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MANAGER'S REPORT NO.

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COUNCIL MEETING Aug. 2/77

Re: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES FOR
PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS
A 3-DAY TRAINING COURSE

The following is a report of the Director of Planning dated July 21, 1977 regarding the above.

Because of the summer schedule of Council meetings, it was not possible to obtain Council approval for someone to attend this course prior to it actually starting on July 28. We received a late notice on it, and had to act quickly. The Municipal Manager has therefore authorized the attendance of Mr. Elligott at the course, and now he is asking for ratification by Council of the action that has been taken.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the action by the Municipal Manager to authorize Mr. R. Elligott to attend the 3 - day course on Citizen Participation Techniques in Portland from July 28 to July 30, 1977, be ratified.

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT
JULY 21, 1977

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
SUBJECT: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES FOR
PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS
A 3-DAY TRAINING COURSE

My attention has been drawn to the above Course, which is being presented by the Institute of Participatory Planning at a variety of locations; the closest that can readily be attended by a staff member being Portland, Oregon from July 28 - July 30, 1977.

The course is not a philosophical discussion as to the desirability or otherwise of Citizen Participation, but rather a response to the following observations: (to quote from the Course brochure)

- "1. An incredibly large portion of all plans - be they for physical projects or for non-physical programs (such as educational plans), and be they private or public plans - never get implemented.
2. The reason isn't that these are all "bad" plans. The main reason is that, today, it is very easy for anyone to stop a project; it is even easier for virtually any single interest to delay a project.
3. By the same token, it is very difficult to get all of those interests - who have the ability to stop or delay a project - to lend enough support that allows the project to be implemented. And, whether you are able to get that support or not, depends on the effectiveness of your CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM.
4. Most professionals are perfectly competent and capable in their technical skills of their particular disciplines, but they have very few practical - yet rigorous - tools for designing and executing an effective CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM.

5. A number of very useful - and to the practicing professional very valuable - BASIC PRINCIPLES of CP have been developed over the last 10-15 years, but no one has gone through the trouble of making this information available to the people who need it most - i.e. to the practicing professional.

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CP is a complex business, and we do not claim to have the last word on it. The purpose of this 3-day course is a modest one: to make available to practicing public officials and professionals - to the people who can put this knowledge to use - the useful CP PRINCIPLES and the practical CP TECHNIQUES that have been developed in this country in the last 10-15 years."

The practical approach to the subject as expressed in the above observations warrants us sending a staff member to the course, who will then be able to transmit the information and knowledge that he has gained to other municipal staff.


It is therefore recommended that Mr. R. Elligott who is responsible for our Public Participation Program, be authorized to attend the Portland Course from July 28 to July 30 at an approximate cost of \$389.00.

Due to the cost exceeding \$350.00 Council approval is required, but unfortunately due to the short notice and the summer schedule of Council meetings, the course occurs prior to the next meeting of Council. It is therefore further recommended that the Municipal Manager approve this request and obtain Council ratification of such approval on August 2, 1977.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended THAT:

1. Mr. R. Elligott be authorized by the Municipal Manager to attend a 3-day Training Course on Citizen Participation Techniques to be held in Portland, Oregon from July 28 to July 30, 1977, and
2. the Municipal Council ratify this authorization at the meeting of August 2, 1977.


A. L. Parr,
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

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