

January 12, 1946

Henry Shenk has asked me to notify you that an important meeting of the executive committee of the Recreation Council will be held at my home, 720 Indiana, at 8 pm. Tuesday, January 15th. Please attend if at all possible.

Marge S. Stockton

I am enclosing, for those of you who could not attend the last meeting, a carbon copy of the minutes of the meeting, including detailed notes of Mr. Todd's talk. It was his first visit here and, consequently, he covered much ground that is thoroughly familiar to us; it is worth reviewing, however, in that it indicates the citizens of Lawrence still want what we want-- and expanded and well coordinated recreation program for Lawrence. With that reassurance, Weesty read the letter indicating that the Chest officials wished to withdraw their financial support of our program after this year, based on their feeling that funds should be included in the budget of tax-supported agencies.

Which means, apparently, that the only recourse left to us is to abandon our policy of patient education of the public and our hard-won solvency; to "risk our all" on combining with the Bd. of Education in hiring the director we have begged for all these years; to use every cent we have and every remaining effort of our exhausted but loyal volunteers to put across a year's program that will make possible a referendum authorizing a mill tax for recreation at the city election in April, 1947. Under the present interpretation of the state statutes, the city council can not contribute to the director's salary, but those of us who have worked closely with Mr. Burgert and his committee know that we can count on cooperation in making available city facilities and equipment.

Mr. Todd did not know what was meant by the comment frequently made, "the programs should be better coordinated". Since our Council has avoided duplication of effort and money by including representatives from the school system, city officials, and "Hill" leaders, it undoubtedly refers to the projected youth center of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We have been told that many people contributed thinking that the project had the approval of the Recreation Council. Since our advice was never sought and since we were not contributing any of the funds, there seemed no tactful way to approach the backers of the center. If there were a paid director, that sort of sporadic effort could be guided in its early stages and embarrassment avoided. Community gifts of more than \$3000 were made, with no results to date. If there were a paid recreation director----- Perhaps there will be at long last, and our Council can be discharged with a "well done". Maurice Cannady may be available.

When the city council is ready to make definite plans for the new parks, band shell etc., Mr. Shenk will appoint a committee from the Recreation Council to work with them. Please submit to him any suggestions you have as to desirable areas that are available for neighborhood development.