

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting, February 18, 2026

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

Members Attending In-Person: Robert Kramer, Mary Purcell, Jay Borowsky, Nick DeGregorio, Brooke Marshall, Kim Williams, Paul Boni, Debbie Zak Cohen, Mike Fox, Martha Levine, Larry Spector, Mary Tracy, Priscilla Lo.

Members Attending Remotely: Kathleen McAfee, Lorna Katz Lawson, Bernard Gelman, Nelie Shah, Jim Lipshutz, Helen Grady.

Absent: Antonio Atacan, Judie Koss, Nancy Lanham, Ned Scharff, Rick Herskovitz, Stacy Ackerman, Susan Burt Collins, Judy Neiswander, Ramona Johnson, Joe McLaughlin, Tanya Brassie, Jeff Parker, Ellen Geller, Bernice Koplin.

Administrator: Samantha Brown.

Call to Order

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

Opening Remarks

- Mary Purcell has stepped down as chair of the communication committee.
- Brandon Engelhardt is upgrading our google account based on our nonprofit status and everyone on the SHCA board will be provided an email address, and we will save \$3,000 per year.

January 21, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve the January 21, 2026 SHCA Board Meeting minutes.
- The motion passed.

Administrator Report – Speaker Robert Kramer

- Antonio Atacan and Samantha Brown are continuing to work on debugging the Neon payment processor. While this issue is being resolved, Samantha Brown is continuing to manually enter membership information into the system.
- Carolyn Hanrahan has been assisting Samantha Brown in updating the membership database. Carolyn Hanrahan has been paid \$2,500 for her services to date, out of the board-approved \$5,000 annual allotment.

Treasurer Report – Speaker Nick DeGregorio

- Nick DeGregorio provided an overview of the financials in the context of donations for projects within the community:
 - Revenue from our parking lot is solid and this money is being used to support general operation.
 - If the SHCA plans for our revenue to be exceeded by our expenditures, there are likely not enough funds to support community grant donations.
 - One idea to create additional revenue is to fundraise through the Society Hill Preservation Foundation (SHPF).
- Discussion:
 - A request was made for the Finance Committee to provide a recommendation on how much the SHCA could spend on grants.
 - There was discussion that to fund grants, the budget would need to be reduced in other areas, or that overall revenue would need to increase. It was pointed out, however, that we have a healthy reserve from which to fund grants and projects.
 - One potential source of increased revenue discussed was increasing Reporter advertising.
 - Comments were made regarding past grant initiatives. In the past, there was an application and selection process. Grants were \$5,000 per recipient with approximately 10 grants given per year.
- Nick DeGregorio agreed he would establish an amount that could be donated to worthy community projects and institutions.

Zoning Hearing and Planning (ZHP) Committee – Speaker Paul Boni

- The following motion was presented for approval:

Authorize the SHCA to send a letter to Councilmember Squilla respectfully opposing the current version of Bill No. 251030, which would weaken the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The final letter shall be subject to the review and approval of the SHCA's executive committee prior to transmission.
- Discussion:
 - A comment was made that currently, a third party, i.e., someone other than the property owner, can nominate an unprotected building to be protected. The building is then automatically protected until a review is completed. The changes to the ordinance would now give the owner a 30-day notice prior to the building becoming protected when a nomination is made. One consequence of this change is that it gives the owner the opportunity to file a petition to have the building demolished within this 30-day grace period.
 - A comment was made that many nominations are made by the city, but some are made by the preservation alliance and other neighborhood groups. If Bill No. 251030 were passed, there is potential for these buildings to be compromised before they can be protected.
- The motion passed.

Safe and Sound Committee – Speaker Martha Levine

- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approve the Charter of the Safe and Sound Committee.
- Discussion:
 - A comment was made that a provision for timing of meetings should be included in the charter.
 - A comment was made that the charter should be trimmed down to the purpose of the committee and any other information specific to this committee. It was then stated that this charter follows the template of other charters of the SHCA.
- Based on the discussion and comments, the motion was amended:
Approve the Charter of the Safe and Sound Committee with the following addition: “In the event of an emergency, the chair may call a meeting with another member with at least 24-hours notice”
- The motion passed.

Legal Committee – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The legal committee is reviewing the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Document Retention Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Code of Ethics that were posted to the January 21, 2026 board meeting minutes folder.
- Apart from the Code of Ethics, the SHCA will need to state that we have these policies in place on our tax return.
- Larry Spector will be asking other members to join a task force to review these policies so that they can be approved prior to the federal tax filing deadline.

Governance Website – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The website is being coded by Splat. The Governance Page will include the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws of the SHCA and SHPF, Minutes of the SHCA and SHPF starting with the January 2026 meeting minutes, RCO Map, and Committee Charters.
- The documents and templates have been made, and the webpage is in the process of being designed. Policy documents will be posted when approved.

Community Meeting to be held on March 18, 2026 – Speaker Robert Kramer

- A community Meet & Greet is planned to take place following the March 18, 2026 board meeting at the Old Pine Community Center. This will be an opportunity for members of the community to talk with board directors about neighborhood issues that are important to them.

New Business

- Graffiti – Speakers Al Meinster and Marth Levine
 - There is a new challenge with graffiti in the form of stickers being placed on fixtures in the neighborhood. Al Meinster is contacting Clip on how these might be removed and is also looking for external contractors that may be able to perform removal. Councilmember Squilla has been notified of this issue.
- Board Member Social Event – Speaker Martha Levine
 - Martha Levine suggested that the board gather for a social event at a local restaurant.
 - A comment was made regarding the potential need for a budget for this type of event. It was decided that if an event of this nature was scheduled, Board Directors would pay for themselves.

Adjournment

- Bob Kramer adjourned the SHCA board meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Brooke Marshall
SHCA Secretary

Incorporated changes by Mary Purcell [*Update following review and approval*].
Approved by SHCA Board on April 15, 2026.