibilities; 3) community committee; 4) research facilities.

Unified Community

We the citizens of Tioga, in order to build a unified community, propose: a series of forums and special issue events. This will be done through: 1) organized neighborhood cluster sessions; 2) joint youth-police-community forums held bi-annually.

Effective Citizen Voice

We the citizens of Tioga, in order to establish an effective citizen voice, propose: set in motion information media. This will be done through: 1) establishing a community newspaper; 2) community service directory; 3) an ad hoc community-police relations task force.

Tioga Recognition

We the citizens of Tioga-Nicotown, in order to get the rest of the city to recognize Tioga, propose: developing a good positive image. This will be done through:  
1) having different events to help straighten the Tioga area.

Community Pride

We the citizens of Tioga-Nicotown, in order to stimulate community pride and identity, propose: a campaign to promote a positive community self-image. This will be done through: 1) "Tioga Cares" banner; 2) create a community symbol; 3) Tioga T-Shirt creation; 4) create community story.

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