

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL FROM THE SHCA OFFICERS AND BOARD



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105

December 1979

GENERAL MEETING, MARK YOUR CALENDARS

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD on Monday, December 17th at 7 p.m. at Old Pine Community Center to consider the development proposal for Independence Place -- the twin towers scheduled to go up east of Washington Square -- to formulate the SHCA's official position in response to the proposed development. It's imperative that we make known all of our concerns to the Zoning Board prior to their taking action. It's a head count and no proxies will be accepted.

HERE'S THE BACKGROUND

The RDA Board of Directors approved the alliance of Greenwood Properties, Inc. and Cadillac-Fairview (a Toronto based real estate development firm). The new name of the developers is Independence Place Associates (IPA). This partnership has proposed the construction of two 25-story towers, each of which will contain 264 condominium units; each will also have between 3,000 to 7,000 square feet of commercial space. Neighbors have expressed concern over the height of the towers, number of units, the type of commercial use and parking - among other issues.

The City Planning Commission approved the development of twin towers by IPA under the following conditions: (1) the RDA Design Review Board must reach agreement on design (2) Plan modifications must be approved by the RDA (3) IPA must come back to the City Planning Commission for approval of the North Tower; the North Tower cannot be started until 70% of the South Tower is occupied, or two years after the construction on the South Tower has begun - whichever comes first (4) A caveat included in the City Planning Commission approval of the project is that Cadillac-Fairview remain managers of Independence Place.

The Zoning Board will meet on December 19th at 5:30 p.m. Rm. 603 City Hall Annex to consider the variances requested by IPA, SHCA will present its position at that time.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Area residents, family and friends are invited to:

- December 13
- 8:00 p.m. -St. Peter's Church-St. Peter's Upper School Christmas play
- December 14
- 7:30 p.m. -Ansh Vita Congregation--special children's (under age 13) service in honor of the festival of Hanukah
- 7:30 p.m. -Society Hill Synagogue-first candle of Hanukah (informal service)
- December 16
- 2:00 p.m. -Old St. Joseph's Church-Advent and Christmas service of readings and carols.
- 4:30 p.m. -Old Pine Street Church-community concert (informal). Musician church members and their friends will perform sacred and secular music
- 5:30 p.m. -Old Pine Street Church-brown-bag supper; soup and coffee will be offered
- 6:30 p.m. -Old Philadelphia Churches'-sponsored community Christmas caroling. Gather at Old Pine Street Church for a stroll through the neighborhood. (Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.) Olde City area family and friends will meet at Friends Meeting House, 304 Arch Street
- 7:30 p.m. -Old St. Joseph's Church-Christmas carolers are invited over for refreshments afterwards
- December 18
- 11:00 a.m. -St. Peter's School-Nursery and Kindergarten Christmas party
- December 19
- 11:00 a.m. -Community Center-St. Peter's Lower School Christmas celebration of carols and poetry
- 5:00 p.m. -Washington Square Park-tree lighting and caroling
- 7:00 p.m. -McCall's School-winter music festival

December 24

- 8:00 p.m. -Holy Trinity Church-Christmas vigil mass
7:30 p.m. -Old Pine Street Church-Christmas Eve service-carols, reading and candlelight. Children should come ready to be a character in the Christmas story from Luke
- 7:30 p.m. -Old St. Joseph's Church-Christmas carols
8:00 p.m. -Old St. Joseph's Church-Christmas Eve mass
11:30 p.m. -Old St. Mary's Church-Christmas carols
Midnight -Old St. Mary's Church-Mass
- 7:00 p.m. -St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church-Christmas Eve mass
- 10:30 p.m. -St. Peter's Church-music by choir-men and boys
11:00 p.m. -St. Peter's Church-midnight service

December 25

- 6,7:30,9,
10,11 a.m.
12:15 p.m. -Old St. Joseph's Church-Christmas Day masses
10:30 a.m.
& noon -Old St. Mary's Church-Christmas masses.
9:00 a.m. -St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church-Christmas Day mass
10:00 a.m. -St. Peter's Church-Christmas Day Eucharist

December 31

- 10:00 p.m. -Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church-Watch Night and Love Feast

ZONING ROUNDUP

- 251 Pine--owner increased density from 3 to 4 apartments and then applied for a variance. SHCA opposed along with the immediate neighbors. The Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the variance.
- 200-212 Walnut--license for an office to sell and service business machines withdrawn. Too bad; much better to have tapping typewriters than tapping dancers...
- 712 Locust--RDA chose developer on Nov. 28 meeting - 712 Assoc. Pesot Construction with 10 condo units and 13 parking spaces (3 for sale to townhouse owners) five floors - two apartments per floor.
- Dock Street Site--all bids to RDA for single family or duplexes are due by Dec.14- SHCA committee will review plans with neighbors.
- 332 Delancey--proposed to convert single family dwelling into three apartments; SHCA Board voted to oppose; the hearing was scheduled for Nov. 20; postponed until further notice.
- Chernock Row--At its recent Board Meeting, RDA refused to grant an extension to the developer; according to RDA, deeds for four of the Chernock properties have been recorded in the name of the Authority.
- NewMarket--Cafe Lisboa: SHCA Board voted not to oppose a transfer of a liquor license. It's one of four new restaurants to be constructed in NewMarket.

TAKE A MOGUL TO LUNCH

Help. We're approaching insolvency! The Fund Raising Committee needs volunteers for a corporate membership drive and its many other projects. For more information, call Marty Weinberg, committee chairman at 629-1333 or 627-5021 (o), 922-7822 (h)

DID GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEEP HERE?

East Washington Square is yet again the subject of historic research. The Philadelphia Historic Sites Survey is designed to identify the eligible buildings, districts and sites for the National Register of Historic Places. The center city area, including East Washington Square is being inventoried by the Clio Group Inc., consultants in architecture, history and land use (386-6276). As the study progresses, residents will be invited to share their knowledge of sites or to volunteer time to work on the survey. Damon Childs is the board representative to Clio Group and will keep you informed.

NEW FACES, OF 1980

Carol Klein, 127 Pine Street, was elected Southeast Quadrant director on November 7 to replace David Cook. Tony Schneider, Becky Stoloff and Patricia Dayson volunteered to be members of the Traffic Committee.

LOW INCOME HOUSING URDATE

There have been no zoning or building permits issued to date for the low income housing parcels. The SHCA is now in the process of appealing following the dismissal of its case - SHCA vs Patricia Harris - opposing permanent low income housing on the 6th Street sites. Attorney Olan Lowry has filed his appeal and is staying on top of developments.

DECK THE HALLS, DOORWAYS AND LAMPPOSTS

Join with your neighbors in the annual holiday decorating contest. Create a wreath or garland; enhance a doorway, house facade, window, lamppost, garden gate or tree - with natural plant materials to celebrate the season. Entries are due on Monday, December 17th and houses should be ready for judging by 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 18th. Ribbons will be awarded at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Open House on Thursday, December 20th, after 5 p.m. To enter or receive further information, write or visit The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 or call 625-8258.

EAST SIDE STORY

Increased traffic and the scarcity of parking space in the Southeast Quadrant were discussed at a recent meeting of residents who formed a special committee to study solutions to the problems.

Quadrant leader Joy Lindy, who also heads the Traffic and Parking Committee, noted that the group has undertaken an attitudinal survey of residents to determine individual reactions to the traffic/parking situation. A questionnaire has been prepared for distribution to all Quadrant households.

Lindy also reported that the City's Streets Department conducted a one-day vehicle count (Friday, Nov. 30) at Front and Pine Sts., to assess traffic patterns since the opening of I-95.

Lindy urges all residents to become involved in the committee's work of keeping traffic confusion and illegal parking to a minimum in the heavily traveled Southeast Quadrant.

DEAR SANTA:

Would you kindly make sure the following stockings are stuffed:

James Tayoun's, with the Presidency of City Council as a reward for demonstrating that he knows how to serve his constituents;

Bill Green's, with an Official Mayor's House at Cypress Square to be built by Al Pearlman;

Mike Willmann's, with a pair of roller skates and a permanent stool in the East Philly Cafe;

Joel Chernock's, with an erector set so he can finish his houses;

Janet Lewis's, with an off ramp that empties into the Delaware River;

Nancy Frenze's, with an overpowering serve, writer's-cramp pills;

Joy Lindy's, with a copying machine;

Edna Wenk's, with a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, annotated by Harry Goldberg;

Olan Lowry's, with an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court (that's the only way to get a favorable decision on our housing suit);

Ex-Councilman Melvin Greenberg's, with a decent burial under the sound barriers of I-95. Happily, his horn-blowing motorcade into Society Hill turned into his political swan song;

Alan Halpern's, with a nightcap and a car load of erasermate pens for his long nights editing the Resident Newsletter.

SATURDAY NITE FERVOR

In January of 1979 the State Liquor Control Board granted the transfer of a liquor license from North 13th Street to the commercial complex at 200-212 Walnut, owned by Ray Posel. Posel had rented the second story to Rojo Inc. which started converting it for use as a disco supper club.

In July of 1979 Rojo's application for a dance hall license for the site was refused by the 6th District Police. Councilman James Tayoun reported at our last SHCA general membership meeting that the effort to defeat the disco and to keep it out of the neighborhood had been successful because Posel had assured him that he was foreclosing on the lessee, Rosario Gambino, for failure to pay rent on the property. The neighbors as well as Tayoun subsequently learned that plans for a disco had been abandoned, but that Gambino was proceeding to get a license for a supper club bar-restaurant. The SHCA Disco Committee has assumed that once this license is granted, the operators could then apply for a permit for a dance hall and live entertainment. The Disco Committee advises that if you are concerned about the quality of commercial activity approximately 300 feet from our doorstep, you may want to help. If you are opposed to the dance hall-live entertainment license, the ad hoc Anti Disco Committee needs your financial support. Make checks payable to Disco Committee and send them to Mrs. F. A. Elliott, 232 Philip Place.

THE CRAFT FAIR HOLDS ON

Summer has gone and with it the Head House Craft Fair, but the memory lingers on. Some individuals have appeared before the Board to voice their objections to the Fair - in fact they have called for banning it altogether. Other neighbors who live in the immediate Head House area expressed their concerns by calling a meeting of quadrant members in mid-November. The discussion at this meeting centered around the noise, the litter and primarily the traffic problems aggravated by the holding of the Fair. They presented their concerns to the SHCA Board. On December 5th the Board voted to recommend restricting Craft Fair operation to 10 weeks next summer, the same as in 1979.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE?

The Friends of INHP will bring in the New Year with their annual fling this year atop the Penn Mutual Tower. Overlooking the city on the site of the country's first balloon ascension in 1793, members and guest will dine and dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. with champagne and a salute to Philadelphia as she enters the '80s. The cost is \$40 per person for dinner and dancing, or \$15 per person for dancing from 10 p.m. on. If you are a member of the Friends, get your reservation in now; if not, and you'd like to come, call 597-7919 for an invitation -- or for membership. Get some friends together for a fun-filled evening.

DARTS AND LAURELS

- LAUREL - to Pennsylvania Hospital for the face lift on the "Spruce Street Houses"; and
- DART - to Pennsylvania Hospital for excluding from their beauty treatment, the pimples and warts around the perimeter of their Pine-Seventh-Delancey Streets property.
- LAUREL - to NewMarket for their tasteful holiday decorations, a tribute to the Season.
- DART - to the owner (since 1975) of the undeveloped property of 607-613 Pine Street for permitting an open-air parking garage.
- LAUREL - to Joel Chernock, owner (since 1973) of the unrefurbished property of 717-729 Spruce Street for, at least, not doing that!
- DART - to beer-drinking strollers, who leave their cans and bottles in our doorways, on steps and around trees.
- LAUREL - to the O'Brien, Perelman and Hopkin trio for the beautiful restoration of the "houses on the square".
- DART - to Chuck Peruto's restaurant construction crew, who erect their own No Parking barriers when and where they please.
- LAUREL - to Ismael Torres, the maintenance person of Washington Square Park for keeping our Square the most beautiful in the entire city. Muy bien hecho, Ismael!
- DART - to the restaurant owners on 2nd Street whose exhaust fans need replacement, repairing or whatever to cut down on the grinding noises that disturb the sleep of the Blackwell-Stamper neighbors
- LAUREL - to Margaret Noyes and the staff of Old Pine Community Center for accommodating SHCA Board and General Membership Meetings so graciously.
- LAUREL - to Jean Drake and Helen Rodgers, Distribution Chairpersons for the SHCA, who have seen to it that this newsletter is in your hands now.
- LAUREL - to Sam Lairson, manager of the Fifth Street A&P, for providing free refreshments for SHCA membership meetings.

A thank you to Barbara Becker, Libby Browne, Gee Elliott, Ellen Miller and Marsha Perelman for their contributions to this issue and to staff members: Nancy Frenze, Alan Halpern, Frances Israel, Miki Mahoney, Peg Robb and Jan Stephano. To send items or comment, contact The Resident Newsletter, Box 3, Phila., Pa. 19105.

Tear off and Edna Wenk
Mail to: 110 Pine St.
Phila., Pa. 19106

Please renew my (our) membership in
the Association for May 1979-May 1980.

Name: _____ 1 person, \$6
Address: _____ 2 persons at same address, \$10
Phone: _____ I request waiver of dues

Add \$1.00 per member for your numbered SHCA parking sticker.