City Club of Portland Bulletin vol. 03, no. 33
(1923-5-11)

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)
FRIDAY, MAY 11
Hotel Benson, 12:10, Sharp

A VITAL COMMUNITY PROBLEM
THE LAURGAARD WATERFRONT PLAN

Speaker
E. B. MACNAUGHTON

Subject
“Trend of West Side Property Values”

DISCUSSION OF LAURGAARD PLAN
CITY CLUB CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

What do you really know about the Laurgaard Plan? Do you know its scope, its strength, its weaknesses? The meeting Friday will be another one of those illuminating City Club presentations of a community problem. Come and bring a guest. Members interested are invited to view the model of the plan this Thursday evening at Benson “Tech,” at 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 15th
Tickets One Dollar

CITY CLUB DINNER MEETING

Speaker . . . DR. HENRY CHURCHILL KING
President, Oberlin College.

Chairman . . . DR. RICHARD F. SCHOLZ.
President, Reed College.

The Year’s “Kick-Off” Special Music
Members and Men Guests Only

Phone (BRwy 8079) or Write for Reservations Now!

EDUCATION REPORT IS PRESENTED
May 4th, 1923

To THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND:
The accompanying report of your Education Committee was submitted to and approved by the Board of Governors on Monday, April 23rd. As stated in today’s Bulletin, this report was discussed at a meeting called by The City Club Governors with the members of the School Board on Thursday, April 20th. At this meeting, the directors advised that a special committee of the School Board was about to present a report on the building needs of the district, in view of which your committee requested that the presentation of its report to the Club be temporarily withheld.
The report of the School Board’s special committee was made public on Wednesday of this week, and has been examined by your committee. Without undertaking to comment at this time on the extensive building program outlined in such report, your committee’s examination of same has confirmed its previous judgment as to the course which ought to be taken, and therefore in behalf of the Education Committee, its report to the Club as approved by the Governors on April 23rd is respectively submitted herewith.
THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

To THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS:
Prior to the school election last June, the City Club endorsed and actively supported the $3,000,000 bond issue and $1,000,000 special tax levy, then under consideration by the taxpayers of this District. At the election on June 17th, 1922, the $4,000,000 of additional funds was authorized.
This $4,000,000 was requested by the Board for certain definite purposes. All but $770,000, allocated for the continuance of certain special activities and to take care of increases in costs of operation and maintenance, was to be applied in specific amounts for certain designated new

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Semi-Annual Dues Payable Now!
The City Club's dinner meeting, next Tuesday evening, the 15th, has assumed the proportions of a real knock-out. In the first place the Club is fortunate in having as a speaker, Dr. Henry Churchill King, that rare inspirational leader of Oberlin College. In the second place, President Scholz, of Reed, will be toastmaster. Add as a third feature the fact that the dinner will mark the "kick-off" for the new club year, the time when the year's work will be briefly discussed. Finally it may be said that the occasion will be one for City Club men to get acquainted, the annual round-up for men only. The time is 6:30; the place is the Crystal room of the Benson, and the price per plate, only one dollar. Reserve by writing or telephoning the office: 308 Henry Bldg., Brwy. 8079. Do it now!

EUWER ENTERTAINS

Anthony Euwer won a host of new friends at the City Club last Friday with three of his original rhymes, dramatically presented. No speaker in a long time has won quote so unanimously the applause that Mr. Euwer did. His "Cootie" story, screamingly funny, his dramatic and colorful story of the forest fire and his final "flight," a paralyzing account of his first and last airplane ride, stimulated the button-bursting competition.

The City Club Quartet, reduced by one-fourth, added to the levity of the occasion by some cleverly improvised rhymes of its own. Milton A. Miller gave a short talk on Champoeg Founders Day. The Education report was read and accepted and following the announcement of election returns came the address of the retiring president.

ELECTION HELD

The new administration got under way with the first meeting of the Board of Governors on Monday. So much business was on the program that adjourned meeting was scheduled for Wednesday noon. The result of the election last Friday may be found through the list of officers and governors on Page 2.

The report of the City Planning Committee, giving a detailed account of delay factors in vehicular traffic on the Hawthorne bridge has attracted outside interest and requests for copies are coming from eastern cities.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
By ROBERT W. OSBORN

WHEN a group of Portland young men determined seven years ago to establish a Club in Portland that was different, they took as their inspiration the several City Clubs of America, particularly the Chicago City Club, and decided on such a type of organization.

It is especially appropriate in making a report of City Club activities for the past year, at the beginning of 1923-24, to look back these seven years to see just what it was that the City Club founders had in mind. A backward look is always helpful in taking forward steps in any undertaking and if the purposes of the Club have stood the test for these seven years then we can feel assured about the future. If the program is unbalanced—now is the time to know it.

In simple terms, the whole purpose of the founders was nothing more or less than to build a City Club whose object would be:

To work for the civic improvement of Portland.

The machinery for accomplishing this purpose may be stated as follows:

To study and discuss facts, impartially;

To assemble these facts in presentable form;

To bring together men of character in this pursuit;

To work with all other high-purposed organizations;

Ultimately, to have a City Club home.

With these ideals and purposes, the City Club was launched and today is the largest civic organization in Portland, outside of the Chamber of Commerce. It has taken its place among other City Clubs and among other organizations. Sarcely a mail fails to bring some inquiry concerning a City Club report or undertaking. The Health Report and City Planning Report of over a year ago firmly established the Club as a research body. Just recently it was the pleasure of the Executive Secretary to appear before a local organization to explain the work of the Club in the public health field.

In this report, the purposes of the Club set forth by the founders in the Constitution in 1910 are listed with the accomplishments of the past year, as follows:

First Purpose: To study and discuss impartially Portland's civic problems and to work for the improvement of the City's economic and social conditions.

Under this heading falls the major portion of the City Club's committee work. It is sufficient in this report merely to summarize and call to mind the year's important events.

1.—City Planning:

The City Club took the lead in a discussion of the location of the Roosevelt Statue and the type of base to be provided for it. The question of having an Art Commission was introduced to the Charter Revision Committee at this time.

The first mention of the need of a bridge at Ross Island was made in a City Club report in March, 1922, and since that time the City Planning Committee has informed Club members of progress in bridge matters.

The most recent city planning study was that made on "Factors in Traffic Delay on the West Approach to the Hawthorne Bridge." This report was of particular value in pointing the way to scientific analysis of delays to traffic.

The Laurgaard Waterfront Plan is now being studied by the City Planning Committee.

2.—Education:

The Club has stood for a progressive and business-like management of our public schools. A report was made at the beginning of the year on the bond issues for a school building program and the development has been followed through the year. This report is now before the Club.

In Americanization work, City Club members have been conspicuous.

A Committee on Boys Work gave valuable cooperation in numerous events for Portland boys during the year.

3.—Taxation, Legislation, Government:

Legislative bills furnished the chief inception for reports by the Taxation Committee. This group discussed for the Club the State Income Tax measures, and reviewed and approved the Tax Supervising Commission.

During the legislative session several bills were presented by Committees for the information of the Club.

The Public Affairs Committee has prepared during the year a number of charts showing the organization of City, County and State government.

A report on the proposed pension system for employees of the City was referred back to the Committee for additional material.

4.—Public Health:

In this branch of departmental work the City Club has probably been the most active, mainly due to the strong report issued last year and the recommendations stated therein.

"Collection and Disposal of Municipal Wastes in Portland" is the title of a published report thoroughly studied and discussed. Many of the Committee's recommendations on the problem were carried out by the City.

The Club cooperated with other bodies in getting a dental bill through the legislature providing for the dental care and treatment of school children of Portland.

A study under way is that of Portland's milk...
supply with particular reference to pasteurization.
A study in the field of sanitary engineering is being made with reference to a high pressure sewage system for the west side of Portland.
The Public Welfare Bureau Report, a year ago, and the Community Chest Report last Fall were two surveys which indicated the Club's interest in social welfare work and its strength in publishing accurate reports.

§—miscellaneous:
Within its own circle City Club members have enjoyed fellowship by participating in competitive athletics through the League of Civic Clubs.

The City Club Quartet has become popular not only with the membership, but has been in demand by other organizations.

A number of members volunteered substantial amounts for the relief of fire-stricken Astoria.

An enjoyable event during the winter was the excursion to Longview, the new industrial city, taken by nearly a hundred members and wives.

Second Purpose: To assemble a library of information relating to all phases of civic life.

In the fulfillment of this purpose the City Club has already made an unique start. Probably no library in the City has a higher per cent of autographed books by Americans of today. On the City Club shelves are books bearing the signatures of President Harding, Vice-President Coolidge, Chauncey Depew, Herbert Hoover, Edward Bok, Augustus Thomas, John Hay, Lawrence Abbott, Theodore Roosevelt, Hendrik Van Loon, Albert Bushnell Hart, Judge Carey and many others. An invitation was extended the membership of the Club recently to follow the example of these illustrious gentlemen by presenting books to the Library. The result makes a considerable start toward a library.

Third Purpose: To work with all high-purposed organizations for a greater Portland.
The co-operative efforts of the principal downtown Clubs are centered in the President's Council. The City Club has taken its place in this group and has steadfastly stood for a Council that would act as a clearing house for Club matters and not as a super-club. The Council has tended to bring the work of the Club to the attention of other clubs in such a way as to win their commendation.

Fourth Purpose: To bring together congenial, forward-looking men of divergent beliefs, politics and occupations, and to encourage a fellowship which shall endeavor intelligently to discharge the obligations of citizenship.

With this purpose we come to one of the biggest problems of the Club—its membership.

The "melting pot" of the Club is, of course, the Friday meeting. During the past year the Club has maintained its high standard of programs,—being educational, embracing local, national and international topics, and presented by the most able men of the country. These meetings have stimulated clear thinking on a variety of subjects. The past three months have witnessed a higher average of attendance than ever before in the history of the Club.

Fellowship which arises from associations on City Club committee work, takes care of itself, but it is no easy task to insure wide acquaintance at the weekly meetings and the Club has been criticised by some for its lack of the half-fellow-well-meet spirit.

Consider some of the possible causes. In the first place the Club is founded on the idea of bringing together only those men who have the interests of the community unselfishly at heart. The promotion of personal business and self-advertising is left to the other clubs. For this reason many men drop out of the Club.

An analysis of the membership shows that we have more professional men—doctors, lawyers, dentists, engineers, architects, accountants, etc., than any other organization. These are men whose ethics and training inhibit personal advertising. There is a type of man to whom the City Club especially appeals, and in the long run this is the type of man to enroll.

Whatever the problem is here, it is not one to discourage any administration. Well planned programs, a live reception committee, informality, group singing and dignified entertainment should solve this particular problem, if it exists.

The membership chairman reports a net loss of 18 members during the year. Four years ago the Club membership was 61. Two years later it was 600. The following year it dropped to 500 when the dues were raised and there it approximately stands today. When a rapid growth of membership occurs there is apt to be a correspondingly heavy decrease later.

Consider also the competition. A business enterprise meets with competition only in its own line, but the City Club must compete with the whole realm of the present-day organization fever. There are about twenty down-town clubs represented in the President's Council and a half dozen which are not. Add to these the great number of business and professional associations, athletic and social clubs, fraternities and lodges, alumni associations, war service groups, etc., and the ability of the average man's pocketbook to
ADDRESS OF RETIRING PRESIDENT
By E. T. Mische

The occasion of retiring from the presiding office of the Club is a suitable one for laying before you a brief summary of the more important conclusions drawn from a year's service.

Well does it augur for any community to have within it an organized body of citizens attracted to service. Operating to assemble men who have an interest in society and a disposition to elevate that society, the possibilities of usefulness of such an organization are immeasurable. More especially is this true when the organization is distinctly non-political, except insofar as any movement concerned with government is political.

Non-partisan and searching for truth, energetic and deliberate in exerting an influence in the community, what are the aims, the equipment and personnel required to make such a Club a vital force for the attainment of greater progress and higher ideals for the betterment of our city?

In any program, before an organization can be helpful in a community, it must be well informed. To supply information is a function a civic organization may well undertake to do.

Delving into cases, ferreting out data, compiling it, sifting and interpreting it and forming accurate conclusions in the light of the understanding it gives, is part of the task. Giving study to civic situations, occurrences and projects means careful thought about them. Having reviewed the points brought out, the case must be outlined, the characters must be assembled and put into forms for reading. The story they tell and the theme they discuss must be read with sympathy and understanding. Having read the thesis it is ready for critical review, for adding support to it, for removing errors and wrong deductions and, thereafter, for placing it in the particular niche into which it fits into our city life and modern civilization.

Research Is Aim

Research, we call it, and in conducting it we are judged by the quality produced quite as much as we judge the quality of the product we are examining.

Too commonly, the studied attention and persistent following up of public affairs is left to chance or an attempt is made to treat it by blocs, at voting periods only, or even left to hope, knowing full well that that is not so much a means but merely a trust. Our benign and generous confidence is too often subverted and for it we can blame ourselves because of our inattention. What a solid and enviable stride we could make, what a stimulating and valuable asset would be ours did we merit the appellation of giving all needed and timely attention to our community affairs!

The City Club typifies the living fact of a group of men associated with a will and purpose to discharge the obligations of citizenship in a progressive and aggressive fashion. It declares that citizens of that common aim are here, that they have standards to which they hold, that they are ready and feel obliged to incorporate their ideals into the woof and fabric of this com-
munity and that they mean to exert their influence to have their ideas become part of the community itself.

City Planning Needed

Opportunities for labor exist in abundance.

Turn to municipal affairs: After ten years of effort we still lack the guidance of an official plan of the physical city, or a general policy on many of the major factors with which municipal life is concerned. Our course is still one of hand to mouth, eleventh hour scrambling to whip into shape ways and means that only long continued study and well sustained and reasoned planning can assure.

Observe, if you will, what lack of preparation and adopted policy based on advance and mature study and comprehensive treatment has already brought us: A library in one section of the city, an auditorium in another, a court house in still another, all without any regard for the grouping possibilities of public structures. To merely assemble these different buildings into a single united scheme would create dignity, promote public education in aesthetics and provide an illustration of prudent public expenditure. Ponder this state of affairs, bear in mind that we are even now aware that a new city hall is not far distant and we still lack any guidance commensurate with the possibilities.

Definite Policies Lacking

Today we have several railroad lines passing through the interior of the city on street grade. No public policy is accepted looking toward its betterment yet railroad corporations have announced their intention of instituting remedies that are of great import to the community. They know what they want and what is good for them: why don't we know as much about our community interests? Are we to assent to allowing private corporations to be administered with foresight and erudition and leave our municipal corporation to reflect the weakness of American government, so ably pointed out by the late Lord Bryce?

Or consider our waterfront: Except that portion embraced by harbor development for the near future, we have no avowed policy toward its treatment under public control nor for its development under concerted private ownership. Meanwhile one of the features that in older cities give valuable and distinctive character to river side communities is all but lost.

Or another case: Note the irregular and distorted boundary of the occupied land area of the city and observe how abnormally developed and economically illogical it is disposed around the business center. Grant that it is due to pressure and barriers imposed by topography and that it has adapted itself to the influences of least resistance at the outset. An arterial trunk line system of passageways, consistently developed, would have avoided the distorted and costly burden its absence has helped to induce. Before the physical handicaps of nature can be overcome and a more reasonable development has its blemishes removed, it will become necessary to construct a carefully devised system of roadways traversing the western hills so as to connect the west side flat with the Tualatin valley.

Much Work Ahead

These citations will illustrate the paucity with which we permit the conduct of public affairs to proceed.

It is not desirable to voice what we want and allow our public agents to be guided by that will? Is it not desirable that we confer with one another and express the ideas upon which we are united?

Does not an organization such as a City Club provide such a medium?

If collective expression is advantageous and an instrumentality for formulating and supporting it exists, are we doing all that is possible to see that it functions smoothly and effectively? Is not that in itself a challenge for City Club activity and a justification for its existence?

Is it too much to dare hope that with advancing years the tasks assumed will continue to be greater and of more importance and that the contributions made will be of increasing value, thus enabling the City Club more than ever to be a symbol for unselfish, wholesome, fearless and wise public service?

To that end, we, on this occasion of change in officers announce our allegiance. Let us all take satisfaction in what we have been enabled to perform for our city and with courage, good cheer and kindly purpose determine to continue in well doing and, with our help, strive to make of our city one beyond comparison, one where a full and prosperous life can be happily and contentedly lived by every one privileged to own it as his own.

As constituted and functioning, the opportunities of a City Club will not diminish so long as urban life shall last. To the discharge of its obligations and in the promotion of the City's interests the City Club is dedicated. May we ever keep faith with our duties, continue to labor with unity and zeal and in so doing increase our attachment to those multitudes of affairs which singly and collectively make for a better Portland.
CITY CLUB—TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance Sheet, April 30, 1923.

ASSETS:
Office Equipment ........................................... $ 366.11
Accounts receivable—Members .......................... 734.00
Cash in Bank .............................................. 221.53 $ 1321.64

LIABILITIES:
Dues paid in advance ...................................... $ 263.00
Accounts payable ........................................ 275.00
Reserve for doubtful Accounts ....................... 187.00
Surplus ...................................................... 596.64 $ 1321.64

SURPLUS STATEMENT

Twelve Months Ending April 30th, 1923.

Surplus beginning period .............................. $ 895.04
Less previous year’s dues ................................ 350.50 $ 544.54

INCOME:
From Dues during year .................................. $ 5652.75
Less allowance for doubtful Accounts ............. 187.00
Miscellaneous income ................................... 47.25 $ 5513.00

EXPENSES:
Salaries .................................................... $ 2725.00
Bulletins and Reports .................................. 1522.92
Office Supplies and Expenses ......................... 945.89
Speakers and Entertainment ............................ 267.09 $ 5460.90

Surplus for Year ........................................... $ 52.10

Total Surplus, end of Year .............................. $ 596.64

IRA T. WALKER, Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

April 30, 1923

Total Membership, May 1, 1922 ......................... 513
Applications for Membership (fiscal yr.) ....... 128
Losses: Resignations, removals and cancellations 146

Net Loss ...................................................... 18
Total Membership, April 30, 1923 ..................... 495

While the above statement does not present a favorable aspect with reference to the desired growth in membership, it is believed the present membership of the Club reflects a more substantial organization than the Club enjoyed at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The total loss of one hundred and forty-six members represents a large number of resignations which came as a result of pressure exerted with a view to clearing the records of members who had become grossly delinquent in dues. With this policy largely accomplished the Club is placed in a healthy condition and with added strength toward engaging in greater activities and accomplishments of the future.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLIS R. HAWKINS,
Chairman, Membership Committee.
Education Report

Continued from page 1

school buildings, additions to existing buildings, and for incidental new equipment required for the same. The details of this proposed $3,230,000 of capital expenditures, as supplied by the Board at the request of the Club's committee prior to the election last June, are shown in the attached "Exhibit A."—(Bulletin, May 4th.)

Nearly a year has gone by since these funds were authorized. The original program has not been completed, and many additional demands have arisen in the meantime. It is now suggested that an additional $5,000,000 may be needed for such purposes and it is probable that a bond issue in that or some larger amount will be requested in the near future. How should the community respond to such an additional demand?

Two Things Essential

At the outset it will be recognized that the schools constitute our greatest community asset, and likewise our greatest community responsibility. Whatever is genuinely needed for their support and successful development, we, as taxpayers, should be prepared to provide. To accomplish this result, however, two conditions are essential; (1) Satisfactory information, in adequate detail, concerning the character and extent of actual needs, must be made available to all concerned; and (2) Effective assurance must be provided that the funds requested will be properly administered for the purposes specified.

Recognizing these conditions, and the probable necessity of further funds for this purpose, the City Club's approval of the $4,000,000 program last June was accomplished by its endorsement of certain business policies, which it regarded as essential to proper administration and to the winning of public sympathy and support for further school development.

The most vital of these recommendations is that calling for a comprehensive survey of present and prospective school needs, under the best obtainable expert supervision. This is a task calling for the services of a trained investigator, capable of assembling and analysing all the necessary data, aided by the advice and information of present school officials.

Such a survey will require time enough to assure a thorough performance, and will have to be paid for, but the time and expense should be saved many times over in the final results. It will avoid a repetition of the delays and changing of plans and policies which have necessarily marked the progress of the program authorized last June. It should also be remembered in this connection that the Board now has at its command the $3,230,000 voted last June to meet the most urgent of immediate needs.

Without such a survey the taxpayers of the District as well as its directors, can only guess what these needs are or will be. Without it the community can have no positive assurance that funds authorized will be wisely or constructively applied.

Survey Necessary For Program

The committee, therefore, regards the making of such a survey, and the publication of its results in definite and understandable form, as fundamental to the formulation of a satisfactory program of school development, and believes that the school board should take the necessary steps to secure this immediately, and before submitting to the taxpayers any request for additional funds.

For your information, we have prepared the attached "Exhibit A" from official sources, showing the application to date of the funds authorized last June. This statement shows in parallel columns the amounts requested by the Board for the various specific items stated, as compared with the amounts actually disbursed or committed, or estimated as necessary to complete these several items.

No comment is necessary upon the facts disclosed by this comparison. They present in themselves the most convincing argument (if argument were necessary), for a more comprehensive determination of school needs, and for the adoption of a more definite, forward-looking program of development, prior to the submission of further bond issues, assuming that the taxpayer is to vote advisedly thereon.

Recommendations

Your committee, therefore, respectfully recommends:

1. That steps be taken at once by the Board of Directors of School District No. 1, to secure a survey and a program of the character indicated.

2. That requests for additional funds by the Board of Directors be withheld, pending such survey, and the formulation of a definite development program based thereon.

3. That the City Club pledge its services and co-operation to the School Board, in aid of a progressive and business-like program for the development of our schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by the EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
April 23, 1923.

A. F. Bittner W. G. Holford
R. W. Montague Edward O. Sisson
John A. Laing, Chairman