

PLANS FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ONEIDA AREA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

for American Indians MSS.

Progress Report SHSW

by Madison, Wisc.

Box 2

ONEIDA TRIBAL COUNCIL OF WISCONSIN

Sept. 16, 1959

1. INTRODUCTION

Perhaps, nearly all the people living in various communities in the state of Wisconsin have one in common. This one thing is "The desire to improve their community area and make it a better place in which to live!" This purpose have created the initial suggestion for this project originated among the members of the Oneida Tribal Council themselves.

11. COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

At a special meeting September 16, 1959, The Oneida Tribal Council created and organized a " PLANNING COMMITTEE."----- Pursuant to recommendations set forth by the Governor's Commission on Human Rights" that a committee of both Indian and non-Indian be set up to discuss and to take some positive measures in providing more community recreation for the young people in the Oneida area and to invite outside agencies for suggestions, and consultations such as Clergymen, Public School Superintendents, Social Welfare workers, Town Chairmen, county Judges, Attorneys, Youth workers, Recreational Directors and business men of the area.

111. COMMUNITY SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Several Tribal members and others spoke strongly in favor of enlarging the scope of a committee beyond recreation to many other unmet community needs.

WHEREAS, The committee is aware of the rise of social problems and if they are not met, they may eventually impede the development towards a responsible citizenry.

Joseph Hall
11/11

WHEREAS, It is also realized that its basic causes are related to the conditions in the homes, the community, and the state. A concerted effort is needed in confronting this social problems.

IV, RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1). To set up an adequate supervised programs, counseling services for the families.
- (2). To establish an advisory counsel on Juvenile Delinquency Health education and welfare.
- (3). To encourage community local law enforcement, teaching techniques of working with youthful offenders.
- (4). Development practice for health improvement.
- (5). Building a community recreational programs;

A. It is suggested that the recreational programs provide something of interest to various age groups in the community.

The following considered;

1. Children
2. Teen-age (and younger)
3. Adult groups.
 - a. Young married couples and unmarried folks.
 - b. Middle age people
 - c. Older folks.

- (6). To investigate the possibilities of organizing a recreational center in the Oneida community area.
- (7). Other group activities of any kind.

The cooperation from individuals, organizations, and agencies, who may be contacted on this project will be appreciated. The committee welcome suggestions and constructive recommendations.

Box #1

Illinois-Wisconsin Friends
Committee for American
Indians Box #1

SHSW,
Madison

November 16, 1959

Mr. Oscar Archiquette
1319 C., West Vliet Street
Milwaukee 5, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Archiquette:

Walter Taylor of the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare tells me that he spoke to you recently about the Illinois-Wisconsin Friends Committee for American Indians. Perhaps you know that the committee was very active last year in working for the wishes of the Menominee people as they face termination. In addition, we have established a relationship with the Oneidas through Mr. Morris Wheelock, who attends many of our meetings.

The purpose of our committee is to study the problems of Wisconsin Indians, inform members of the Religious Society of Friends and other people in Illinois and Wisconsin about these problems, and to work for good solutions to them.

We would be honored to have you meet with us--to help Mr. Wheelock keep us up-to-date on the Oneidas, and to help our thinking and planning for all Wisconsin Indians. Our next meeting will be held this Saturday, November 14, at 10 a.m., at the home of Mrs. Jack Eisendrath, 3367 North Hackett Avenue, Milwaukee 11. Attenders are to bring sandwiches; Mrs. Eisendrath will serve coffee and tea. We will be discussing a number of subjects, including scholarships (see enclosure) and would be very happy if you would join us.

Sincerely yours,

Paxton Hart, Chairman
Illinois-Wisconsin Friends
Committee for American Indians

One enclosure.

April 16, 1960

Mrs. Irene Moore, Vice Chairman
Oneida Tribal Executive Committee
Route 3
Seymour, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Moore: First I want to thank you and the other members of the Oneida tribe for welcoming our committee so warmly last weekend. The chicken bouya served by the Men's Club, and the wonderful supper a few of us were fortunate enough to share in your lovely home, were both delicious indeed. Best of all, however, was the warm feeling of friendship that developed during the day and the evening. I wish that more of our committee could have shared our experience; but I think that the dozen or so who did undertake the journey are a pretty good indication of our deep interest in the Oneida people.

During the morning meeting, when we were discussing the Kinzua Dam and its threat to the Seneca nation in New York, I said I thought the name of the Seneca president was Cornelius V. Seneca. I was wrong. Although he has served four terms as president, the current president is George Herron. He can be reached, I am fairly certain, at this address:

George Herron, President of the Seneca Republic
General Tribal Office
Gowanda, New York

I am sure that a letter to him from his brothers the Oneidas will be a real morale booster in these troubled times. Letters to Washington to protest the dam will be helpful, too, and I am glad that the tribe is considering writing them. The people to whom they should be addressed are named in the literature that was distributed last Saturday morning.

I will certainly be interested in the outcome of the meeting on April 20. May I suggest that if the committee wishes to have the American Friends Service Committee try to find a skilled recreational leader for this summer, the committee write a letter definitely asking the Service Committee to do so. The Service Committee feels that it must have a definite authorization from an



The State of Wisconsin
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
May 18, 1960

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
DISTRICT OFFICE
CITY HALL — P. O. BOX 336
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Mr. Paxton Hart
Route #1, Box 1071
West Chicago, Illinois

Dear Paxton:

Thank you for your letter. I wish we could arrange a weekly conference to work out our approach to some of these knotty problems.

I think I agree with you in the long run, but in the short run I am inclined to prefer that one of us or a group of us have an opportunity to meet directly with Riley before taking responsibility for publicizing his comments which were probably intended only for Senator Proxmire. Before we give up, we perhaps could at least make sure that we understand him correctly and he understands our point of view, whether he would accept it or not.

I have no hesitation about our participating in an all-out struggle in the end if necessary, but I do think we should offer Mr. Riley an opportunity to modify his statements with us and, conceivably, even to collaborate with us in the interest of Oneida housing before we take the rather extreme step of exposing his letter to the community without his knowledge.

If you agree, I shall telephone him and impress him with the urgency of our getting together before June 4th if at all possible. I might offer him the opportunity to attend our next meeting and to discuss housing problems with the committee including the Oneidas.

In case you need it now or later, I enclose a copy of my letter to Senator Proxmire. I do not have in my possession another copy of Mr. Riley's letter to Senator Proxmire nor of Senator Proxmire's letter to me, so if you agree that I should approach Mr. Riley before we attempt any other treatment of the problem, perhaps you should return that material to me. I am sure I can have it duplicated here if that proves to be necessary approach.

I am sure that I drag my heels more in some of these matters than perhaps I used to, and I am perfectly willing to be overruled if the feeling is strong in the committee that the matter should be handled promptly. On the other hand, it occurs to me that these housing prob-

lems have existed for many years and if we do not bring this into the discussion June 4th, it may not involve intolerable delay to postpone consideration to the next meeting.

Until we have proven that Mr. Riley cannot cooperate in a constructive housing effort, I think we should not risk forcing him into an uncooperative stance.

Sincerely,



Walter Taylor
Community Services Consultant

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WT:EMP

Encl.