

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting, January 21, 2026

Held at the Physick House, 321 S 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Members Attending In-Person: Robert Kramer, Mary Purcell, Nick DeGregorio, Jay Borowsky, Priscilla Lo, Antonio Atacan, Ramona Johnson, Kim Williams, Mary Tracy, Judy Koss, Debbie Zak Cohen, Mike Fox, Lorna Katz Lawson, Paul Boni, Martha Levine, Larry Spector.

Members Attending Remotely: Brooke Marshall, Tanya Brassie, Nelie Shah, Joe McLaughlin.

Absent: Kathleen McAfee, Ellen Geller, Helen Grady, Bernice Koplin, Jim Lipshutz, Ned Scharff, Bernard Gelman, Susan Burt Collins, Stacey Ackerman, Nancy Lanham, Jeff Parker, Rick Herskovitz.

Administrator: Samantha Brown (Remotely).

Call to Order

- President Robert Kramer called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum existed for voting purposes.

Appointment of Legal Committee Chair – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve the appointment of Larry Spector as Legal Committee Chair.
- The motion passed.

November 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve the November 19, 2025 SHCA Board Meeting minutes.
- The motion passed.

Neon System Update – Speaker Robert Kramer

- Robert Kramer provided an update on the Neon payment processor project. Neon is our membership database/CRM system. This system upgrade was undertaken to make membership renewal entries automatic in the SHCA database on Neon. It has not been working as intended but is close to being debugged.

SHCA Treasurer Report – Speaker Nick DeGregorio

- Nick DeGregorio provided an overview of the financials for the first 6 months of the fiscal year:
 - Gross income of \$102k
 - Expenses of \$169k
 - Net loss of \$67k
 - Loss due to timing of expenses being paid this fiscal year from last fiscal year, expenses from Business Income & Receipts Tax (BIRT) back payments, and donation to Friends of Pine and Spruce.

Appointment of Society Hill Preservation Fund Board Member – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve appointment of Nick DeGregorio to the board of Society Hill Preservation Fund (SHPF) for a three-year term.
- Discussion: David Haas has resigned. The current SHPF directors include Robert Kramer, Stacey Ackerman, Susan Burt Collins, Ned Scharff, and Mary Tracy. If Nick DeGregorio is appointed there will be three remaining vacancies.
- The motion passed.

Appointment of North-East Quadrant Director – Speaker Prescilla Lo

- Following David Haas’s resignation as North-East Quadrant Director, the nominating committee convened to identify a candidate that could step in immediately and who has experience. After discussions, the committee is recommending the appointment of Judy Neiswander to fill the North-East Quadrant Director vacancy through 31-May-2026. Judy Neiswander currently serves on the SHCA Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee and has experience in both historic preservation and community advocacy. She has served on similar commissions in Massachusetts and Minnesota.
- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve appointment of Judy Neiswander as the SHCA North-East Quadrant Director through 31-May-2026.
- The motion passed.

Appointment of 2026-2027 Nominating Committee – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The bylaws state that the second-year Quadrant Directors are appointed to the Nominating Committee for the May 2026 elections. These appointees currently include Ramona Johnson (North-West), Debbie Zak Cohen (South-East), Martha Levine (South-West), and Judy Neiswander (North-East). In addition, three persons are appointed by the SHCA President and the President designates the Chair, subject to board approval. The President is appointing Mary Purcell, Mary Tracy, and Nancy Lanham, with Mary Tracy being designated as chair.
- The nominations were approved by the board.
- The 2025 Nominating Committee was thanked for their hard work and contributions.

Clean and Beautiful Committee Charter – Speakers Robert Kramer and Martha Levine

- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve the Clean and Beautiful Committee Charter.
- Discussion: Martha Levine is the current chair and the committee covers the Fix the Bricks, Tree Tenders, Center City District cleaning, and graffiti cleaning programs.
- The motion passed.

Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Document Retention Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Code of Ethics – Speaker Robert Kramer

- These policies have been posted for SHCA Board review. The Legal Committee will also review these policies.

Governance Page on SHCA Website – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:

Approve the creation of a corporate governance page on the SHCA website that will include the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, board meeting minutes for SHCA and SHPF, RCO map, committee charters, and governance policies, with cost not to exceed \$1,000.

- Discussion: The board agreed that for meeting minute purposes, presenters would be identified in the written minutes, but those who engage in discussion on a topic would not be identified unless they explicitly ask the secretary to identify them in the written minutes.
- The motion passed.
- The following motion was presented for approval:

Approved SHCA and SHPF board-meeting minutes will be posted publicly starting from January 2026 and minutes from previous years will be available to board members in an electronic repository.
- Discussion: The board discussed posting approved minutes from previous years on the SHCA website. Concerns were raised over past board members being identified in the meeting minutes without their consent. Comments were made that we should try to post minutes going back to previous years, with names redacted as necessary.
- The motion passed.
- The following motion was presented for approval:

Approval to hire Splat to implement a governance page on the SHCA website, with cost not to exceed \$1,000.
- The motion passed.

Community Meeting Organized by Susan Burt Collins, David Haas, and Bonnie Halda – Speaker Robert Kramer

- Susan Burt Collins was not present to describe the purpose of the meeting.
- There was discussion regarding a potential conflict of interest with a current board member holding a separate community meeting not associated with the SHCA.

Old Business: Motions from Susan Burt Collins – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:

Minutes shall be prepared and distributed for review one week in advance of the next board meeting. Minutes shall be available to the membership on the SHCA website once approved.

- Discussion: It was noted that the second statement in this motion was covered by the motion passed earlier in the meeting regarding creation of a governance webpage. Comments were made that our bylaws cover how the SHCA functions and the process

for meeting minute approval. It was also stated that while one week for review of board meeting minutes is the best practice, this should not be mandatory.

- o The motion did not pass.
- The following motion was presented for approval:
All non-recurring, non-operational expenditures in excess of \$5,000 be publicized in the Weekly Spotlight and in the following edition of The Reporter.
 - o Discussion: Comments were made that we currently publish our grants and contributions. The consensus was that this motion is unclear in what constitutes a non-recurring, non-operational expenditure.
 - o The motion did not pass.

New Business: Report on Traffic Calming on Lombard Street – Speaker Martha Levine

- There was a community meeting held earlier in the day related to traffic calming on Lombard Street from Front to Broad Streets. City officials have been meeting to discuss this topic, including Mark Squilla, OTIS, and the Streets Department. The meeting today was with community leaders from SHCA and Washington Square West. Ideas were discussed on potential solutions for traffic calming, and the group will be putting together questions for OTIS and the Streets department. They will stress that community buy in is necessary before implementing any solution.

Adjournment

- Bob Kramer adjourned the SHCA board meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Brooke Marshall
SHCA Secretary

Approved, by SHCA Board on February 18, 2026