

Regional Plan Association

235 East 45th Street • New York, New York 10017 • (212) 682-7750

December 7, 1977

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Executive Committee
FROM: Richard T. Anderson, Secretary
RE: Minutes of October 17, 1977

Enclosed are the Minutes of the October 17 Meeting for your review and approval at the next Executive Committee Meeting. If no corrections or additions are received within ten days, these Minutes will be sent to the full Board.

The topics covered with page numbers:

Financial Report -----	1
1978 Annual Dinner -----	1
Mason W. Gross Resolution -----	2
Resignation of John Reed -----	2
New Jersey College of Medicine & Dentistry Bond Issue -----	2
New York State Economic Development Bond Issue -----	2
Federalization of Welfare -----	3
Westway -----	3
Convention Center -----	3
White House Conference -----	3
Future of Manhattan -----	4
Adjournment -----	4

MINUTES

REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 17, 1977
12:15 p.m.

Location
Exxon Corporation
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York

Attendance

Board: William M. Ellinghaus, Chairman; Terence Benbow; Eleanore C. Collins, Morris D. Crawford, Jr., John P. Keith, Edward J. Lenihan, Robert L. Payton, Robert N. Rich, Richard B. Sellars, Walter B. Shaw, Richard C. Wade

Guest: Emery Westfall

Staff: Ricki Gardner, Sheldon Pollack, Boris Pushkarev, William Shore, Joseph Thomas, Jeffrey Zupan

William M. Ellinghaus, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, presided. Mr. Ellinghaus thanked Mr. Payton and Exxon Corporation for hosting the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of June 21, 1977 were approved as mailed.

Financial Report

Mr. Shaw's Treasurer's report highlighted the new grant of \$255,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which has been put in a savings account. The Executive Committee authorized the following to sign withdrawal slips for Emigrant and New York Bank for Savings accounts: John P. Keith, Richard T. Anderson, Boris Pushkarev, and William B. Shore.

Annual Dinner

Mr. Ellinghaus reported that Donald Platten had declined the Association's invitation to receive the 1978 Annual Dinner honor, because he felt he has been "over-exposed" recently. Mr. Platten said he was proud to have been invited and would reconsider another year, if invited.

Mr. Ellinghaus reminded the Committee members that we stick to our principles in selecting someone to be honored, but we also need someone who will attract a large attendance. He reported that Henry Ford had been invited and declined. We have had Ford, Platten, and Ellmore Patterson in mind for a long time, Mr. Ellinghaus said, but we do not have any of them. Mr. Ellinghaus added: ideas would be welcome; we need to make the choice quickly; we are now considering Edmund Pratt, CEO of Pfizer; we also have considered Felix Rohatyn, who certainly meets our criteria and has been an architect of saving the City and helping the Region. But he is not the head of a large corporation, said Mr. Ellinghaus; it may be that we will have to accept smaller attendance some years to protect the integrity of the award.

Mr. Crawford commented that both were excellent choices. The Committee decided to approach Mr. Pratt and then, if necessary, Mr. Rohatyn in that order.

Mason W. Gross Resolution

Mr. Sellars moved, Mr. Crawford seconded, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved a resolution of condolence concerning Mason W. Gross. It is attached and made part of these minutes.

Resignation of John Reed

The resignation of John Reed from the Board was accepted with regret.

New Jersey College of Medicine & Dentistry Bond Issue

Mr. Pollack opened a discussion of the New Jersey Bond Issue referendum on hospital bonds. He said there is no question we can back the switch of high-interest bonds for lower-interest bonds, but we are not expert on whether the extra money thereby made available should be used for the purposes proposed. Skyrocketing hospital costs have been attributed to over-expansion of specialized machinery and services, he explained, and some New Jersey hospitals oppose the proposed use. Mr. Keith suggested that we approve the proposal but suggest that the Legislature look carefully at the use of the funds made available by it. The Committee discussed whether to include the suggestions to look carefully at the use of extra funds and agreed to do so, subject to wording agreeable to Messrs. Sellars and Lenihan.

New York State Economic Development Bond Issue

Mr. Pollack described the proposed New York State Bond Issue that would allow State payment of up to 95 percent of the local share of various federal grants. He said the projects proposed for the City were valuable and deserved a high priority, but the staff is not as certain of the value of the third of the bond issue funds that would go to the

New York State suburban sector of our Region or the third that would go outside the Region. Altogether, though, staff recommended support. One Director felt the State's proposal had been badly handled; the list of projects suggested were published very late, and there is no guarantee that those will be the projects financed. Mr. Pollack pointed to the dilemma that people want to know the specific projects to be aided by a bond issue; but to gain majority support, there then has to be something for everyone regardless of priorities. He suggested that the Association wait to support the proposal until the Governor names the required review committee. Mr. Ellinghaus suggested that the Committee vote tentative approval and the staff get the review committee list; then the Committee can be polled on final approval. The Committee agreed.

Federalization of Welfare

Mr. Thomas summarized the President's welfare program and the paper he wrote for the Journal of the Institute for Socioeconomic Studies commenting on it. Mr. Thomas concluded that the President's program does not accept the principle of federal responsibility for poverty costs--as the Association called for in 1968; it does not provide equity either for recipients or for taxpayers; nor does it provide much relief for New York City or Northeast state and local governments over the short run nor much assurance of continued relief over the longer run. The Committee approved a resolution (attached) amended to put point number three first, and point two last and approved publication of the article.

Westway

Mr. Keith suggested that a compromise position on Westway might be appropriate since Mr. Koch has announced his opposition. The Committee generally approved the exploration of a compromise position but did not authorize any change of posture at this time.

Convention Center

Mr. Keith said that the Association would be testifying in favor of a Times Square site for the proposed convention center before the Mayor's Committee on Site Selection. He said the more we learn about the Times Square site, the more certain we are it is the right place. He also reported that Mr. DeMatteis has publicly announced that he could raise the money for a Times Square site and is only waiting for City approval.

White House Conference

Mr. Keith said that he has been soliciting Board members to see whether they would be interested in being delegates to the White House Conference. He is submitting nominees to their respective governors.

Future of Manhattan

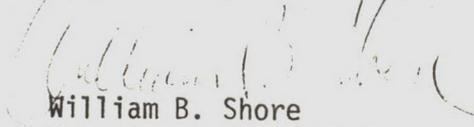
Mr. Keith reported that the Association has submitted a request to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for \$45,000 to commission several papers on the future of Manhattan and hold seminars on them.

These would explore questions on which the future of Manhattan hinges, like substitutability of communications for location and transportation. The results will help design research on Manhattan's future.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


William B. Shore
Secretary of the Meeting

/rs



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WELFARE RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that welfare reform in the United States must include the following three principles not now sufficiently incorporated in President Carter's welfare reform proposal:

1. There must be immediate and substantial fiscal relief to hard-pressed state and local governments, which currently bear a disproportionate share of the nation's welfare expenditures, even in advance of the full gearing in of the President's program.
2. There must be explicit recognition of the basic principle that poverty is a national problem and that the fiscal burden for welfare and other poverty related programs should be borne by the national economy at an early date.
3. There must be greater equity among states in both benefit levels for welfare recipients and in the per capita tax burden for welfare expenditures moving toward early national equity.

sj

October 17, 1977

As amended by the Executive Committee.



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MASON W. GROSS RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that condolences of the Board of Directors of Regional Plan Association's Board of Directors be extended to the family of fellow-director Mason W. Gross. His thoughtful, humanitarian approach to the problems and potential of the New York Urban Region will be much missed in the Association's deliberations. His leadership in citizen participation best expressed in moderating the Association's pioneering 1963 television series, Goals for the Region, made a lasting impression on staff, Board, and public. His inspirational addresses to our assemblages remain with us. His work for the renaissance of New Brunswick is now beginning to flower. His leadership of Rutgers has resulted in substantial guidance to the urban places of the Region. Altogether, we have been enlightened by his wisdom, broadened by his philosophy, inspired by his insight, stimulated by his concern.

sj

October 17, 1977



Place
stamp
here

Regional Plan Association
235 East 45th Street
New York, New York 10017

I shall
be at the Executive Committee Meeting

shall not

to be held on DEC 19 1977

Signed _____