

CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE

Regional Plan Association



... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: A.M., Sunday, October 19, 1986

C. PETER MCCOLOUGH, RETIRED CHAIRMAN OF XEROX, TO HEAD FAIRFIELD 2000

"Fairfield 2000 is officially launched: C. Peter McColough will chair the project, and the first meeting of the eight Task Forces will take place at 4 p.m., Tuesday, October 28, 1986, at the University of Bridgeport Student Center," Robert N. Rich, chairman of the sponsoring Connecticut Committee of Regional Plan Association, announced today. Mr. McColough was named by Regional Plan Association Chairman William S. Woodside, Chairman of the Association and of American Can, Greenwich, and Mr. Rich, who is President of F.D. Rich Company, Stamford.

Fairfield 2000 will bring together about 500 persons in seven Task Forces to deal with problems identified in interviews and at a conference of 250 Fairfield County leaders on April 7. An eighth Task Force, on Community Values, will look beyond today's problems to try to improve conditions and avoid crises of the future.

Mr. McColough, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Xerox Corporation, Stamford, was Chief Executive Officer from 1968 until 1982 and Chairman from 1971 until 1985. He is a Director of Union Carbide, Citicorp, Knight-Ridder Newspapers, Fuji Xerox, Tokyo, and Rank Xerox, London. Mr. McColough also is a Director of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Business Committee for the Arts, and a Trustee of the University of Rochester.

Mr. McColough lives in Greenwich, Connecticut.

(A press conference with Mr. McColough, Mr. Rich, members of the Steering Committee and Task Force leaders will be held just before the first Task Force meetings at the University of Bridgeport Student Center, 3 p.m., Tuesday, October 28.)

Membership of the Task Forces now consists of identified community leaders invited to take part, but the Task Forces are open to all who live or work in Fairfield County and three closely related municipalities: Milford, New Milford and Bridgewater. Anyone wishing to join can call 203-356-0390 or write the Connecticut Committee, Regional Plan Association, 500 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06901, or come to the University of Bridgeport meeting.

The eight Task Forces and their assignments are:

1. Housing--(1) Overcoming obstacles to providing more housing that residents forming new households and employees in Fairfield County can afford; (2) assuring adequate housing for those with special housing needs, including low-income families, frail elderly, mentally retarded, those returning from mental hospitals or jails.

2. Transportation--(1) Increasing the share of peak-period travellers who ride together in vans, cars, buses or trains and providing better public transit for those who cannot drive; (2) setting priorities for highway expansion; (3) facilitating the transfer of some freight from highways to rail and water.
3. Education and Jobs--Breaking the way for all adults to join the work force, by assuring necessary education, job preparation, child care, incentives and opportunities.
4. Human Services--(1) Identifying and spreading successful social and health services and making sure there is a system that continues to do that; (2) assuring a satisfying life after retirement.
5. Effective Government--Improving local governments and intergovernmental relations (state-local, school-local, school-school) and non-governmental public service organizations.
6. Environmental Protection--Establishing priorities and methods for preserving key open space parcels; (2) minimizing environmental damages from development.
7. Arts--Creating support communities that will optimize arts activities, both professional and community.
8. Community Values--Identifying a vision of Fairfield County in 2000; suggesting reasonable goals in quality of life and the policies needed to achieve them, particularly looking at urban design and how it can foster or thwart sense of community.

Task Forces will set their own schedules and ways of operating, but they will be expected to issue their reports no later than June 1987. Their reports will then be condensed and combined into a Fairfield 2000 report to be widely circulated and discussed in a Conference in autumn 1987. The Connecticut Committee has promised to establish a process for getting the recommendations adopted. The project will be guided by a Steering Committee headed by Mr. McColough. It will be staffed by Regional Plan Association, aided by high-level Connecticut Regional Planning Agency professionals and higher education faculty and executives.

Regional Plan Association is a citizen group that has been planning for the Connecticut-New York-New Jersey Urban Region since the 1920s. Its reports have contributed to acquiring many square miles of parks, saving commuter railroads, locating I-95 through Connecticut and nearly all other limited access highways of the Region, and the revival of downtown Stamford, Bridgeport, White Plains, Brooklyn, New Brunswick, Paterson, Jamaica (Queens) and Newark.

October 10, 1986

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