



"INSTITUTE ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION  
AND DECISION MAKING"

*a high intensity workshop for public officials in  
Skokie and surrounding communities . . .*

*designed and conducted by the  
SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION*

May 4, 1971

3:15 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300 West Touhy Avenue

Albert J. Smith, *Mayor*

Dr. Herman Bloch, *Chairman*

Harold Goldmeier, *Executive Director*









# VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60078

The Skokie Human Relations Commission has long been aware of the increasing conflict and tensions between citizen groups concerned with specific issues and decision makers on government or government-related bodies. Our interest in this situation suggests that continuous confrontations lead to poor human relations in the community. We are concerned about the apparent decreasing respect for decision makers among many community people; also, we are concerned about the power of a small group of outspoken citizens to dramatically influence decision making by confronting the policy makers at public meetings, while at the same time, many citizens believe they are powerless to influence the decisions that affect their daily lives.

Therefore, the Commission has designed and will conduct on May 4, at the Leaning Tower YMCA, a one-day, high intensity "Institute on Citizen Participation and Decision Making." This institute is only for persons who are policy makers and executive administrators of government and government-related bodies.

Attendance at the institute requires active participation rather than passive observation. Participants will deal with three main questions (see program) in sensibility discussion groups led by experienced resource consultants. This institute will heighten participant awareness to the problems and struggles of citizen participation in representative government decision making; it will develop creative perspectives toward the issues and move toward the design of effective guidelines for citizen participation.

There is a \$4.00 registration fee per person to cover the cost of the dinner. However, the cost of the institute will be assumed by the Skokie Human Relations Commission as a service to bettering human relations in the community.

Complete and return by April 26 the enclosed enrollment card for the "Institute on Citizen Participation and Decision Making," to be held on May 4 at the Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300 West Touhy, from 3:15 P.M. until 8:30 P.M.

Dr. Herman Bloch  
Chairman



"INSTITUTE ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION  
AND DECISION MAKING"

This one-day, high intensity institute is designed specifically to help policy makers meet the increasingly more complex problems of participatory democracy . . .

- (1) Can a workable balance be struck between direct citizen participation and representative democracy?
- (2) How does direct citizen participation at public meetings affect the decisions of policy makers?
- (3) Can a creative perspective and effective guidelines be developed for community participation at public meetings?

3:15

WELCOME

Dr. Herman Bloch, Chairman  
SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

INSTITUTE OBJECTIVES: plan of the day

Harold Goldmeier, Director  
SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

3:30

SENSIBILITY DISCUSSION GROUPS

An examination of your present policies and an evaluation of their effectiveness.

*Resource Consultants:*

- #A - Mr. Peter Lewis, Higher Education Associate,  
Board of Higher Education; Community organizer
- #B - Mr. John McKnight, Assistant Director of  
Center for Urban Affairs, Northwestern University
- #C - Mr. Ben Williams, Executive Director,  
Evanston Human Relations Commission



4:30

LARGE GROUP FISHBOWL

Sensibility Discussion Groups share information discussed: reactions.

5:00

EXPERIENCES IN OTHER COMMUNITIES

Participants interact with persons with wide variety of experiences in "community participation and decision making."

*Resource Consultants:*

Mr. Lou Ancel, Attorney for numerous school districts and municipalities throughout Illinois

Sister Olivia Barrett, Former President St. Xavier College, Education Consultant to Illinois Commission on Human Relations

Dr. David Minor, Northwestern University, Professor of Political Science and Urban Affairs, Chairman of Political Science Department

Mr. James Perone, Director of Community Service Department, Illinois Commission on Human Relations

6:00

Dinner

6:45

SENSIBILITY DISCUSSION GROUPS

Towards a model for community participation

8:00

REFLECTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

What can be done with the information and skills acquired at the workshop?

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This in-service training program for public officials will prove to be a most valuable experience for all of us who participate in public meetings. The Human Relations Commission has taken care to provide for a thorough examination of the sensibilities officials need in order to conduct meaningful meetings in the spirit of participatory democracy. I urge all officials of government and government-related bodies to attend and actively participate in this "Institute on Citizen Participation and Decision Making."

Albert J. Smith  
Mayor

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*ENROLLMENT CARD*

I will attend the "Institute on Citizen Participation and Decision Making," to be held on May 4 at the Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300 West Touhy Avenue. Enclosed you will find my check for \$4.00 payable to the Leaning Tower YMCA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail by April 26 to:

SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
"Institute"  
5127 West Oakton  
Skokie, Illinois 60076



MAYOR SMITH  
COLLECTION