



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of
UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL
1971-72 + 2011-12

Residents Rap University City Renewal Plan

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Civil rights and community leaders yesterday denounced the Redevelopment Authority for its new plan to relocate residents in the University City Renewal Area 3.

During a meeting with authority officials, Mrs. Frannie Robinson, a leader of the Area 3 Citizens Committee, said she “wouldn’t build a dog house” on some of the land the authority suggested.

“That’s always been a bad neighborhood and it will always be a bad neighborhood,” she said, referring to land at the northwest corner of the renewal area around Powelton av. and 40th st.

William Mathis, head of the local Congress of Racial Equality, said, “If I were a resident of the area I would not accept the plan.”

Another Objection

Felton Newman, of 19 N. 37th st., who would be relocated, objected to the proposal to give several plots of land to the citizens for housing instead of a solid tract.

“The point is that we are a community. I don’t see how we can be a community scattered all around.”

The meeting was held in the board room of the authority offices at 211 S. Broad St.

The plans under discussion were agreed upon by the authority and the U. S. Housing and Urban Development, Tuesday, apparently clearing the way for renewal of the area.

The citizens demanded that the city honor an agreement given them three years ago to develop themselves the 7.6 acres bounded by 36th, 37th, Filbert sts. and Lancaster av.

The authority plan gives 5.4 of those acres to the school board as part of a new high school site, but pledges to make up the difference in or around renewal area 3.

Science Center

The renewal area includes the proposed \$100 million 26 acre University City Science Center.

When Francis J. Lammer, executive director of the authority, said Newman had suggested outlines of the plan at an earlier meeting, Newman replied:

“I suggest that the school board find a different site for its school. I certainly did not suggest that our area be given [to] us in segments.”

John H. Clay, executive director of the University City Citizens Development Corp., argued that a split site would be less efficient to renew.

Renewal Problem

“There’s no question about that,” Lammer said, adding, “Of course, you would get the same number of families on it, but what you’re saying is that it wouldn’t look as nice.”

Lammer raised but did not settle the question of who would develop housing under the new plan. The citizens group technically lost its contract with the authority last year when it failed to produce satisfactory plans.

Lenerte Roberts, housing chairman of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, joined Mathis in demanding that the school board switch its site.

“I wonder if the whole business suggests a conspiracy to get the black people out of there,” Mathis said. Lammer denied this.

Meeting Urged

The meeting ended after Gustave G. Amsterdam, authority chairman, suggested the residents call a community meeting to explain the plan.

Outside on Broad st., however, Mrs. Robinson said, “I’m not calling any meeting. I’m going to go door to door tonight and tell people to vote no on those bond issues (Nov. 8) so the city knows it can’t treat us like this.”



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By RICHARD H. DE LONE
Of The Bulletin Staff

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