

KAY CAMPBELL MCGRATH

- o Resident since 1967
- o 46 years old

I was very heavily involved with Citizens for City Living, which was a community-wide organization founded by other neighbors, Ethel Scheman and Steve Pollock, and I believe Fran Massey, who was the president before I was. Its function was to preserve the residential character of the area against some proposed commercial development at McLean Gardens and to keep McLean Gardens residential. I called all the people I knew, which was not a lot because I hadn't lived here all that long. They were mostly people I had met in the School Board campaign, car pools and at the Macomb Street playground. Each person took a block to hand out information about McLean Gardens, about the hearings, about the organization that was being formed, and notices of the meetings. The meetings were almost always at John Eaton School.

I think the Cleveland Park part of the issue was based on keeping the area residential. We organized people to go to every zoning hearing. Peter Craig headed our legal committee. Joan Doniger was very important in the organization. Joan Mondale led a parade of children and pots and pans up to McLean Gardens. We had an economic committee chaired by Arlene Holen. We had architects, Harry and Ruth Montague. Everybody in the neighborhood who had a talent to bring loaned it to the organization. And the case was won. And now Citizens for City Living exists on paper. It might be timely to have a sort of reunion of the people in it and get caught up.

We took a positive route in drafting a "Plan for Cleveland Park," indicating what we did want. We got the community together. Neighbors led all of the sessions....transportation planning, land use planning, commercial vs. residential, how much we wanted, what we'd like to see in this neighborhood. We came up with our own suggestions, which we published.

In Cleveland Park there is a sense of community and caring. In their professional lives and in their creative lives, the neighbors really are a collection of extraordinary people. They live their very ordinary lives here. It's a neighborhood that allows that.

I was on the Committee of 21 as a non-Eaton parent and community representative. My focus on John Eaton was more as a community center Any neighborhood has to have a good school or you lose your neighborhood, whether your children are in the school or not. Without that hub, you're not going to have the family base in the neighborhood that you need to make it a neighborhood. So the school is crucial in what makes that community tick.

Ethel Scheman, as I remember, was the chair of the remodeling at the Cleveland Park Club. They brightened the whole place up significantly and created that children's area outside the pool. Some organization was always holding a meeting there. The Christmas Art Sales were very good. We used to go to Memorial Day Potluck Dinners. One night Sam Smith had a dance with old-time music that was a lot of fun.

I went to the public library, particularly when my children were younger....to the story hours, to meet the children's librarian, get recommendations on what they should read, lugging home all those books, and lugging them back, and all sorts of research....and also meetings again. Cleveland Park is such a meeting place.