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Three types of neighborhood councils found in the Roxbury area of Boston.

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THREE TYPES OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS FOUND IN
THE ROXBURY AREA OF BOSTON

A thesis

Submitted by

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(A.B., Central State College, 1951)

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Science in Social Service

1955

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Communities such as Roxbury are large, really communities within a community, therefore the community and neighborhood councils can play a big role in helping people help themselves. "The idea of planning by neighborhoods is not new; it preceded the development of councils of social agencies."¹ People in these three neighborhoods have seen the need to band together and look at what they have around them, analyse it, determine the need and then work at making changes, to make the neighborhood they live in better for themselves, their children, friends and neighbors.

The neighborhood Council might be characterized as a "grass roots" organization, of people living in and/or working in a limited geographical area of the city, for the purpose of appraising local needs and developing resources to meet them. Because these people are working together to solve problems directly affecting them, the neighborhood councils differ from community welfare councils in program emphasis. In the first place, the interest is focused on a single problem or, at most, on a few problems. In the second place, the range of interest is broader in the neighborhood council and it may concern itself with any situation affecting life in the area.²

In the Roxbury area there was a community council that had as its membership representatives of health, welfare and recreation agencies. This was composed chiefly of the professional people of the area. They met monthly and discussed the problems of the neighborhood and what could be

1 Ray Johns and David DeMarche, Community Organization and Agency Responsibility, p. 106.

2 Ibid., p. 108

done about them.

This group dissolved about June, 1948, and many of its members felt the need for developing smaller neighborhood councils that could better consider, plan and act on problems in the smaller setting, with lay and professional participation.

In carrying out the neighborhood approach many different forms of organization are possible. Some of these can be applied to an individual neighborhood while others are applicable to the larger area of the district which includes several neighborhoods. A committee of social agency representatives may set up an area project for coordinating their services to prevent delinquency. A council of delegates from the various organizations in the neighborhood or district may be formed to promote a community recreation program. Groups of neighbors or representatives of organizations, may join forces to solve some specific neighborhood problem and disband when they have achieved their purpose.³

Purpose

The purpose of this thesis is to study the three different types of neighborhood councils in the Roxbury community of Boston.

The thesis will attempt to answer the following questions:

1. In what kinds of neighborhoods are the three active Roxbury neighborhood councils located?
 - a. Population
 - b. Country of Birth
 - c. Years of Schooling
 - d. Age
 - e. Economic Characteristics
 - f. Occupations
 - g. Dwelling Units
2. What led to the formation of these councils and who was active in forming them?
3. What kinds of activities did these councils participate in?
4. What were the councils' long term goals?

³ Sidney Dillick, Community Organization for Neighborhood Development, p. 15.

Scope

This study will cover the period from February, 1953, through June, 1954. For the purposes of this thesis the writer observed the three different kinds of councils found in the Roxbury area. There were three neighborhoods that had councils and each council was different.

1. Dudley East Neighborhood Council was set up by social workers and turned over to the people of the Neighborhood.
2. Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council was set up by the staff at the Robert Gould Shaw House and was more of a house council, interested in the neighborhood.
3. Roxbury Citizens Committee was set up by neighborhood people, to work on neighborhood projects having very little professional assistance.

Method and Sources of Data

The data for this study were obtained in the following ways:

1. Reading in the field of sociology and community organization to provide a frame of reference from which the study could proceed.
2. Personal interviews with the chairmen of the three councils, committee chairmen, and some of the committee members.
Personal interviews with the social workers who played an active part in each council.
3. Reading the past and present minutes of each of the three councils. Attending some of the meetings of the Dudley East Neighborhood Council and Roxbury Citizens Committee. Attending some of the Executive meetings of the Dudley East Neighborhood Council.
4. Observing the people, the housing, and the activities in all three neighborhoods.
5. Consulting information concerning the neighborhoods in the Seventeenth Decennial Census, 1950.

6. Using the schedule (Appendix D) as a guide in making interviews and gathering data.

Limitations

1. A considerable amount of work was accomplished by the councils but not recorded in the minutes of the meetings in detailed form. Some committees met weekly, others two and three times a week, long hours, to accomplish their goal, and the records show that the committee met and worked on their projects. Because of this the writer could not rely on recorded minutes, but had to interview committee chairmen and committee members to receive a true and accurate picture of committee activities.

2. There was just one of each type of council in the Roxbury Neighborhood. Thus, it was not possible to observe more than one example of each type, and generalizations about each type cannot be made from these data.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS

The Dudley East Neighborhood Council is located in one of the poorest looking, dense sections of Boston. It includes U. S. Census Tracts Q1-Q2-Q-3Q-4 as shown in Figure 1. The cleanest section in this neighborhood is the Orchard Park Housing Project. This project, built in the 1940's, is attractive among the dirty, dark, damaged buildings of the rest of the neighborhood.

There are 15,842 people living in this neighborhood; 14,204 whites and 1,538 non-whites; 6,439 are children, 3,131 boys, 19 years of age and under, and 3,008 girls, 19 years of age and under; and 1,416 men and women, widowed or divorced.⁴

This neighborhood was once made up of people of Irish and Canadian backgrounds. Later Italians moved in occupying a very small section of the neighborhood and recently Negroes have occupied eighty units in the Orchard Park Housing Project. (See Table II.)

The people living in this neighborhood (Dudley East) pay extremely low rents which coincide with their extremely low salaries. Rents for the most part range from twenty to thirty dollars per month and salaries from twenty and thirty dollars per week. (See Tables VIII and VI.) The most frequent occupations are operatives and kindred workers, as defined by the United States Census Bureau. (See Table VII.)

⁴ U. S. Census, 1950, See Tables I, IV, V.

KEY TO FIGURE I

- a. Solid lines indicate streets forming tract boundaries. Names of streets are lettered parallel to streets wherever possible.
- b. Dotted lines indicate major street extensions or connecting links between two tract boundaries.

Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 Census tracts represent Dudley East Neighborhood Council. Colored in red.

R1, R2, R3, Census tracts represent Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council. Colored in blue.

U1, U2, U4, U5, U6A, Census tracts represent Roxbury Citizens Committee. Colored in orange.

The level of educational and technical training of these people contributes to their low incomes, and keeps many of them living in the same neighborhood, on the same level. Many of these people have grown up in this neighborhood, married, and are raising children in the same neighborhood. The most frequent school grade completed for people twenty-five years of age and over is the eighth grade. Many have attended the first few years of high school but very few have attended college. (See Table III).

The neighborhood that borders this one on the northwestern side is the one that houses the Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council. (U. S. Census Tracts R1-R2-R3). This neighborhood is the smallest of the three neighborhoods being studied, as shown on the map. The area QI (Dudley East) houses many factories and very few people (1,561), making the remaining part of the Dudley East area about the same in size as the Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council area.

There are fewer factories in the Lower Roxbury area, but the tall connecting apartment houses add to its untidy, dirty appearance. This neighborhood has a population of 16,456. It is predominately Negro, with 11,833 non-whites and 4,633 whites (see Table I). There are 5,454 children, 2,733 boys 19 years of age and under, and 2,721 girls 19 years of age and under. (See Table IV). There are 2,056 men and women who are widowed or divorced. (See Table V).

Here we see an area close to that of Dudley East in population (614 more in Lower Roxbury) but a considerable change in racial background. Dudley East is almost seven-eighths white, while Lower Roxbury is almost three-fourths non-white.

The people living in this Lower Roxbury area are paying rents similar to those in Dudley East, the largest number being twenty to thirty dollars per month, and receiving similar salaries, twenty to thirty dollars per week. The men do about the same type work (operatives) but there are as many women doing work as operatives as there are doing private household work. (See Tables VIII and VI).

The educational status is a little higher in this neighborhood than in the Dudley East neighborhood. A few more people in this neighborhood have gone on to high school but there are still some who have had no formal schooling. (See Table III).

The Roxbury Citizens Committee (U. S. Census tracts U1-U2-U4-U5-U6A) is located in a better socio-economic neighborhood than the other two councils, and is sometimes referred to as "Upper Roxbury". This neighborhood is larger in size. It has a population of 32,862 people which is almost double the size of the Dudley East Neighborhood (15,842). There are 22,486 whites and 10,376 non-whites in this neighborhood. (See Table I). Of the 32,862 people in this neighborhood 10,374 are children; 5,199 are boys, 19 years of age and under, and 5,174 are girls, 19 years of age and under. There are 3,165 men and women who are widowed or divorced. (See Tables IV and V).

This neighborhood is a residential area with few factories and large manufacturing firms. It has much more noticeable nationality divisions. The Jewish people, predominantly Russian and Polish, occupy a very large area and the Negro people the next largest area. The Canadian population live in the area that touches on the Dudley East neighborhood and the Irish inhabitants live closer to the Lower Roxbury neighborhood. (See Table I).

In this neighborhood we find a larger proportion of monthly rents in \$30 - \$39, or even \$40 - \$49 categories than in the other two neighborhoods, (See Table VIII). There are as many people working as "craftsmen foremen and kindred workers" as there are "operatives and kindred workers." Women workers are "clerical and kindred workers" as well as "operatives and kindred workers." (See Table VII).

It is within this large neighborhood that we find a real cross-section in education. The most frequent grade completed is the fourth year of high school. Many people have attended college but there are still some who have had no formal schooling.

TABLE I

SEX AND RACE OF POPULATION OF ROXBURY

BY CENSUS TRACTS, 1950

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	R1	R2	R3	Total	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A	Total
Total	1561	4886	5687	3708	15842	7905	4583	3968	16456	6256	5412	6927	8661	5606	32862
Male	753	2417	2767	1720	7657	3577	2306	1883	7766	3008	2526	3283	4045	2675	15537
Female	808	2469	2920	1988	8185	4328	2277	2085	8690	3248	2886	3644	4616	3931	17325
Total White	1523	4093	4932	3656	14204	653	2303	1677	4633	5302	3405	5739	3815	4225	22486
Total Non- White	38	793	755	52	1538	7252	2280	2291	11823	954	2007	1188	4846	1381	10376

*Source: Table adapted from the Seventeenth Decennial Census,
U. S., 1950.

TABLE II

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN BORN WHITE POPULATION OF ROXBURY,
LARGEST TWO NATIONALITIES; BY CENSUS TRACTS; 1950*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	R1	R2	R3	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A
First	It	It	C	I	C	I	I	C	C	C	U	U
Second	I	C	I	C	E	C	C	I	I	I	P	P

Key: (I) Ireland, (C) Canada, (E) England,
(It) Italy, (U) USSR, (P) Poland.

*Source: Table adapted from the Seventeenth Decennial Census, U. S., 1950

TABLE III

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, POPULATION OF ROXBURY, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND OVER,
BY CENSUS TRACTS; 1950.*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	R1	R2	R3	Total	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A	Total
No schooling	45	95	25	30	195	115	30	40	185	110	40	40	180	110	480
Elementary															
4 years	100	265	95	70	530	425	185	230	840	160	110	190	315	245	1020
8 years	120	495	785	460	1860	860	305	405	1570	680	565	645	870	535	3295
High School															
4 years	155	420	715	425	1715	740	515	405	1660	1075	885	1030	1600	1325	6015
College															
4 years	0	20	90	30	140	16	45	50	111	130	120	145	305	280	980

Source: Table adapted from the Seventeenth Decennial Census, U.S., 1950.

TABLE IV

MALE AND FEMALE CHILD POPULATION OF ROXBURY
BY CENSUS TRACTS: 1950*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	R1	R2	R3	Total	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A	Total
Male 0-19 years old	316	1091	1109	615	3131	1293	759	681	2733	981	908	1274	1270	766	5199
Female 0-19 years old	310	970	1091	637	3008	1353	739	629	2721	926	888	1306	1313	741	5174
Total Children	626	2061	2200	1252	6139	2646	1498	1310	5454	1907	1796	2580	2583	1507	10373

*Source: Table adapted from the Seventeenth Decennial Census, U.S., 1950

TABLE V

MARITAL STATUS OF POPULATION OF ROXBURY BY SEX
BY CENSUS TRACTS; 1950*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	R1	R2	R3	Total	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A	Total
MALE															
Single	180	534	683	477	1874	680	669	452	1801	693	590	812	880	606	3581
Married	322	903	1066	689	2980	1596	937	793	3326	1410	1124	1379	2025	1363	7301
Widowed or divorced	34	132	151	94	411	262	185	140	587	173	168	167	181	155	843
FEMALE															
Single	138	489	653	544	1824	674	556	395	1625	677	626	782	852	580	3517
Married	345	966	1130	735	3176	1795	885	862	3542	1457	1220	1506	2154	1441	7778
Widowed or divorced	88	312	350	255	1005	752	343	374	1469	446	435	413	647	380	2321

*Source: Table adapted from Seventeenth Decennial Census; U.S., 1950.

TABLE VI

AVERAGE WEEKLY SALARY, ROXBURY
CENSUS TRACTS; 1949*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	R1	R2	R3	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A
Less than \$10	4	14	1	2	6	4	3	2	0	0	2	1
\$10 - \$19	152	415	67	125	570	201	388	26	64	122	29	15
\$20 - \$29	191	377	173	349	1160	546	605	445	514	599	395	146
\$30 - \$39	30	120	322	152	328	197	153	380	300	322	654	234
\$40 - \$49	3	194	390	91	212	25	26	279	227	127	459	329
\$50 - \$59	0	84	149	24	49	8	2	90	46	59	243	262
\$60 - \$74	2	8	28	7	6	3	2	47	26	20	110	96
\$75 - \$99	0	1	6	4	0	0	0	8	8	1	19	25

*Source: Table adapted from Seventeenth Decennial Census, U.S.; 1950.

TABLE VII

TOP TWO OCCUPATIONS, POPULATION OF ROXBURY, BY SEX
BY CENSUS TRACTS; 1950*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	R1	R2	R3	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A
MALE												
Operatives and Kindred Workers	114	292	333	214	-	249	239	366	282	358	463	263
Craftsman, Foreman and Kindred Workers	76	-	261	174	-	180	156	343	259	354	-	286
Service Workers, except Private Household	-	163	-	-	159	-	-	-	-	-	374	-
Laborers, Except Mine Workers	-	-	-	-	162	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEMALE												
Operatives and Kindred Workers	82	193	169	146	364	193	231	235	212	227	349	124
Clerical and Kindred Workers	35	85	170	133	-	-	-	255	194	231	284	250
Private Household Workers	-	-	-	-	318	110	132	-	-	-	-	-

*Source: Table adapted from Seventeenth Decennial Census, U.S., 1950.

TABLE VIII

CONTRACT MONTHLY RENT IN ROXBURY
BY CENSUS TRACTS; 1950*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	R1	R2	R3	U1	U2	U4	U5	U6A
Less than \$10	4	14	1	2	6	4	3	2	0	0	0	1
\$10 - \$19	152	415	67	125	570	201	388	26	64	122	29	15
\$20 - \$29	199	377	173	349	1160	546	605	445	514	599	395	146
\$30 - \$39	30	120	322	152	328	197	153	380	300	322	654	234
\$40 - \$49	3	194	390	91	212	25	26	279	227	127	459	329
\$50 - \$59	0	84	149	24	49	8	2	90	46	59	243	262
\$60 - \$74	2	8	28	7	6	3	2	47	26	20	110	96

*Source: Table adapted from Seventeenth Decennial Census, U.S., 1950

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
DUDLEY EAST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

For many years there have been individuals, organizations, and social agencies interested in problems of neighborhood. Many have met together and planned activities to strengthen their neighborhoods or alleviate the problems in the neighborhood. There have been many ways suggested, but to discover the one that best fits an area and strengthen the neighborhood is the work of the citizens, organizations, and social agencies of a given neighborhood.

In some communities, social workers have stimulated the development of councils. In others, the organizations have come up spontaneously under the leadership of local clubs and individuals.⁵

There is a neighborhood council known as the Dudley East Neighborhood Council, located in the area served by the Roxbury Neighborhood House. This group established as its purpose, "to recognize, study, and work towards the solution of social problems. It shall be a medium through which groups, which are in or working in the geographical limits of the area and have common aims, can join together in concerted action."⁶ This group was formed because of the "increase in amount and viciousness of gangs, and delinquency in the area served by the Roxbury Neighborhood House. Incidents

⁵ Wayne McMillen, Community Organization for Social Welfare, P. 30.

⁶ Dudley East Neighborhood Council, Constitution, Appendix A.

were cited of gang fights, threats to storekeepers, attacks on adults and younger children, stealing, increase in drinking, and local school vandalism".⁷

The social workers at the Roxbury Neighborhood House recognized that something should be done about these problems. They, therefore, discussed them among themselves, then invited representatives from other social agencies (Police Department, Roxbury District Court, family society), city government, and organizations in the neighborhood for further discussion of the problems.

Out of this meeting of about sixteen people evolved three groups that were to look into the three outstanding problems of this time. They were: Parent-Education Committee, Recreation Committee, and Gang Structure Committee. These groups met separately, then reported back to the council for action.

Parent Education Committee

This committee was to work with problems arising in the school or in the neighborhood that had to do with education. This group worked on the following projects:

- a. Publicity membership; working with existing groups trying to reach as many parents in the community as possible and inform them of the work being undertaken by the council, and asking them to join.
- b. Prevention of "flinching" of small children, imposed by older children.
- c. Reduction of adverse publicity in the city papers about Roxbury.

7 Dudley East Neighborhood Council, Minutes of the Meeting,
March 13, 1952.

- d. Curfew Laws
- e. Stationing of a policeman at the Stop and Shop Super Market.
- f. Action in regard to the use of the basements of the housing project.
- g. Specific School Problems: two-session school days; return of Language training at the Dearborn School, junior high grades; Physical Education at the Dearborn School.
- h. Helping parents understand some of the emotional needs of children.
- i. Helping citizens work together.

Between February, 1953, and June, 1954, the time specifically allotted to this thesis, the Parent-Education Committee worked (a) on increasing attendance at council meetings; (b) on return of language training to junior high grades at the Dearborn School; (c) on a two-session school day at the Dearborn School; (d) on Physical Education at the Dearborn School; and (e) on helping citizens work together.

A. Increasing Attendance at Council Meetings.

The attendance at the meetings was very good when the council started back in March, 1952. Most of the social agencies sent representatives; organizations and clubs were kept informed by their representatives; and small groups of individuals attended the meetings. By February, 1953, the group had become much smaller. The committee induced the old representatives and alternates to participate again, and issued fliers to people in the neighborhood informing them of the meeting and the speakers, or the movie to be shown. Some of the old members returned, some of the agencies and organizations sent new representatives, and the home-school Parent-

Teacher association became an active member.

B. Return of Language Training to Junior High Grades at Dearborn School.

Students who had graduated from the Dearborn School, and were desirous of taking the college course in high school, were not permitted to because they had no previous training in a language. The committee felt that this should be looked into immediately. Three months was spent looking into the problem and working with the school committee to have a foreign language included in the courses offered to the seventh and eighth grades. This was accomplished and the committee was satisfied with the results.

C. Two-Session School Day at the Dearborn School.

A group of people in the neighborhood and some of the teachers at the Dearborn School felt the school day was too long (9:00 A.M. to 2:15 P.M.). There were two recesses, one for classroom exercises, and the other for a lunch period in the room with the teacher. This confined the child in the building from the time he entered in the morning until school closed in the afternoon. Parents felt that this was too long a period; teachers needed an extra break away from the children.

The committee looked into this problem by studying other school systems, then invited open discussions with a parent, teacher and a doctor, to consider the health aspect, and circulated a petition for interested parents to sign. This was signed by over four hundred parents and sent to the school committee. At the time of this study they had not effected any change in the system.

D. Helping Citizens Work Together.

This neighborhood is made up of many peoples from different lands,

some speaking different languages, some of another color, and of every religion. Some got to know each other while others are not much interested in knowing their neighbors. Through the council and its common interests in the neighborhood, some of these people have come to know each other. The committee made the atmosphere friendly, giving everyone a chance to express themselves, and arranged time to be spent in getting to know each other.

E. Physical Education at the Dearborn School.

Previously, the physical education program at the Dearborn School had included setting-up exercises in the classroom, and after school sports. It was the feeling of the council that the area once used as a lunchroom in the school could be renovated and made into a gymnasium, and the Orchard Park Playground could be used in good weather, along with the Assembly Hall in the Administration Building of the Orchard Park Housing Project. Therefore, they discussed the matter with the school officials, among themselves, and with other groups in the neighborhood. Then they circulated a petition obtaining over four hundred names and sent it to the school committee, at the same time forwarding a letter to each school committee member informing him of this matter.

The school committee took the matter under consideration, made a survey of the school, playground and assembly hall, to determine its construction; and the committee wrote the Housing Authority for permission to use the Assembly Hall in the Administration Building. The Housing Authority promptly responded giving the School Department permission to use the Assembly Hall for physical education.

Correspondence had been received by the council showing that the

petition and letter had been forwarded through proper channels, but no action was taken at that time.

In December, 1953, the Director of Physical Education for the Schools of Boston, informed the council, "It is possible but not practical to give the boys more physical education this year." At the time of this study no instructors had been sent to the school nor had the existing facilities been put into use. The council planned to continue the matter.

Recreation Committee

Previous to the time of this investigation the recreation committee had worked long hours and written many letters to the Boston Park Department in order to obtain equipment for the very large playground in the middle of the Orchard Park Housing Project. They were instrumental in getting the Park Department to put in a Volley-ball court, a wading pool, a horse-shoe area, a handball area, and a softball and basketball court area.

Along with the equipment the council requested the Public Works Commission to supply lighting and the Police Department to install a call box in the area. Action was taken on these two requests and suitable lighting installed, but no appropriation was available for a police call box.

The council was rewarded for their services when it came time for the dedication of the playground and they were asked to help plan and carry out the Dedication Day exercises.

After dedication exercises the council pointed out to the Park Department that within walking distance there was a very good playground not in use and informed them that they would see that the children attended if the city would furnish equipment and supervision. This playground was very

large and known in the neighborhood as the Prairie. The Park Department installed basketball backboards, repaired the tennis courts, put into playing condition the three baseball diamonds and made other minor repairs. The council further requested that a swimming pool be constructed in this neighborhood and indicated that possible funds might be obtained from the White Fund. They also asked that the city send supervision to the Prairie playgrounds. During the Summer of 1953 supervision was supplied the Prairie and the council kept its bargain by furnishing the children.

The beautiful playground at Orchard Park was very well equipped except for the proper supervision. The Park Department said there was no appropriation for the staffing of this playground. The council soon recognized that something had to be done and with the cooperation of the Park Department set an eight weeks leadership course for parents. Approximately ten people took advantage of this course, and offered their services that Summer on the playground.

Gang Structure Committee

This committee decided to investigate what gangs there were in the neighborhood and their location, and then to study the leaders, the individual participants and their activities. When this study was completed they would make recommendations to the council and make public to interested groups, their findings.

Members of this committee were to study what had been done in other cities and listen to speakers on the subject. After listening to a series of speeches by authorities in the field, this group recommended the formation of clubs on the junior age level, and requested from the council the names of any known leaders of the gangs, who they felt would be of assist-

ance in setting up these clubs. This was done and a report forwarded to the council.

The following was taken from the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 1953:

Attention was called to the gangs which roamed throughout the area. It was noted that when positive action was taken by a whole block, there had been less trouble. More adequate use must be made of existing facilities, and new facilities must be supplied. Specially trained workers are needed to deal with some of these gangs which cannot be reached by the usual agency method.⁸

The council urged the committee to write a letter to the Mayor's Civic Improvement Committee stating that action should be taken in carrying out the Gang Structure Committee's suggestion. A letter was written, and a reply thanking the committee for its interest in the youth of Roxbury was received. No immediate action was taken by the Mayor's Civic Improvement Committee.

The Gang Structure Committee put time into making field investigations, and seeking information about the gangs found in the neighborhood. The following is a summary of the findings of this committee in March, 1952:

Younger boys have been forming gangs which continually feed into the major gang, "The Worriers". This gang started about two or three years ago with perhaps twenty members; they now number well over a hundred members. Older gangs like the "Volunteers" are starting to thin out, if for no other reason than being taken into the armed services. These gangs have begun to spread into other areas, and we are feeling other individuals and gangs in this area. Gangs of girls as well as boys have been forming.⁹

The committee next discussed this with the council and spent many hours

⁸ Dudley East Neighborhood Council, Minutes of the Meeting, January 22, 1953.

⁹ Dudley East Neighborhood Council, Minutes of the Meeting, March 13, 1952.

looking into organizations that could lend financial assistance to supply a worker whose job it would be to:

1. Become a friend of those groups out on the streets and bring them into facilities of local agencies.
2. Obtain more playground space and recreation workers.
3. Clear out those known trouble makers, "confirmed" delinquents, from the area, with the assistance of the police, the court and other social agencies.
4. Bring to the boys and girls who may have started on the road to delinquency more constructive interests and experiences.
5. Build up the positive strengths in the community and work with those who are not a part of the gang structure.
6. Recognize the need for parent education and participation in the program.

A National Guard officer was called in to inform the group what his organization could offer the older boys. Some of the older boys took advantage of this program a little later on during the year when its advantages were pointed out to them by some of the members of the committee.

Interviews were held with the police captain at Station Nine, and letters were written recommending that a special officer be appointed to Station Nine to deal with juvenile delinquents brought into that station. The recommendation was accepted by the authorities at Station Nine and the council was informed that state-wide discussion concerning this matter was taking place.

The findings of this committee have been of help to other groups and committees in obtaining a clearer picture of what was taking place around them; and they were used in helping other agencies study this neighborhood.

Summary

It was not attendance at meetings alone that the active council members wanted so they worked to obtain additional members and groups to take an active part in the council. They were successful in obtaining some new members and a few groups.

Seeing the need for changes in the junior high school program, the Parent Education Committee immediately started to study the program. After study they made recommendations to the Boston School Department concerning the two-session school day for children attending the Dearborn School. They were able to have foreign language training returned to the junior high school, and then took action on the school's Physical Education Program. The council felt it better to have people work together, therefore one of its first projects was to create a warm and friendly atmosphere for all its participants.

The Recreation Committee of the Dudley East Neighborhood Council worked hard, long hours together to see that the Orchard Park Playground was established, equipped and supervision investigated. Everyone in the council played a part on this committee.

The people that worked on the Gang Structure Committee were able to study the gangs in the neighborhood and make recommendations to the council and other interested groups in the city in hope of obtaining additional professional help with the gang problem.

CHAPTER IV

DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
LOWER ROXBURY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Councils vary from one another according to the neighborhood, the general interests of the people, and the projects on which they choose to work.

Civic, fraternal, patriotic, religious and cultural groups often predominate in neighborhood councils, whereas social agency representatives are almost always in the minority in central councils of social agencies.¹⁰

Here the writer plans to introduce a council that is just a few blocks from the Dudley East Neighborhood Council area. We may then see how some projects are similar while others are altogether different.

Before the war there was a small council in this area that grew out of the neighborhood needs and was comprised of the clubs at the Robert Gould Shaw House, representatives of the schools, churches, housing projects and trade associations. This council saw many unmet needs in the community, and attempted to work on them. At the outbreak of the war interest in the council began to diminish, and during the war membership was comprised solely of clubs of the agency. No needs were met but discussions of them took place.

On February 3, 1953, the Robert Gould Shaw House took the initiative in calling a meeting of all the organized groups in the lower Roxbury area. These groups were the ones that had sent representatives prior to the war to council meetings. A new group from a church whose parishioners lived in the

¹⁰ Wayne McMillen, Community Organization for Social Welfare,
p. 325.

neighborhood were invited. The group was asked to participate in the "eradication of unfavorable conditions in Lower Roxbury." (See Appendix B). Forty-seven of the eighty organizations invited sent representatives. The only professional social workers were the executives of the Robert Gould Shaw House and the Cooper Community Center.

This was an organization meeting and no specific incident caused it to be called. The group decided to hold monthly meetings and channel its work through committees. It stated its aim in the following words:

The purpose of this organization shall be to work for civic betterment in the Lower Roxbury area and for greater cooperation between all groups.

The area defined was:

Between Northampton Street and Vernon Street and Washington Street and the New Haven Railroad tracks.¹¹

The procedure this group used in handling projects was to bring them to the attention of the council which would refer them through the various Standing Committees and then present them to the council for action, with committee recommendations.

The Standing Committees set up were: Delinquency and Crime; Health, Housing and Sanitation; Public Safety; Civic Improvement; Education and Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation.

Those committees that performed a service to the community between February, 1953, and June, 1954, were: 1. Delinquency and Crime Committee; 2. Health, Housing and Sanitation Committee; 3. Education Committee; and 4. Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee.

Delinquency and Crime Committee

A. Recreation for older teen-agers.

¹¹ Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council, Constitution.

After studying the activities of the older teen-agers in the neighborhood and talking to a few of them, it was decided to ask the city if they would supply equipment and better, cleaner and supervised playgrounds that the older teen-agers could use. The Park Department cooperated with the council and cleaned up the playgrounds and added some basketball backboards since this was the sport played the most by this group.

B. Narcotics

Because of the actions and attitudes of some of the older teen-age boys and girls in the neighborhood, a narcotics complaint was given the Delinquency and Crime Committee. After careful study by the Delinquency and Crime Committee, it was decided that something should be done about narcotics in the neighborhood. The committee thought it should have detectives from the police department check on this group, but there was no real evidence that narcotics were being used. Therefore the committee planned an open meeting (opened to the public) and engaged a speaker from the Boston Police Department, who showed movies, gave a speech and answered the questions the audience proposed. The meeting was well attended and many pertinent questions were asked.

The committee met and analyzed the original complaint and concluded that the boys and girls in question were lazy, and had very poor posture, which made them look sick, tired and worn out.

Health, Housing and Sanitation.

The writer feels that this group was not very active considering the many needs that could have been met through a council interested in Health, Housing and Sanitation. There were two projects that they worked on. One was to obtain the names of the owners of tenements not being used and that

had been vacant for a long period, and find out what could be done to make them clean them up or tear them down. Some results were obtained here. A few condemned houses were torn down and others not in use but in fairly good condition were put into use.

The second project was to work with the city's Sanitation Department in obtaining the large truck-like containers that were placed in strategic places so that people should not have to overflow the house ash barrels and keep the alleys dirty.

The Sanitation Department obliged the council and had the trash containers put in this neighborhood and the people took advantage of them, cleaning up some of the neighborhood.

Education Committee

The one short term project this group accepted to work on was that involving courses given at the elementary school in the neighborhood. They were not adequate for a child desiring to make a selection of courses when he entered high school, especially for the college course and many technical courses. The committee talked over this with the principal and some of the teachers, and decided that a change should be made. They consulted the school department, and they saw to it that the change was made giving a child the same opportunities that the other children in the city had.

Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee.

At the Carter Playground the physical facilities were not the best, but the outstanding complaint was lack of supervision and hot showers at the playground. After the committee made an investigation, the council held many lengthy conversations with the Park Department, asking that changes be made. The following Summer they were able to obtain leadership for the

playground and hot showers for the shower room.

The group discussed the closing of certain streets to make them "play streets." This would prevent automobiles from using these streets as a main thoroughfare, and children could play on them without being in too much danger of passing automobiles. This was discussed but never put into action.

Summary

The Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council recognized some of the problems in their neighborhood and started work to alleviate them. The Delinquency and Crime Committee, in cooperation with the Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Committee studied the playgrounds in the neighborhood. They obtained better and cleaner parks and playgrounds, better equipment for the playgrounds, hot showers in the shower rooms on the playgrounds, and discussed "play streets" for additional play area for small children. The Delinquency and Crime Committee, as the result of a complaint, studied the narcotics condition in their neighborhood through becoming better informed on what to look for in the neighborhood. After study, it was reported that no visible users were observed in the neighborhood.

The Committee on Housing, Health, and Sanitation started a clean-up program in the neighborhood. They worked with landlords, tenants and city departments in having buildings that were condemned for family use torn down, dirty houses cleaned, and sanitation containers distributed throughout the neighborhood.

The Education Committee interested itself in providing better opportunities for children planning to go on to high school by having the curriculum in the lower schools changed to include subjects that would permit

students to take the college course and many technical courses in high school.

CHAPTER V

DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
ROXBURY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Ray Johns and David DeMarche in their book, "Community Organization and Agency Responsibility" have remarked,

The council may be born of an attempt on the part of a group of citizens to meet some urgent need such as improved garbage removal, or increased recreation facilities. Such councils are organized around one such specific need. It thus becomes a citizens' council.¹²

Here we have a council brought into being because of an incident that took place in the neighborhood. A Rabbi was killed on New Year's Eve and the council was formed a week later. It immediately started to work.

In the upper Roxbury neighborhood there had been muggings, holdups, robberies, gang fights, and other atrocities that had made some citizens feel that something should be done. It wasn't until the murder that a group of social workers and outstanding people in the neighborhood talked about their neighborhood, then called a mass meeting to be held at Freedom House, at a time when many could come and take an active part in expressing their feelings.

The neighborhood citizens did not call this meeting to play detective with the police, but they felt that the police were wrong in assuming that since this was a large Negro neighborhood, a Negro must have been the attacker. They felt the rising animosities between Negroes and Jews needed an outlet for feelings before an explosion. They objected to the

¹²Ray Johns and David DeMarche, Community Organization and Agency Responsibility, p. 108.

broad statements which the newspapers were making about the neighborhood they lived in, were willing to work for, and loved so dearly.

Out of this mass meeting came many suggestions, personal feelings, and an incentive to look further into neighborhood problems, not by the social workers alone, but also by the citizens of the neighborhood.

This group named itself the "Roxbury Citizens Committee", and set as its aims and purposes:

...to create closer cooperation and better understanding among the inhabitants of the Roxbury community; to enlist the active cooperation and service of each and every person and group within the Roxbury community, for the purpose of making it a better place to live; to promote better relationships between the various established organizations in the community for a better understanding and concerted action on community problems.¹³

At the second meeting of this committee, which approximately one hundred people attended, representing organizations, social agencies, and interested people, there was much opposition on the part of lay people to having the social agencies and social workers be the leaders of these meetings. Therefore the group formally organized with both professional and lay people working together. The lay people took the initiative, and the social workers were used as consultants. The group also decided at this meeting to hold its further meetings in various sections of the neighborhood rather than at the settlement house.

The short term goals, things that needed immediate attention, were discussed and those worked on between January, 1953, and June, 1954, were as follows:

¹³ Secretary's report of Organization, February, 1953, Roxbury Citizens Committee. See Appendix C.

Street lighting, newspapers, police protection, recreation survey, and Youth Service Board.

Street Lighting

For many years individuals living in the Roxbury community had been consulting the city departments to give them better street lighting. Their replies were: "there are more pressing problems at this time" or "the budget can't afford to do it at this time." The committee made a survey of the lighting in the neighborhood and recommended to the city that some action be taken for the safety of its citizens, and to decrease the amount of delinquency on the streets.

The city took faster action in making changes in the lighting from the conventional gas light lamps to the more modern tall pole lighting which covers a larger area.

Newspapers

An appeal was made to the Boston Newspapers by this committee to stop printing material that made an undesirable neighborhood of the upper Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. They expressed the need for all peoples to work together, but they received very little cooperation from most of the newspapers. This they felt should be part of their long range program.

Police Protection

This area was one that the council believed it could not do very much about at the present time. Station Nine, the local station, had dispatched as many officers as they felt possible without neglecting another area.

Letters were written to the police officials and cooperation was promised and obtained; police representatives attended the meetings and presented their view in the discussions.

Recreation Survey

Many interested people worked on this committee and put many hours into gathering material, writing letters, and seeking recreational improvements.

Some of the findings of the committee were:

1. The facilities were at the park in most cases but not being utilized in their fullest advantage. Possible obstacles to their use were the fact that playgrounds were not very attractive to youngsters and teen-agers; that playgrounds were not being kept in a playable condition; that there was no supervision.

The committee worked with those responsible for the playground facilities and were able to get them put into good playing condition, and some small equipment was obtained.

2. Play areas sometimes were quite a distance from where the children lived. This made for an unwholesome situation: Boys and girls congregated on street corners, sat on stairs outside apartment houses, and found their own activities.

The committee worked with the park department and established three baseball fields in the Franklin Park area, made a better basketball court and play area at Horatio Harris Park, and erected a lighted basketball court in the Lewis School yard. At the time of this study the Park Department was looking forward to putting basketball courts and play areas in all of the school yards.

Plans were in operation to put tennis courts, a basketball court, a volleyball court and a tot lot in the huge yard of the Roxbury Memorial High School.

3. The committee was instrumental in getting the Lewis School and the Roxbury Memorial High School gymnasiums opened during the summer months and part of the school year for the children of the neighborhood to play basketball.

Youth Service Board

After school closed teen-agers spent many leisure hours doing nothing constructive. Groups stayed out late in the usual places, wishing for something to do. The committee cooperated with the Youth Service Board in obtaining permission to have block dances. Many people felt this would cause trouble. There would be too many people congregating in one area, but dancing was something most teen-agers enjoyed doing, so the council and Youth Service Board took the chance and ran the block dances.

Adults came and observed, but soon left the area. Chaperons were few, but the police department dispatched as many officers as they felt were needed, and the dances were a success.

Before the social agencies opened in the Fall there was still a need for this activity and the two groups once again ventured into giving dances at the Lewis School Gymnasium. This was successful, but the lack of chaperons and the overhead (cost for gymnasium, police, music and taxes) were so high it was soon stopped. The social agencies opened in September and this fulfilled the need for this type of activity.

Summary

The Roxbury Citizens Committee with its large interested adult group worked in smaller units (committees) to obtain its goals. Improvements were made in the street lighting in sections of Roxbury, due to the pressure put upon the city departments by the council. The Boston Newspapers have not to any great extent changed their policy concerning undesirable neighborhood statements. Police cooperation was obtained and they attended some council meetings making comments where pertinent to their organization.

One of the most outstanding accomplishments of the Roxbury Citizens Committee was the increase of play areas in Roxbury. The council was responsible for having old play areas put into playable condition and new areas equipped with suitable equipment. . They were also responsible for part of the school buildings being opened and supervised for play areas during vacations.

The committee along with the Youth Service Board supplied leisure time activity for many teen-agers by giving block-dances in this neighborhood. This closed a gap left open by the settlement houses during the Summer months.

CHAPTER VI

LONG RANGE COUNCIL PROGRAMS

Dudley East Neighborhood CouncilA. Membership

It was the feeling of this council that they are doing just a very small portion of the work that is needed to be accomplished by lay groups. In order to increase the work of the council, take on new projects and at the same time keep check on the existing programs, they need additional personnel. The number of people working in the council (twelve to fourteen) was very small considering the job to be accomplished. Some wished to take advantage of the educational opportunities but were not too interested in the whole council. Therefore, the council was considering dividing the program into two separate groups of business and educational activities.

The council discussed having its members bring friends to the meetings; publishing fliers that would announce the agenda for the evening and be distributed throughout the neighborhood; and posting a suggestion box for those people who would like to write out and submit their projects for discussion.

B. Better Community Relationships

The council had worked successfully in helping groups of citizens work together. This had come about through the common interest projects and by not giving people time to form prejudices based on nationality, color or religion. The council felt it could do more in this area. It served just a small group of people that attended the council meetings.

The neighborhood is made up of many other people who they feel should be reached and should come to know each other.

C. Nine Week Course on Family Education

The group concluded that it did not know too much about the services in the neighborhood available to individual families and that they should spend some time learning about these services. Professional consultants were to be contacted. The council also felt the need to learn more about health and welfare, specific services they could make use of and of which they ought to be better informed.

D. Juvenile Officers at Local Police Stations.

During the past year the council spent time in research and felt the need for special juvenile officers to be placed in the local police stations. This was to be investigated by the police on a statewide basis; therefore, no definite answers could be given the council's recommendations.

The council still felt that this was important and wanted to continue its interest in juvenile officers and be informed of what the police department throughout the state was doing.

Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council

This council acted upon the requests for help it received and its members stayed together while working on projects, but when requests stopped coming in they disbanded. The only council activity in this area at the time of this study was the house council of the Robert Gould Shaw House. They acted on house projects and occasionally would consider working more as individuals rather than as a group on outside projects.

The executive of the Shaw House hoped to see the council back in operation, because there were many needs in the community that could be met by

by such a group.

Roxbury Citizens Committee

This council, the newest of the three, had a very large following and continued to work on the needs of the neighborhood, large and small.

After analyzing their program they felt they needed to carry on the following projects, take on the new ones listed, and give time to other groups in the neighborhood, working for a better neighborhood.

A. Better Police Protection.

It was still the feeling of the Council that more police should be covering this area. In order to keep down small offenses and give more protection to the people, more police were needed. It further felt the need for more police call boxes. There were many already in the larger neighborhood but they were too far apart, and when an officer needed help, he was not able to obtain it as soon as he should.

B. More Use of School Facilities.

It was felt that more supervision should be given the neighborhood so that more schools could be opened for the leisure time hours after the regular school hours. If portions of the schools could be used for recreation centers this would give more children the opportunity to receive constructive supervised activity during their leisure time. Also, the gymnasiums could be used for basketball leagues, roller skating and dancing. It was pointed out to the committee that more cities and towns around Boston are making use of the school buildings for leisure time activities.

C. Clean-Up Campaign.

During the coming year it was felt that time should be spent mapping out a clean-up campaign for the Roxbury area. This would call for the help

of all city departments, social agencies, clubs and organizations, as well as individuals, in making the Upper Roxbury Neighborhood a much cleaner place in which to live.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND INTERPRETATION

SUMMARY

This thesis has been a study of the three different types of neighborhood councils in the Roxbury community of Boston: Dudley East Neighborhood Council, Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council, and Roxbury Citizens Committee.

The Dudley East Neighborhood Council. This neighborhood houses people paying extremely low rents, working for low salaries, having very little schooling, and having a rather large child population. This council was brought into being by a group of social workers who solicited the help of neighborhood lay people to help do the job, then turned the council over to them allowing themselves to be used as resource people.

Most of the work of the council was done in small committee groups, which the committee members found interesting, and were willing to work at. An attempt was made to increase the attendance at meetings and to inform the people of the neighborhood about the work of the council.

The Parent-Education Committee worked at having language training returned to the junior high school, studied the physical education program in the junior high school, found it inadequate and made recommendations to the school committee. They also studied the two-session school day at the elementary school and again made recommendations for changes to the school department. Through friendly and warm meetings the people got to know each other better and worked very happily together.

The Recreation Committee, with the help of city departments, were able to obtain equipment of all kinds for the Orchard Park Playground, and additional lighting around the playground. At another playground, The Prairie, they were able to obtain better playing fields and supervision for the summer months.

The Gang Structure Committee investigated the gangs in the neighborhood, studied their membership, then made recommendations to the council and other interested groups in the neighborhood.

The Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council. This neighborhood is very much like that of the Dudley East Council. It has less factories but about as many children, and run down, dirty, adjoining tenement houses. The people in this neighborhood receive low salaries, pay low rents and have very little education, as pointed out by the tables. This council, like the Dudley East Neighborhood Council, was not organized because of any specific incident that occurred in the neighborhood. In both cases a group of social workers saw the need for such a group and worked with the people in organizing such groups. Unlike the Dudley East Council, which was organized by the social workers of the Robert Gould Shaw House who saw the need for such a group in the neighborhood, the Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council drew their membership from organized groups in the agency and community.

Their committees improved the playgrounds, added equipment where needed, obtained leadership and hot showers on the playground. They acted on a narcotics complaint by obtaining a speaker on the subject from the local police station, then made an investigation that proved that narcotics were not prevalent in their neighborhood.

The Health, Housing and Sanitation Committee encouraged certain improvements in the neighborhood. They had condemned buildings in the neighborhood torn down, and unoccupied buildings in the neighborhood cleaned and put into rentable condition. With the help of the sanitation department of the city they cleaned the alleys, and had large trash containers placed in noticeable places where people could make use of them and keep the neighborhood clean.

The Education Committee worked to make changes in the school's curriculum to enable any child to further his education and not be handicapped because of the lack of fundamental, basic courses offered in the grade and junior high schools.

The Roxbury Citizens Committee. This council is in an area known as "Upper Roxbury", which has better housing. People pay higher rents, have better jobs, and have received more formal schooling. This council was organized because of a specific incident occurring in the neighborhood and the people wanted to make some necessary changes in their neighborhood.

Through committees they were able to improve street lighting in certain sections of the neighborhood. They made an appeal to the Boston newspapers to stop giving undesirable publicity to this section of Roxbury. They sought additional police protection, but the police department didn't see the need for this. With the help of the city departments they were able to establish new playgrounds and put the old ones into better playing condition, and they received the cooperation of the Youth Service Board in bridging the activity gap left by the social group work agencies during the Summer months.

Conclusions and Interpretation.

This study has shown the kinds of neighborhoods that the three councils in Roxbury exist in and the activities that they participate in. It has shown the work of the councils and told what they plan for the future. It has further shown the need for these councils to exist. There is a growing need for councils operated by the people of a community to take part in making necessary changes in their neighborhood. The study has further shown that people gather in large numbers to improve conditions when an incident occurs in a neighborhood, such as the one in the "Upper Roxbury" neighborhood. The people in the Dudley East Neighborhood, stimulated by a group of social workers, worked to make many necessary changes in their neighborhood and through its interested committees kept the council in operation. The Lower Roxbury Council through its representatives of groups made some changes in the neighborhood but had no real force to keep the council in operation.

The writer feels that if these three councils were to send representatives to a community council where they could give activity reports, tell of the procedure they used, and the results they received, they might be able to help each other in making necessary changes without too much deliberation. It is interesting to note that all three councils were interested in making changes in recreational facilities for their children and that two of the three councils were interested in making changes in the school program. This shows an interest in children in these neighborhoods having large child population.

It is the writer's firm belief that as long as the councils work for improvement for the whole neighborhood, keeping the interests of the people

in mind, and working together regardless of race, religion and color,
they will succeed.

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APPENDIX A

DUDLEY EAST AREA COUNCIL
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be known as the Dudley East Area Council. It shall be coordinated with the Roxbury Planning Council.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Council shall be to recognize, study, and work towards the solution of social problems. It shall be a medium through which groups, which are in or working in the geographic limits of the area and have common aims, can join together in concerted action.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section I.

Members shall be delegated representatives from the groups in the Area and staff members of agencies working in the Area.

Section II.

No more than two persons from each group may be voting members. If only two members from a group are in attendance, they both must be voting members.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section I.

Officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section II.

Officers shall be elected annually at the May meeting of the Council.

Section III.

Vacancies of officers shall be filled by appointment of the Chairman, with the exception of the office of Chairman, which shall be filled by the Vice-Chairman.

ARTICLE VMEETINGSSection I.

The Council shall meet on the first Thursday of each month from October to May.

Section II.

Special meetings can be called by the Chairman on the request of any member.

ARTICLE VIFINANCESection I.

Dues shall be \$1.00 per person annually.

SECTION II.

Only voting members shall pay dues.

ARTICLE VIIBY-LAWS

By-laws shall be written as they are needed and shall go into effect on a two-third vote of the voting members.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Section I.

The Chairman shall appoint committees or commissions as they are needed.

Section II.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the three officers, plus three members-at-large to be elected by the Council.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council by a two-third vote of the voting members, provided that the amendment is submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

APPENDIX B

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
LOWER ROXBURY COORDINATING COUNCIL

ARTICLE I.

NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Lower Roxbury Coordinating Council.

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to work for civic betterment in the Lower Roxbury area and for greater cooperation between all groups.

ARTICLE III.

DEFINITION OF AREA

The location mentioned as Lower Roxbury is defined as the area between Northampton Street and Vernon Street and Washington Street and the New Haven Railroad Tracks.

ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the organization shall be composed of two representatives from any organized groups (church, clubs, lodges, etc.) located in or having a large part of their members residing in Lower Roxbury.

Section I.

Organizations desiring membership shall have been known in existence for a period of one year before application for membership.

ARTICLE VI.

OFFICERS

Officers of this organization shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

Section I.

The duties of the officers shall be as defined in Roberts Rules of Order.

Section II.

Annual Election shall be held at the Regular Meeting in June and officers shall take office immediately.

Section III.

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the officers of the organization and three members elected from the membership who shall have power to act between meetings.

Section IV.

There shall be a Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VII.

POLICY

This organization shall not endorse any individuals for political office and shall not take any part in political campaigns.

Section I.

The above does not forbid the organization from endorsing matters of policy even though they are to appear on a ballot for vote.

Section II.

This organization shall not endorse any Fund Raising Campaigns except for its own use or the Annual Red Feather Campaign.

ARTICLE VIII.DECISIONS

Decisions before the Organization shall be adopted by majority vote (except as otherwise provided) and all representative organizations shall be held responsible to the decisions of the Council.

ARTICLE IX.COMMITTEES

The Chairman shall appoint the following Standing Committees,

1. Delinquency and Crime
2. Health, Housing and Sanitation
3. Public Safety
4. Civic Improvement
5. Education
6. Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation

Section I.

All matters brought to the attention of the organization shall be referred to the proper committee for study and it shall recommend any action to be taken.

ARTICLE X.AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the organizations present. Any amendment must be submitted at one regular meeting and voted upon at the next regular meeting, due notice having been given each representative organization that a proposed change in the by-laws will be voted upon.

ARTICLE XI.

These by-laws shall be effective when approved by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

APPENDIX C

ROXBURY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Secretary's Report of Organization Committee to be Presented at the February 9th, 1953 meeting for discussion and adoption by the body:

THE NAME

The name of the Organization shall be the Roxbury Citizens Committee.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The aim of this Non-partisan and Non-sectarian organization is to create closer cooperation and better understanding among the inhabitants of the Roxbury Community; to enlist the active cooperation and service of each and every person and group within the Roxbury Community for the purpose of making it a better place in which to live; to promote closer relations between the various established organizations in the community for a better understanding and concerted action on community problems.

STRUCTURE

It was the feeling of the group that this should be kept as simple as possible. Therefore it was adopted that there be four officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. That there be the following Committees to carry out the aims and purposes of the organization: Education, Recreation, Civic Affairs, Publicity, Housing, Social Action, and Membership. The Chairman of these standing Committees be considered members of the Executive Board.

In order to help the membership understand the need for the seven standing committees, it was suggested that this report mention briefly the sort of problems the committees would deal with:

Civic Affairs: Street lighting; police protection; etc.

Education: Physical condition of Public Schools; Educate the community as to its problems; etc.

Recreation: Secure a swimming pool for Franklin Park; Secure Public School facilities for youth recreation; etc.

- Membership: Record the fields of interest of the membership for service on the various standing committees; broaden the membership as far as possible to make it a true citizen's group; etc.
- Publicity: Make contact with radio and newspaper outlets; Prepare brochures; etc.
- Social Action: Locate and act upon community antagonisms; etc.
- Housing: Help ameliorate community housing problems; etc.

FINANCES

In order to cover mailing costs, etc., it was felt that there should be a nominal membership charge. It was moved that there be a membership fee not exceeding \$1.00 annually, the final figure to be determined by the whole group; providing any person unable to pay was still eligible for membership.

LOCATION OF MEETINGS

The Roxbury Citizen's Committee plan to hold its meetings in various sections of the community.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Roxbury Citizen's Committee shall consist of any citizens who adhere to the aims and purpose of the organization.

VOTING

Every member of the Roxbury Citizen's Committee shall have one vote.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- a. Who is Eligible
Any member in good standing shall be eligible for any office.
- b. Duration of Office
The Officers and members of the Executive Board shall serve for a term of one year.
- c. Composition and Election of Executive Board
The Executive Board consists of the duly elected officers, 12 members at large elected by the body, and 7 chairmen of standing committees appointed by the chairman with the approval of the Executive Board.

d. Nomination of Officers and Members at Large

It was the feeling of the group as a whole that the various groups within the Roxbury area would be best represented on the Executive Board if the Roxbury Citizen's Committee had a nominating committee to make recommendations to the body for a slate of officers and members at large; and that the democratic rights of the body as a whole would be guarded by the opportunity for nominations from the floor.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

It was recommended that we hold meetings once a month on the second Monday.

QUORUM

The necessary quorum for general meetings shall consist of 25 members.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present, and voting at any general meeting of the organization, provided that notification of such intention has been given by mail to all members at least three weeks before the meeting.

APPENDIX D

SCHEDULE1. Area

- a. Type of Housing
- b. Racial Groups
- c. Economic Level
- d. Educational Level
- e. Age Level
- f. Marital Status
- g. Occupation Status

2. What has given impetus to this council?

- a. Did it operate on its own, without agency help?
- b. Did it ask the agency for help?
- c. How did it receive its start?

3. Make-up of council

- a. What percent are professional workers?
- b. What percent are representing organizations?
- c. What percent are community spirited?
- d. Do any come from outside the neighborhood?

4. Purpose of council

- a. Reasons for organization
- b. Incidents, if any, that caused organization

5. Activities

- a. What is the group planning for immediate activity?
- b. Is the group working on any project at present?
- c. What do they hope to accomplish?

6. Long term goals

- a. Has group arranged any long term projects?
- b. What is the groups ultimate goal?

7. Of what value is the council to the neighborhood?

- a. What has it accomplished?
- b. What has it attempted and not accomplished?

8. Agency Responsibility

- a. How does agency help the council?
- b. What part does agency staff play on committees, executive boards etc.?