

Mikvah Site

Switch Still

Up in the Air

By Chronicle Staff Writer

The Pittsburgh City Board of Adjustment again deferred action after another hearing dealing with the request for the Jewish Women's League for Taharat Hamischpacha to transfer the site of the Mikvah from its present location on Oakland Ave. to 2336 Shady Ave., Squirrel Hill.

At the second hearing the Jewish Women's League asked for a special variance ruling to permit this "ritualarium" to be located in Squirrel Hill.

Present at this hearing was Timothy O'Riley, counsel for the opponents represented mainly by Margaret Cohen, of Shady Ave. Objections were raised to the actual application as well as to the ritualarium itself.

The main objections raised were: traffic, change in zoning from a residential to a commercial area, and the influence this would have on the neighboring children since this dwelling was across the street from Taylor Alderdice High School.

Both Rabbis Joseph Shapiro of Congregation Poale Zedeck and Rabbi Bernard A. Poupko of Congregation Shaare Torah served as experts on Jewish law.

They also explained that this place should be in close proximity to most of the Jewish Community. At the time when the Mikvah was originally built in Oakland, most of the Jewish community was located in Oakland.

After much discussion a petition from the neighborhood residents was presented to the Board. A plea to make legal brief was denied. The Board informed the parties involved that they would be notified of the Board's decision.
