



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105 February, 1980

LET'S MEET THE NEW CITY HALL BRASS

Mayor Bill Green's cabinet members W. Wilson Goode, managing director, and Dick Doran, city representative and director of commerce, and George Burrell, deputy to the mayor for community services, will be guests of the Society Hill Civic Association on February 27, at 7:00 p.m. In addition, Alex Wolfington's plans for the SW corner of 3rd & Walnut will be presented along with committee updates and more...

***** This meeting will not be at Old Pine Community Center *****
The February 27th meeting will be at: Society Hill Synagogue
418 Spruce Street

TYCOON, ANYONE?

The Fund Raising Committee is in the process of printing a letter to be sent to businesses and corporations in the area in an effort to encourage them to become Non-corporate Associate Members at \$25 or Corporate Members at \$100. The money from such memberships is necessary to support the Association. SHCA members are urged to contribute the names of businesses along with the name of someone, preferably in the higher echelons of these businesses, to Marty Weinberg, Fund Raising chairperson, 2 St. James Court, Phila., Pa. 19106 (922-7822, evenings).

SIGN LANGUAGE

The "No Parking" signs have been removed on the north side of the 200 and 300 block of Delancey Street. Neighbors who are interested in having these signs restored, call Joanne (Mrs. Carter) Buller at 925-4784.

SHCA ELECTION INFORMATION

Prospective Association office holders please note:

- April 7 -Nominating Committee Meeting
- April 21 -Election notices with May 7 deadline for candidates to be distributed
- May 7 -General Membership Meeting. SHCA candidates to be introduced
- May 21 -Election of the 1980-81 Board

Further details available from President Michael Willmann at WA2-1415(o) or 925-9283(h).

ZONING UPDATE

6th and Washington Square (previously known as Skateboard Park)--the transfer of title to One Independence Place is completed. Construction on the South Tower is to begin by June, 1980 and to be completed by June, 1982. Construction of the North Tower is to begin when 70% of the South Tower condos have been sold or within two years of their certification by RDA.

712 Locust (Rohm and Haas) Aquaro and Fantasio Assoc., long defaulted developers, are suing RDA for their deposit and the right to be the developers. This cloud on the title prevents the present developer, Pesot, from beginning construction.

Dock Street Site--the five prospective developers for the Bookbinder parking lot site have packed up their plans and gone fishing until an injunction against RDA is lifted. Neighbor and plaintiff, Ray Posel, feels that the change from commercial to residential at this site will adversely affect his commercial development (you know the one, the shopping complex that has been virtually vacant since its construction in 1976). Until that case is decided, RDA cannot market the property for residential use - too bad - SHCA Board said that these were the five best plans to date for a single parcel in the Society Hill area. Write to Mike Arno, RDA Chairman, 1234 Market if you want to see it go residential.

334 South Lawrence--Zoning variance wanted for a rear greenhouse; case has been postponed until a mutual agreement can be reached by the immediate neighbors.

SW Corner 3rd and Walnut--owner and developer, Alex Wolfington, submitted plans to the SHCA board for four townhouses (presently site of First Pennsylvania's parking lot); to be reviewed at general membership meeting on February 27th. 332 Delancey--owner applied for zoning to increase density from a single family dwelling to a triplex; SHCA opposed; ZBA approved; immediate neighbors appealing. Society Hill Towers Parking Sign 2nd & Spruce--the ZBA and the SHCA opposed the larger sign (the one presently gracing the entrance). A smaller sign has been approved but not installed. It has been over a year since the immediate neighbors fought this one.

COVER CHARGE, WE NEED YOUR HELP

As all residents of the historic area must know from having read the newspapers over the last year, the Committee to Preserve the Nation's Birthplace and its legal team headed by John Hunt were very active at the time of the opening of the Delaware Expressway to traffic. They were instrumental in obtaining a court order and certain undertakings from PennDot to finish the cover, in modified design, between the presently-existing north and south covers.

John Hunt put in a great deal of legal work for which he has not adequately been compensated. Accordingly, the Society Hill Fund -- which serves as a conduit for tax-deductible charitable contributions for this effort of such importance to our community and the entire historic area -- is asking for additional contributions to help clear this debt. Society Hill's share of the deficit is at least \$2,500. The trustees of the Fund are asking each resident to send as generous a check as possible, payable to "Society Hill Fund", to its treasurer, Roland C. Davies, Jr. at 32 Strawberry Street, Philadelphia, Penna. 19106.

OLD PINE BULLETIN BOARD

The Community Workshops/Old Pine Community Center Winter Programs started the week of January 14th and will continue until the week of March 3rd. Included in this group of programs are: art, drama, cooking, French, science, exercise, photography, Italian and gymnastics. The staff of the Hall-Mercer Center of Pennsylvania Hospital is offering a three-session program where parents may meet in small groups to share experiences, feelings and ideas about living with children.

Information concerning the Spring programs should be available by the week of March 17th. If you would like a particular class or program to be offered or if you would like to be involved in the planning process, please call the Community Center at 627-2493.

Saturday for Seniors--bimonthly lunch and program at Old Pine -- Call Liz Ostrander (922-0895) for more information and get on the waiting list of this popular event.

Scouting Program--Boys, girls and cub scouts. Call the desk at the center (627-2493).

Intergenerational Conference--April 17, 18, 19, in cooperation with the Phila. Chapter of the Gray Panthers, Drexel and local churches. Workshops on Friday, crafts and demos on Saturday. Call Old Pine, WA5-8051 for more information. It's an exciting approach on how to live and share our environment across age groups.

Philadelphia Spokesmen--the Wheelchair basketball team of disabled vets will play its last game at OPCC on February 16th at 7:30. The community is invited to see this gripping event.

TAXI! TAXI!

The State Senate Consumer Affairs Committee will hold public hearings on proposal for more taxis for Philadelphia in City Council Chambers on February 22nd from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

MONTEZUMA REVENGE?

In December 1977 we reported that the "hole in the ground known as the Marine Corps Museum or Tun Tavern (at the foot of Spruce and Front) may actually enter Phase 2 (construction) by the spring of 1978...if the park contiguous to the Tavern is landscaped...if the I-95 roadway and cover is completed." Although Marine Major General Hanson remains optimistic that work will begin in the near future, the City of Philadelphia's Public Property Department has contacted the City Solicitor's Office to have them review the lease on the property for the option to cancel the memorial to the capturers of the Halls of Montezuma.

ON THE WATERFRONT

In our July '79 issue we reported that Chart House had plans to complete its 300 seat seafood restaurant by the spring of 1980 at Penns Landing. Sadly, not so. Plans have been rejected by the city agencies for a mod-type California building and it's been back to the drawing board ever since. PL director Don Sabatini reported that a new concept compatible to the surroundings was expected to be submitted on February 15th and plans for the office and restaurant complex should be surfacing soon...

* * *

The fate of the Maritime Museum is less encouraging. A ruling last month by the State Attorney General requires that the use of the museum at Penn's Landing would have to be approved by the State Legislature. OPDC executive director Jim Martin is optimistic that some arrangements with the Maritime Museum could be made. We hope it's soon. The concrete-gray white elephant has been padlocked and maintained at great expense to local taxpayers (\$6,000 a month for heat and security) since 1976!

* * *

An interdominational Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday (April 6th) is being planned by the Seaman's Institute and Old Pine Presbyterian Church choirs and all. Check local newspapers for time.

BEST OF THE HALL-DECKERS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 1979 Holiday Decorating Contest winners are: Superior: Laura Lou Bates, 314 S. Lawrence Court; William G. Filmeyer, 313 S. American St.; Mrs. Adolf deRoy Mark, 533 Delancey St.; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Onagaro, 104-106 Delancey St.; Susie Pattison, 419 Pine St.; Powel House, 244 S. 3rd St.; R.W. Schaedlfer, 320 Delancey St.; Mrs. Frederick Simeone, 242 S. 3rd St.; Meritorious: Roland C. Davies Family, 303 S. American St.; Mrs. Eda Di Re, 628 Spruce St.; Stella W. Fitts, 500 Pine St.; The Hanoeys, 306 Cypress St.; Hill-Physick-Keith House, 321 S. Fourth St.; Mrs. Paul E. Kelly, 429 Spruce St.; Ellen Miller, 310 Cypress St.; Jeanne Potamkin, 305 S. Third St.; Laura M. Rizio, 331 S. Lawrence St.; Holiday Exhibitor (Third): Margaret E. Bartle, 247 Pine St.; Mrs. Thomas D. Hayes, 130 Spruce St.; John Terry Family, 315 Spruce St.; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Watts, 219 Spruce St.

HOUSES, HOSTESSES WANTED

Preparations are being made for Philadelphia Open House 1980. The Friends of Independence National Historical Park are once again sponsoring this series of spring tours in the Philadelphia area in conjunction with 10 other organizations. SHCA is co-sponsor of the Tour. The 21 different tours, six of them in Society Hill, will run from May 3rd to May 11th. Brochures with detailed tour information are available at 313 Walnut St.

Co-chairpersons Suzie Auten and Libby Browne and their 18 committee members - all Society Hill residents - hope to involve as many area residents as possible, both in opening their houses or gardens and in acting as hosts or hostesses in houses, on street corners or at the Kosciuszko House headquarters. There will be four afternoon tours and two evening tours divided between weekdays and weekends, so there is plenty of opportunity to participate.

Plans are under way for A "Society Hill Before" committee, chaired by Damon Childs, which will prepare an exhibit to be displayed during tour week. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will sponsor the May Basket contest once again, so it's a great excuse to spruce up our houses and streets for our visitors. To volunteer, to get a brochure or other information call the Open House office, 928-1188.

GO-GO FOR YOUR CHECKBOOK

The disco next to the Ritz Theater may be dead but the dance/hall live entertainment license is NOT. Attorneys for the disco and the restaurant-bar complex will have met as this goes to press and further news will be forthcoming. Which brings us to another important issue -- money. Lawyers have to be paid. The generosity of the 14 contributors is greatly appreciated but we must appeal to everyone again -- Please make checks payable to Anti-Disco Committee and Send them to Mrs. Frank Elliott, 232 Philip Place.

COME, FILL THE CUP

The 4th annual Spring Benefit sponsored by the Friends of the Coffee Cup at the Academy of Music Cabaret Theatre (Academy House 1420 Locust) is on Sunday, April 27th. It's Gershwin, By George. Contact Father Lloyd at 925-6282 9-5 daily. (\$6.50 for individual tickets, \$25 for sponsors, \$50 for donors and \$100 for patron.) The money raised at this benefit provides over 25% of the annual operation budget. It serves dinner to 250 community members of Wash West five days a week. The meals are cooked and staffed by volunteers and the Philadelphia Center for Older People - a worthwhile neighborhood cause.

FUTURE SHOCK ABSORBER

It has been suggested that there be an extra general membership meeting of the Civic Association devoted to long-range planning in an effort to deal with potential crises before the 11th hour. If you think this type of meeting would be productive, please fill out the following and return to SHCA, Box #3, Phila., Pa. 19105

I am in favor of a long-range planning meeting
I would like to see the following items on the agenda:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Representatives of the SHCA, Queen Village Neighbors, Queen Village Business Association, NewMarket Merchants and the management of NewMarket have formed a coalition of sorts to discuss a comprehensive solution to the severe parking problems in this area. The proposal developed by neighborhood representatives and sent to W. Wilson Goode, managing director of the City, includes the following points for discussion:

- (1) A validated parking plan to give discounts to area merchants at the two parking garages at NewMarket;
- (2) City support for a shuttle bus that could move restaurant patrons from parking lots at Penn's Landing into the NewMarket and South Street areas;
- (3) A re-routing of the #42 bus to come to 2nd and Lombard Streets or a re-design of the Cultural Loop to minimize the need for center city residents to bring their cars into the NewMarket area;
- (4) Increased police directing of traffic, particularly at 2nd and Pine, 2nd and Lombard, and Front and Lombard Streets. This should be tied together with a strict enforcement of no parking regulations along 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets;
- (5) Some form of Restricted Sticker Parking for residents;
- (6) Improved cab service, including a taxi stand on the north bound section of 2nd Street between Pine and Lombard Streets;
- (7) An examination of the feasibility of additional sites for parking lots or garages, including: part of the land under I-95 between Christian and Washington Avenues, the land between I-95 and Delaware Avenue and a consideration of additional parking along Bainbridge Street between 3rd and 5th Streets.

ACTION IN THE EVENING

The SHCA board acted at its February 6th meeting to unanimously approve the following traffic and parking measures:

1. Sticker parking facilitated as soon as possible;
2. Item (2) with emphasis on Friday, Saturday and Sunday;
3. Item (3)-Bus 42 should go South on Front Street, West on Lombard, North on Third during the daytime and evening hours on Saturday and Sunday.

GREEN LIGHTS

Wanna call anybody in the Green administration?

Cabinet Members: W. Wilson Goode, Managing Director, 686-3841; Alan J. Davis, City Solicitor, 686-5233; G. Edward DeSeve, Finance Director, 686-6140; Richard A. Doran, City Representative & Director of Commerce, 686-6140; Mayor's Office: George Burrell, Deputy to the Mayor for Community Services, 686-3988; Evelyn White, Deputy to the Mayor for Human Services, 686-2755; Philip Goldsmith, Deputy to the Mayor for Policy and Planning, 686-6314; Dennis Oakes, Chief of Staff, 686-2186; Beth Siniawsky, Appointments Secretary, 686-2555, Kathy Gosliner, Press Secretary, 686-6210; David Williamson, Executive Director, Office of Transportation, 686-2193; Diane Kiddy, Executive Director, Women's Commission, 686-7509; Helen Sobel, Director, Office of Information, 686-1776; City Representative's Office: Patti McCloskey, Director, Ceremonial and Special Events, 686-2876; Yvonne Roberts, Programs Development Coordinator, 686-2876; Commissioners: Morton B. Solomon, Police Commissioner, 686-3333/3356; Joseph Rizzo, Fire Commissioner, 686-4700; Raymond M. Tate, Licenses & Inspections Commissioner, 686-2400; Howard K. Mintzer, Jr., Streets Commissioner, 686-5460; Kenneth Zitomer, Acting Water Commissioner, 686-3804/01; Otto R. Winter, Procurement Commissioner, 686-4750/51; Robert J. Crawford, Recreation Commissioner, 686-3601; Dr. Margaret J. Sosnowski, Acting Welfare Commissioner, 686-6000/01; Dr. Lewis D. Polk, Acting Health Commissioner, 686-5000/01; Joseph W. Brown, Public Property Commissioner, 686-4430/32; Others: Don Fair, Director, Public Information, Police Department, 686-3368; Mark Aronchik, First Deputy City Solicitor, 686-3246; Thomas Massaro, Director, Office of Housing and Community Development, 686-2184

NEWSLETTER PERPETUATORS

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