

SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting, May 20, 2026

Cheston Room of Pennsylvania Hospital, 800 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Members Attending In-Person: Robert Kramer, Mary Purcell, Antonio Atacan, Judie Koss, Kathleen McAfee, Nancy Lanham, Paul Boni, Bernard Gelman, Debbie Zak-Cohen, Martha Levine, Larry Spector, Mary Tracy.

Members Attending Remotely: Jay Borowsky, Brooke Marshall, Rick Herskovitz, Lorna Katz Lawson, Ramona Johnson, Nelie Shah, Judy Neiswander, Ellen Geller.

Absent: Nick DeGregorio, Kim Williams, Ned Scharff, Joe McLaughlin, Tanya Brassie, Mike Fox, Priscilla Lo, Helen Grady, Bernice Koplin.

Administrator: Samantha Brown.

Call to Order

- President Robert Kramer called the board meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. A quorum existed for voting purposes.

Opening Remarks – Speaker Robert Kramer

- Robert Kramer informed the board that Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS) plans to install the South 3rd Street bike lane. He stated OTIS will provide notice to the residents and stakeholders next week.

Board Minutes – Speakers Robert Kramer and Brooke Marshall

- The board agreed that the March 18, 2026 minutes would be amended to include Nancy Lanham, and all other attendees who were eligible for SHCA board reinstatement.
- The April 15, 2026 minutes were approved.

Administrator Report – Speaker Samantha Brown

- Samantha Brown provided a summary of her posted report:
 - February 2026 financial reports show an increase in reporter revenue from the previous year. Some of this increase is from recovered lost revenue from 2025.
 - The Neon and Garden Tour address lists have been compared to the NCOA/deceased national database to remove unmailable addresses and make corrections to valid addresses.
 - Neon is now being used for tracking Garden Tour revenue and mailing lists.

Garden Tour Update – Speaker Martha Levine

- Martha Levine asked board members to volunteer for the garden tour since 20 more volunteers were needed and commented that we need to keep a record of those who attend the tour so that we can reach out to them in future years.

2026 Board Elections – Speaker Mary Tracy

- Mary Tracy provided an update on the 2026 board elections:
 - The Nominating Committee notified the SHCA board of the confirmed election slate. The committee was successful in finding candidates for all positions with all positions uncontested.
 - Notice of the election was provided in The Reporter and the Spotlight. Eligible voters were members who paid dues by March 31, 2026 and each member household received one vote. The election started on Monday, May 18 and concluded on Wednesday, May 20.
 - The election was conducted by our website provider SPLAT through their online ballot system.
- Discussion:
 - A statement was made that the membership committee may want to consider changing the yearly membership dates so they are more aligned with elections.

Parking Rate Increase Motion – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:

Approval of an increase in monthly parking. The non-member rate will be increased to \$295 per month from \$235. The member rate will be increased to \$275 from \$220. The new rates will apply to NEW users of the lot effective June 2026 whereas EXISTING monthly users will be notified in June with the new rates effective in September 2026.
- Discussion:
 - Comments were made that the current and proposed rates are low compared to competitors. Other comments were that this is a large increase all at one time.
- The motion passed.

Summer Street Cleaning Motion – Speaker Martha Levine

- The following motion was presented for approval:

Approval of a second street cleaning on Fridays in July at a cost of \$3,545, which will be donor-funded, and August at a cost of \$2,836, which will be SHCA-funded.
- Comments:
 - An anonymous SHCA member has offered to donate funds for a second street cleaning for each Friday in July (5 weeks) if SHCA will pay for a second street cleaning in August (4 weeks).
- Discussion:
 - A suggestion was made that SHCA pay for two weeks at the end of June and two weeks at the beginning of August instead of four weeks in August to better align with the FIFA schedule and America's 250th events.

- So that the requirements of the anonymous doner could be met and to also have street cleanings in June, another suggestion was made that SHCA fund additional Friday street cleanings in June.
- The motion passed.
- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approval of a second street cleaning funded by SHCA on the last two Fridays of June at a cost of \$1,418.
- The motion passed.

Delancey Square Town Watch – Speaker Robert Kramer

- The following motion was presented for approval:
SHCA shall make a \$3,500 donation to the Society Hill Fund for the benefit of Delancy Square Town Watch (DSTW) designated to fund DSTW's 2026 Security Patrol.
- Comments:
 - DSTW has agreed to again extend the 2026 Security Patrol route to include the SHCA Parking Lot and Foglietta Plaza. This is a benefit to us and has helped to deter meet ups in our parking lot.
- Discussion:
 - A question was asked regarding hiring our own security patrol instead of relying on DSTW's security patrol. This has been evaluated in the past and is cost prohibitive due to the minimum hours required for a contract.
 - A statement was made that the DSTW Security Patrol works well with the police and the police have said the Security Patrol has been effective.
 - A question was asked about the frequency of surveillance of the SHCA parking lot. They patrol our parking lot twice per night on the nights they patrol.
- The motion passed.

Historic Preservation Bill – Speaker Paul Boni

- Councilmember Mark Squilla introduced a bill in fall of last year that will weaken Philadelphia's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Preservation Alliance and more than 25 other community groups, including SHCA, are opposed to these changes. A hearing is scheduled for June 3, 2026 on this topic. Paul Boni will speak on behalf of the SHCA at the hearing against the bill. Paul Boni is requesting that those in the community attend the hearing to oppose the bill.

Foglietta Plaza Mural– Speaker Larry Spector

- The following motion was presented for approval:
SHCA, with the understanding that it is not making any monetary commitment, approves of and supports the creation of a ground mural on the six panels of the central promenade of Foglietta Plaza per the design proposed by mural artist Sophie Roach, in her Artist Statement dated April 2026 as posted in the SHCA's Google drive in the May 2026 Board Meeting folder.

- Sophie Roach's design was presented to the board. The artist spoke about her interest in the project, her inspiration for it, and the technical aspects of the project.
- Discussion:
 - While many comments were made regarding the beauty of the mural and some supported its installation, concerns were raised that there had not been sufficient public engagement for SHCA to support the project.
 - Bonnie Halda has asked that the SHCA hold off on any decisions regarding the mural until the Society Hill Towers holds their special meeting to discuss the project with the community. This meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026.
 - Questions were asked about the timing of the project and deterioration of the mural over time.
 - Comments were made that if we do not act promptly, we will lose the opportunity for the project.
 - A suggestion was made that we table the motion and that we engage the community more.
- The following motion was presented for approval:
Approval to table the Foglietta Plaza Mural motion to be further discussed at a Community Meeting and Special Meeting of the Board on May 28, 2026.
- The motion passed, and the Foglietta Plaza Mural motion was tabled.

Adjournment

- Bob Kramer adjourned the SHCA board meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
 J. Brooke Marshall
 SHCA Secretary

Incorporated changes by Mary Purcell.
 Approved by SHCA Board on June 17, 2026.