



# Readings Summary



- ◆ Community Development in Low-Income Minority Neighborhood: A Case for Empowerment Planning.
  - Kenneth M Reardon, author
  - Presenters: Cindy Gutzmer, Paul Fyle

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Advocacy Planning, Davidhoff concept (1965)
  - Focus on low-income, minority neighborhoods
  - Get issues on agendas of local, state and Federal gov'ts
  - Create plans to counteract entrenched businesses and other well-established interests

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Advocacy Planning, Davidhoff concept (1965)--continued
  - Large initiative to provide advocacy planning fell short
    - Those well-entrenched interests countermanded most advocacy based planning attempts
    - Civic leaders, planners, saw little outcome for their extensive efforts

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

## Comparison of Advocacy and Empowerment Planning

Dimension	Advocacy Planning	Empowerment Planning
1. Causal Analysis of urban poverty	Lack of public officials knowledge	Elite opposition to redistributive policies and decision-making processes

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

Dimension	Advocacy Planning	Empowerment Planning
2. Primary planning goals	Enactment of policies and programs	Enhancement of problem-solving and mobilization of community based organizations
3. Planner's Role	Researcher, writer and advocate	Participatory action research and community organization trainer

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

Dimension	Advocacy Planning	Empowerment Planning
4. Citizen leaders' roles	Key informant and policy reviewer	Co-Everything! Very active!
5. Primary beneficiaries	Planner, existing community leadership	Same as advocacy planning plus residents, new resident leaders
6. Planning process	Linear problem-solving, traditional comprehensive planning	Iterative problem-solving, PAR combined w/ outreach, community based groups



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Rationale for Empowerment Planning
  - Minimize financial constraints: Resident led efforts trickle up to additional funding organizations
  - Neutralize entrenched existing efforts: Mobilization of community based organizations and powerful social reform efforts



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Rationale for Empowerment Planning
  - Reduces social distance problem: involves local residents in entire process, gives issues a face and voice
  - Counter local party organization status quo: mobilize large segments of community



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Rationale for Empowerment Planning
  - Highlights concerns of traditionally under-represented groups: involvement of residents increases likelihood that concerns will be addressed



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Planning Process Transformation to Empowerment Planning needs:
  - Participatory Action Research
  - Community Organizing techniques



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Participatory Action Research
  - Involves organization members and professional researchers
  - Co-operative problem-solving
  - Addresses immediate community concerns

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Participatory Action Research: six characteristics
  1. Local actors set research agenda
  2. Local actors are active rather than passive in research process
  3. Planners focus on practical solutions; prefer partial, implementable solutions over comprehensive unexecutable solutions

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Participatory Action Research: six characteristics
  4. Researchers emphasize development of further knowledge and skills of local actors
  5. Researchers devote attention to examining the role of values, goals and professional training in the studied problems

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Participatory Action Research: six characteristics
  6. Researchers incorporate traditional elements of academic research to enable generalization of research findings



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Community Organizing Techniques
  - Develop citizen action groups
  - Increase presence of issues before various government agencies
  - Educate residents and leaders in issue identification, strategy formulation, tactic selection...



# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Community Organizing Techniques: six characteristics
  1. Seek to be as representational as possible of neighborhoods
  2. Select issues for action that have broad appeal
  3. Challenge residents to assume primary responsibility for improving community

# Summary Points: Case for Empowerment Planning

- ◆ Community Organizing Techniques: six characteristics
  4. Attempt to develop leadership skills by involving residents in all aspects of organizing process
  5. Embrace a collective approach to leadership
  6. Seek to maximize fiscal self-sufficiency

# Issues and Discussions: Case for Empowerment Planning

## ◆ Issues and Discussion

- What are some barriers to involving the “local actors” extensively?
- What role does critical reflection play in the education of local actors to create empowerment based plans?
- How do you see Reardon’s conclusions fitting in with the university educational process?
- What are the impacts to planners and associated professionals with the use of the empowerment planning process?



# Readings Summary



- ◆ Proactive Practice: Visionary Thought and Participatory Action in Environmental Design
  - Mark Francis, author
  - Presenters: Christina Schrade, Kris Johnson

# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

- ◆ Introduction: Community participation in design and planning
  - Beginnings in the advocacy planning movement of the 60s
  - Community participation limited to that of client
  - Typically, clients came up with solutions without involving planners or designers in issue identification



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

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## ◆ Defining a Proactive Designer

- Strong visionary, problem solver
- Advocate participatory process, community is involved and can modify the process to meet needs
- Risk taker, negotiator, entrepreneur



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice



## ◆ Defining a Proactive Designer

- Builder of a better world
- Determined to meet goals even if they require extensive time frames

# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

- ◆ Defining a Proactive Designer
  - What would a proactive designer advocate?
    - Community gardens
    - Regional planning efforts
    - City wide open space systems
    - Transportation forms
    - Urban infill
    - Sustainable design

# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

## ◆ Traditional Designer

- Allegiance to paying client
- Client comes to designer
- Designer provides client with solution
- Leader of design process

## ◆ Proactive Designer

- Allegiance is to greater community good
- Designer may initiate project
- Designer works with community for solution
- Provide technical support

# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

## ◆ Proactive Designs

### ■ Central Park, New York City

- Frederick Law Olmstead
- Address broad social and environmental problems
- Expanded boundaries of profession
- Expanded perspective used to examine the possibilities for urban life

# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

## ◆ Proactive Designs

### ■ Davis Greenway

- Mark Francis, author
- Integrated regional open space system
- Initiated project, plan was vision based
- Presented for use in city plan, adopted for use
- Established clear vision of future involving community



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice



## ◆ Cultures of Proactive Practice

### ■ Private Visionary

- Private, for-profit firms
- One person or team
- Vision to improve local environment
- Create more sustainable communities
- Can involve lifetime projects



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice



## ◆ Cultures of Proactive Practice

### ■ Public Professional

- Public agencies, (i.e., U.S. Department of Interiors)
- Political agendas can restrict vision and action



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

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## ◆ Cultures of Proactive Practice

### ■ Professional with the Nonprofit

- Working with national, regional or local nonprofit organizations
- Often restricted by agenda of organization
- Can advance vision and actively promote over long-term

# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

## ◆ Cultures of Proactive Practice

### ■ Activist University

- Could be a center, institute, department or entire school
- Mission is “to make a positive change in the community and environment” through research, teaching and service
  - ◆ E.g., provide design service to low-income communities



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

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## ◆ Implications for Design Education

- Teaching concern for far-reaching social issues instead of client-driven practice
- Courses such as design journalism, culture of diversity and politics



# Summary Points: Proactive Practice

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## ◆ Implications for Design Education

- More community-based, visionary design projects
- More required reading, reflective seminars and interactions with community involved in daily activities



# Issues and Discussions: Proactive Practice

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- ◆ Issues and Discussion
  - How do you see the skills of risk taking, negotiation and entrepreneurial as related to the role of proactive practitioner?
  - How do the advocated changes to design education work with the more traditional approaches?



# Issues and Discussions: Proactive Practice

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## ◆ Supplemental Notes on Interviews

### ■ Linda Cox

- Provided technical assistance to community-based planning efforts in NYC
- Concerned with issue of industrial land and waterfront areas converting to other uses
- Represented the sector of economy that was underrepresented



# Issues and Discussions: Proactive Practice



- ◆ Supplemental Notes on Interviews
  - Paul Morris
    - Practice based in Oregon
    - Focus on projects that support region's growth-control initiative
    - Build lasting communities rather than sprawling subdivisions
    - Strive to find ways to involve broadest range of representation throughout the design process



# Issues and Discussions: Proactive Practice



## ◆ Supplemental Notes on Interviews

### ■ Diana Balmori

- Advocated for linear parks in Baltimore, Minneapolis and New Haven
- Citizens voice their needs
- Designer give vision to those needs
- Designer provides technical support to achieve vision



# Readings Summary



- ◆ The Neighborhood, Personal Identity, and Group Affiliations
  - Leanne Rivlin, author
  - Presenters: Marjorie Johns, Nate Robins



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Theme: Neighborhood identification can vary with group affiliation
- Theme: Neighborhoods as context for community life



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Definition of neighborhood
  - Location acknowledgement by residents, merchants and regular users of an area
    - ◆ E.g., Campus Town, Wrigleyville
  - Planner named neighborhoods may lack acknowledgement and therefore negate usefulness of naming areas.



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- The Ecology of Contemporary Neighborhoods
  - Resources are limited to providing shelter, essential commodities
  - These resources establish patterns of social activity that becomes part of people's lives.



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Contemporary Neighborhoods are a heterogeneous unit based on:
  - Geography
  - Numbers of residents
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Age of population
  - Cultural background
  - Types of housing



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Three dimensions
    - ◆ Interaction
    - ◆ Identity
    - ◆ Connections



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations

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- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Six patterns of neighborhoods based on varying degrees of the three dimensions
    - ◆ Integral
    - ◆ Parochial
    - ◆ Diffuse
    - ◆ Steppingstone
    - ◆ Transitory
    - ◆ Anomic



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Integral
    - ◆ High levels of face-to-face contacts
    - ◆ Norms and values supportive of larger community
    - ◆ Cohesive, high-membership area in local groups and groups outside neighborhood



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations

- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Parochial
    - ◆ High interaction
    - ◆ Less connected to groups outside neighborhood
    - ◆ Protective of values and filters out conflicting value messages



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Diffuse
    - ◆ Lacks informal social participation
    - ◆ Formal local organizations
    - ◆ Leadership tends to represent only certain values



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Stepping-Stone
    - ◆ Residents have higher level of commitment to areas outside of neighborhood
    - ◆ Interaction is formal
    - ◆ Affiliations tend to occur outside neighborhood



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Transitory
    - ◆ Low level of interactions, participation, identity
    - ◆ High turnover of residents
    - ◆ Residents tend to be “anonymous”



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Anomic
    - ◆ Lacks participation
    - ◆ Lacks identification with any group internal or external to neighborhood
    - ◆ Viewed as disorganized and fragmented



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Warren's analysis of social organization of residents
  - Rivlin believes that in reality, several types can exist in one neighborhood



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- What is a neighbor?
  - Usually based on proximity
  - Rivlin wants to include participants in neighborhood
    - ◆ Mail carrier
    - ◆ Shop Owners
    - ◆ Homeless persons



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations

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- What is a neighbor?
  - Neighboring = degree of interaction with your neighbors
    - ◆ Stronger in suburbs than urban areas
    - ◆ Increase the further from an urban core
    - ◆ More common among widowed or divorced persons



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Family changes affecting neighboring
  - Significantly changed over last 50 years
    - ◆ Extended families no longer live close
    - ◆ More adults are taking care of their elderly parents in disparate locations
    - ◆ Adult children move back home, economic and personal
    - ◆ Young children split time between two homes
      - Reviewer note: book was written 15 years ago, this was noticed as a particular demographic then and now it is likely close to half the kids in this country experience this



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- New technologies affecting neighboring
  - Increase use of car and public transportation increased centralized shopping
    - ◆ Less need for corner grocery or locally located services
    - ◆ Loss in interaction results



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- New technologies affecting neighboring
  - Electronics, media and PCs
    - ◆ More time in front of TV, video games, emailing
    - ◆ More transactions for purchase, financial services over computer
    - ◆ Reduce interactions with neighbors and service / product providers



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- The role of the neighborhood in people's lives:
  - A child is shaped by the people encountered on a daily basis
  - The parental home and an adult child's need to psychologically detach himself from it. It is common for the child to leave the neighborhood they grew up in now.
  - Many elderly are forced by economics and sentiment to remain in their neighborhoods even when the neighborhood changes physically and the demographics of the residents change.
  - People attachments to a place come from established roots, owning property, spiritual leaders, etc.

# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations

- People's relationships to settings are bounded by social, economic, and political structures
  - Example: The Lubavitcher neighborhood in Crown Heights, Brooklyn
    - ◆ Started in WW2 for Orthodox Jews
    - ◆ Many remain although the neighborhood has become dominated by a black population
    - ◆ Defined as a “parochial neighborhood” (one of the 6 types)
      - Residents focus on their own group within the neighborhood
      - Religion is what ties them to the neighborhood



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- People's relationships to settings are bounded by social, economic, and political structures
  - Example: Homelessness
    - ◆ Public views the homeless as a homogenous group when they're really a diverse group of people with different needs
    - ◆ One similarity is that many do not have any community ties or neighborhood contacts
    - ◆ They have little opportunity to develop community ties because they are moved from shelter to shelter.
      - Welfare hotels for families are often in dilapidated areas overrun with crime.



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- By contrasting these two neighborhood situations, four issues are identified:
  - A need to uncover the now obscure formation of neighborhood meanings and affiliations.
    - ◆ We need to look at the neighborhood as an ongoing process and not just at a point in time.
    - ◆ Look at rituals and celebrations (block parties, neighborhood organizations, etc.) and how they affect the neighborhood.



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Assess the impact of new technology on public and private life
  - Author believed computers had the potential to make a significant impact on life but not much was known in 1987 as most people didn't have a home computer.
  - New work patterns developed
  - Shopping can be done from home for almost everything
  - Computers can help to isolate people.



# Summary Points: Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations



- Enhance our vocabulary of spatial and social relationship
  - Conventional images of neighboring do not cover the entire range of possible relationships
- Address the restrictiveness of community and neighborhood experiences
  - Neighborhoods can offer security, satisfaction of needs, stable relationship, public spaces for events, etc
  - Can also help to exclude and reject based on these provisions as well

# The Neighborhood, Personal Identity and Group Affiliations

## ◆ Issues and Discussion

- How does the definition of neighborhood and neighboring relate to implementing a participatory action based research approach?
- How does the author attempt to describe neighborhoods and the then current (1987) changes in family and technology as influencing factors?
- How do we provide communities that attract various people, yet encourages their interaction and subsequent long term residency?