

JAMES A. GRAASKAMP COLLECTION OF TEACHING MATERIALS  
V. INDUSTRY SEMINARS AND SPEECHES - SHORT TERM  
B. Assessors and Other Public Officials  
10. "Comments for Milwaukee County Employees  
Pension Trust Officers; circa 1980s,  
Milwaukee, WI

Comments for Milwaukee County Employees

Pension Trust Officers

- I. Misconceptions about real estate as an investment.
  - A. The business risk/opportunity
  - B. The leverage risk/opportunity
  - C. The liquidity risk/opportunity
  - D. The yield risk/opportunity
  - E. The inflation risk/opportunity
  - F. The political risk/opportunity
  - G. The shock loss risk/opportunity
  
- II. Problems for fund trustees
  - A. Investment objectives
  - B. Initial selection of asset managers
  - C. Initial allocation of fund assets
  - D. Basic rules for control of political issues
  - E. Measuring performance
  - F. Comparative measurement of performance
  - G. Time frame for measuring performance
  
- III. Essence of real estate investment strategy.
  - A. Monopoly
  - B. Spread
  - C. Liquidity
  - D. Covariance with interest rates
  
- IV. Detailed elements of investment objectives.
  - A. Monopoly
    1. Political exposure
    2. Subsidy of competition
    3. Subsidy of demand
  - B. Channeled demand
    1. Control of tenancy
    2. Reciprocity
    3. Limits on supply
    4. Research of the gap
  - C. Management intensiveness
    1. Individual talent
    2. Industrialized process
    3. Contrast management
    4. Tenant management
  - D. Financial Management
    1. Revenue controls
    2. Expense controls
    3. Financing controls tied to break even
    4. Cushion for variance
  - E. Tax management
    1. Real estate
    2. Income
    3. Other
  - F. Financial ratios
    1. Cash-on-cash
    2. Payback ratio
    3. Debt cover
    4. Break even
    5. Percent of yield from resale
    6. IRR
    7. MIRR

- V. Initial allocation of fund assets
  - A. 5% is a basic module
  - B. Basic module should contain three types of investment for liquidity and diversification
    - 1. REIT or limited partnership units for pension fund investment
    - 2. Comingled fund for an indexed asset fund
    - 3. Special situations fund
  - C. Second module of 5% would involve a segregated account with one or two asset managers
  - D. Third 5% module
    - 1. Joint venture
    - 2. Convertible mortgage
    - 3. Direct ownership
    - 4. Sale and leaseback
  
- VI. Initial selection of asset managers
  - A. Investment philosophy of pension fund sponsors
    - 1. Safety of principal versus aggressive pursuit of capital growth
    - 2. Simplicity of management versus intensive supervision of portfolio managers
    - 3. Freedom from criticism versus aggressive advancement of non-financial purposes (create jobs, housing, economic development etc.)
    - 4. High-tech portfolio theory versus naive diversification and selection
    - 5. Minimum-maximum dollar limits per investment
  - B. Selection of asset managers
    - 1. Broad representation fidiciaries
    - 2. Primary representation of your account for high incentive
    - 3. Minimum number of accounts, asset size, and organization size for stability and continuity
    - 4. Manager's perception of conflict of interest in allocating properties acquired, leases negotiated, properties constructed, etc.
    - 5. Format of management reports to fund managers
  - C. Philosophy of financial reporting
    - 1. Accounting detail and rules for asset segregation, timing of income and expenses, and booking of capital gains and losses
    - 2. Appraisal frequency, quality, source and integration into reports
    - 3. Detail provided on leases, collections on reimbursables, budget realization
    - 4. Investment strategies and targets for each building purchased
  - D. The manager as a cushion against political and parochial pressure
    - 1. Is Milwaukee and Wisconsin acceptable investment territory?
    - 2. Are there constraints on union and non-union labor areas or projects
    - 3. Other philosophical constraints
  
- VII. Measuring performance
  - A. Internal performance
    - 1. Budgeted goals
    - 2. Overall portfolio statistics
    - 3. Appropriate time intervals
  - B. Internal standards would include
    - 1. Cash-on-cash quarterly
    - 2. Change in net worth each year
    - 3. Recapture of leasehold values
    - 4. Profitability index of improvement investment
    - 5. Statistics on tenant mix by size, term of lease, rent per square foot, cost of releasing in terms of commissions, tenant improvements, concessions etc.

- C. Comparative measures of performance
  - 1. Service companies such as The Frank Russell Company
  - 2. Consultants for selection of advisors
  - 3. Indexes such as NCREIF Index, the Willow Index, or Evaluation Associates (see attached sheet from Pensions and Investment Age)
- D. Non-statistical measures of performance
  - 1. Positioning for unanticipated inflation or deflation
  - 2. Positioning for fiduciary standards of diversification
  - 3. Shortening span of control and information feedback on investments of risk capital
  - 4. Public relations for fund management and tangible entities to which beneficiaries can relate