

THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER OF
THE SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Reminder of Membership Meeting

All SHCA members are reminded that there will be a meeting of the membership on Tuesday, March 11, 1975, at 8 p.m. at Old Pine Street Church, 412 Pine Street. Persons who are non-resident property owners or businessmen in the Washington Square East Project Area are also invited to attend and may vote on PAC matters.

This will be an important meeting. We will hear a presentation on the plans of Louis Agnes and Tom Gola for a residential development at Third and Spruce (the Old Metropolitan Hospital site) and vote on those plans. We will also consider and react to the fairly substantial progress which has been made toward resolving the questions relating to the Black History Museum proposal (see the discussion below).

Membership Dues

Those who receive this newsletter in the mail will find a return envelope for the payment of outstanding 1975 dues. Please make your check (\$8, 2 adults with same address; \$5, 1 adult) payable to the Society Hill Civic Association and mail it off today. This is particularly important since we are about to go onto a new mailing system; to ensure that your name and address are properly included, pay your dues now.

Progress on Black History Museum

Since the last newsletter, negotiations have continued with Philadelphia '76, Inc., and the Afro-American Historical and Cultural '76 Bicentennial Corporation with respect to the Black History Museum. While several important problems remain, it is possible to report that progress has been made in resolving the issues set forth in the guidelines:

- a. Consultation with the neighborhood has been initiated, e.g., through the negotiations themselves.
- b. The Executive Committee of the Afro-American Corporation has agreed that five representatives of the SHCA will be added to its Board.
- c. Size and scale remain significant problems. However, the museum's sponsors have agreed to a reduction in building area to 27,500 sq. feet. The SHCA representatives have urged that a further reduction be made. Third floor exterior walls generally

have been sloped above the 35 foot level in an effort to conform to the Zoning Code. We will be discussing the details of these changes further. Unfortunately, there is still no rear yard, leading to nearly complete area coverage. The auditorium on the other hand, has been reduced from 300 to 200 seats.

d. The number of parking spaces has been increased from 53 to 56. At the same time, there has been a small reduction in the building's square footage and a one-third reduction in the auditorium capacity, as noted.

e. - h. The parking space has been leased from Mother Bethel AME Church, and will be restricted to visitor (vs. staff) parking. The parking areas will be surrounded by a brick wall and landscaped. The parking lot will not open onto Addison Street; only pedestrian access will be provided. Vehicles servicing the museum will not be permitted to go through Addison Court.

i. All public transportation planning will be disclosed to the neighborhood. There is no commitment as to private bus service.

j. The museum will operate from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day except Sunday, when it will be closed.

k. [We are awaiting a controlled visitation plan from the sponsors.]

l. - m. No food sales will be permitted. To the extent they are legally able, the sponsors will cooperate to prevent sidewalk vending. Only museum shop items (books, etc.) will be sold.

n. Use, height, etc. restrictions will be embodied in the instruments of conveyance.

o. Public maintenance and street cleaning efforts will be disclosed to the SHCA.

A further report will be made to the membership on March 11.