

Recreation Council Executive Committee meeting January 7th, 1946
at Mrs. Stockton's. Arthur Todd, representative of the National
Recreation Asso. as special guest.

Members present: Shank, presiding; Stapleton, Kindlesperger,
Houston, Six, Cornwell, Dean, F.A. Russell (for R. O. Burgert),
Westemeyer, Cornwell (summer director), Arthur Todd (guest)

Mr. Todd, in summarizing the community reaction to the recreation movement as based upon interviews with 12 to 15 local citizens, reported that there was high regard and enthusiasm for the summer program, particularly last summer's, and appreciation of the volunteer leadership of the Recreation Council. Also noted a general feeling that a trained director was needed for year-round program. Some stressed need of ability in sports and physical education as requisite for the director, others stressed ability in organization, promotion and public relations; ability to work with both school system and school children as well as city officials mentioned. Some suggested a part-time school-city person; a few wondered if it would be desirable to hire the coach in order to keep him, but some recognized the futility of such a method. (Suggestion came from downtown businessmen). Urged the further use of KU leadership in community activities-- paid, volunteer, practice teaching, etc. In re facilities, recently authorized bond issue for parks, new school for junior and/or senior high etc. indicated progress is being made; conceded need for tennis courts, wading pools, shelters with toilet facilities, multiple use areas, picnic areas etc.etc., and urged better utilization of existing buildings--both school and city-- and of outdoor areas. In re organization, the Rec'n Council praised universally, but seemed to think programs should be better coordinated (did not know what was meant), and the question arose as to what group should administer recreation ultimately-- schools, separate board, etc. As to program, "more of the same", expansion of playground program, establishment of neighborhood centers, youth center, activities for old folks, out-of-school age, and an attempt to reach the lower economic groups, negroes, and others. As to finance, citizens seemed to feel the school board should employ a director part time with city supplementing funds, and ultimately a tax levy, referendum on enabling legislation for 2 mill maximum.

Mr. Todd made the following suggestions:

1. Facilities:

- a. Council should consult with city council, prepare list of facilities needed in order of importance, recommend proper design of playgrounds to allow for future development, for efficient use, and ease of supervision, advise on location.
- b. Council should consult with school board to insure design for recreational use and sufficient grounds. (Special comm. from Council might function as contact with both groups.

2. Future planning:

- a. Sound out sentiment as to tax levy and promote an active educational campaign. (House bill No. 121) If interest seems to warrant, make plans for referendum.
- b. If time is not ripe, secure cooperation of school board in employment of a trained and experienced director, part school, part city, with full time for recreation during the