



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

313 Pine Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

November 30, 1972

ALL CATS LOOK GRAY IN THE DARK -- Benjamin Franklin

On Ben Franklin's birthday, January 17th, the Society Hill Civic Association will have its annual meeting and election of officers. This election may be the most important and hotly contested in the history of SHCA. As noted in earlier Newsletters, a dissident group of residents, upset by the plans for a 19-unit low-cost housing development by the Benezet Corporation, have decided, we understand, to contest the election and capture the Association by running their own slate of officers and directors.

While we have great confidence in the democratic process and think that contests over policy are helpful, it is the feeling of the present Board of the Association that the election of a one-issue slate would be a disaster for the community.

The next year will be one of the most crucial in deciding what happens to this neighborhood over the next decade.

1973 will probably be the year that Penn's Landing will be awarded for development. Because of its location and size (it could conceivably be bigger in terms of density and dollar investment than Society Hill), Penn's Landing will have a tremendous impact on this area.

In addition, plans for a mini-bicentennial in 1976 will start to firm up. Most of the physical part of the celebration will be located in the immediate vicinity. It could possibly attract as many as 200,000 people a day to this neighborhood and will definitely bring tremendous problems in traffic, crowd control, sanitation, esthetics, and general livability.

Beyond those problems is the job of overseeing the development of Head House East, the Delaware Expressway, the completion of the Metropolitan Hospital site and a number of other parcels throughout the area.



There are also the continuing chores of working with adjoining civic associations on common problems of parking, crime, drug control, and recreation.

Because the tasks ahead are so immense, the Board took great pains in selecting a nominating committee that was geographically and philosophically representative of the neighborhood as a whole. Their names and addresses are appended.

In their deliberations, the nominating committee made sure that diverse views on Benezet would continue to be heard at board meetings. It also invited the leader of the opposition faction, George Axilbund, to be a director of this Association. He refused the nomination.

Before we unveil the nominees the committee decided on, we'd like to make a few general observations about them:

¶ In order to ensure a continuity of operations of SHCA, four people who sat on last year's Board, and one who sat on Boards in 1970 and 1971, were included.

¶ Because much of the work involves zoning and redevelopment problems and complex negotiations with officials of local, state, and federal governments, an inordinate number of lawyers have been nominated.

¶ Because of continuing problems with design of new buildings, changing traffic patterns, and land use, two of the nominees are architects with expertise on problems of design and city planning.

¶ To represent parents of public school children, there is an active officer of the McCall Home & School Association.

¶ Because the membership indicated that it did not want to exclude members not in HUD-designated boundaries, one officer is from a block outside that area.

¶ There is geographic balance: six of the candidates are from the western end of the neighborhood, six from the east.

¶ Long-time pre-redevelopment era residents are represented.



In short, many considerations went into the nominating committee's recommendations, and we think they deserve your whole-hearted support.

We hope the following cats are no longer gray, but visible in bright relief as people who will serve both your interests and the interests of the neighborhood.

Here are the candidates:

President: Paul Wm. Putney, 209 Delancey St.; lawyer, Dechert Price & Rhoads; past president of SHCA

Vice-President: Robert Linck, 225 S. 7th St.; president, Warren-Ehret-Linck Co. (roofing contractors); former treasurer of McCall Home & School Assn.

Secretary: Peggy Duckett, 335 S. 2nd St.; housewife and current secretary of SHCA

Treasurer: Mark K. Kessler, 242 Locust St.; lawyer, Cohen, Shapiro, Polisher, Shiekman & Cohen

Directors: Phillip H. Baer, 302 Penn's Landing Square; lawyer  
Thomas E. Byrne, 431 Spruce St.; lawyer, Krusen, Evans & Byrne

Roger Lewis, 520 Delancey St.; architect, Bower & Fradley

Marshall Meyers, 200 Locust St. (moving to Denny Town House); architect, Louis I. Kahn; current director of SHCA

Gretchen Niedermayer, 514 Spruce St.; political science lecturer, Temple University; current director of SHCA

Elizabeth Schall, 518 Spruce St.; housewife and current treasurer of McCall Home & School Assn.

Harry K. Schwartz, 401 S. 3rd St.; lawyer, Dechert Price & Rhoads; current director of SHCA

Hon. Paul Silverstein, 520 Pine St.; Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia



The nominating committee that selected these candidates was presided over by Carter Buller, 242 Delancey. On it were Peggy Davies, 303 S. American; Alan Halpern, 113 Pine; Dorothy Johnson, 515 Addison Court; Robert Linck, 255 S. 7th; Robert Parsky, 348 S. 4th; Austin Pomerantz, 613 Addison; Franklin Roberts, 228 Delancey; Dr. William Schwartz, 507 Addison Court; and Robert Salgado, 534 Cypress.

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Do not forget to mark your calendar today to attend this vitally important election meeting -- January 17th, McCall School Auditorium, 8 p. m.

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Editor for this issue: Alan Halpern