



SOCIETY HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Box 3, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105

August, 1980

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General Membership Meeting on September 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The first General Membership Meeting of the SHCA for the Fall will convene at Wasson Hall, Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard Sts. at 7:30 p.m. on September 17, 1980. The guest speaker at this meeting will be W. Wilson Goode, City Managing Director. In addition, the following issues will be put before the general membership for a vote: 1) A proposed amendment to the Bylaws to allow for the election of a corresponding secretary at the September meeting. The endorsed candidate of the Nominating Committee is Janet Andereck, 130 Spruce St., 19C (925-0657). Anyone who wishes to challenge Ms. Andereck for the post of corresponding secretary should submit his/her name to Michael Willmann, president, at 335 South Second Street, 925-9283(h) or WA2-1415(o), by August 31, so that an additional printed notice of candidates can be distributed to SHCA members, if necessary. 2) A motion approved by the board that the corresponding secretary be responsible for organizing the distribution of the newsletter, as well as maintaining communication between area groups and the SHCA in spheres of mutual interest. 3) Whether or not the SHCA should give a letter of approval, requested by the developers of the Dock Side restaurant, of the location of the restaurant and bar in the Postal Workers Building at 8th and Locust Sts. (not within SHCA boundaries). 4) Whether or not the SHCA membership list should ever be used for any other purpose besides Association official business. The range of possibilities include (a) the use of the list for official business only, (b) use of the list for invitational purposes at the discretion of the board, the policy of the board being that the membership list not be made available to anyone for commercial use. (Context of a motion passed at the SHCA board meeting of March 25, 1980), that the SHCA membership list be sold for profit. Jim Straw, Roger Thanhauser and Karl Wenk will discuss these possibilities at the September 17 meeting. 5) That the Redevelopment Authority site at Front and Dock Sts. be offered for use as a 100-room hotel that would be more compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood (one similar in scale to the Georgetown Inn in Washington, D.C.) rather than the 400-room hotel with 275 parking spaces presently being proposed by the City Planning Commission for this site. (The membership in the past has strongly favored residential development of this site). Please consider the above issues carefully and come prepared to make your vote count on the issue

THREE CANS IN THE FOUNTAIN

Sunday, July 13 was Day 4 of Bill Green's officially declared War on Litter, so we decided to see how the battle was faring in Society Hill. In a nutshell, we lost. By 7:30 p.m. the evidence of disaster was strewn about the neighborhood like Union soldiers at Gettysburg. Newspapers, napkins, straws, beer bottles, cigarette wrappings and worse claimed the streets and sidewalks. The litter baskets runneth over. Probably the sorriest sight was the unnamed park on the I-95 cover. The dried-out grass and pathways were awash with litter. The new fountain in front of the Society Hill Towers was cheerfully discharging roaring streams into a stained sea. The children gamboling in it didn't seem to mind, though. Around the fountain a regiment of soda cans feebly lined the walls. We also spotted one pamper (used) and a rather wet and seedy pair of jocky shorts.

If the park didn't depress you, you could go over to Head House. Now we know why they call it The Shambles. There were the usual napkins stubbornly clinging to the usual sticky sidewalks. The usual jugglers were tossing about the usual flaming Indian clubs to the usual applause of the usual tank-topped hordes. The usually turned-off Lombard Street fountain was gushing, though, although the water was falling into the usually filthy base, pulping the napkins and brown bags and beer cans and paper cups and pizza ends into a pasty froth. Behind them stood one of those monolithic concrete trash cans, its mouth disgorging an effluvia of soda cans which rose two feet in the air before running over and surrounding its base like repulsive lava from some Dante-esque volcano.

We are told that the city has financial problems. They were not caused by Society Hill. Indeed, between property taxes and wage taxes, we suspect that each household in the neighborhood contributes from \$50 to \$100 weekly to the city coffers. The jam-packed restaurants and bars bring in even larger revenues. We are also told that the city has a fierce unemployment problem. It would seem relatively simple and not financially unfeasible or unsound, to put clean-up crews to work when the area has the most visitors -- while the litter is being created -- on weekends around the clock, from April through October.

Perhaps the most instructive sight that dirty Sunday was the New York couple wrinkling their noses. "We'll never come back to this pigpen," they said. Amen.

P.S. A follow-up tour at 11 p.m. the following Sunday showed some progress. The pumper was gone and the park looked fairly presentable. The big fountain was free of litter, but green, slimy and still filled with kids. Hepatitis, anyone? Head House looked neater. The soda cans were still erupting from unemptied trash cans, but the beer bottles seemed fewer. The brick sidewalk at the tail of the Shambles was badly deteriorated and loose bricks had replaced the sticky napkins. We'll keep you posted on progress of the clean-up program. In the meantime, why don't you drop us a line and tell us what you've been noticing on the trash front. Write to The Resident, Box 3, Philadelphia, Pa., 19105. We'll pass on your reports.

ODDS AND ENDS

Bus Shelters - the City has assured the SHCA Board that no more bus shelters will be put in SH in the near future and, when they are, easements from abutting neighbors will be sought. Because it is impossible to learn where new ones will be placed, the situation should be monitored. Convenience and Safety Corp. of Phila. is the developer.

Suggestions Box - 24 pages of problems compiled by neighborhood volunteers for the April 26 "First Great Annual Society Hill Vernal Pretty Up and Historic Balloon Race Day" were passed on to Wilson Goode, Managing Director on June 20 for his consideration. We assume he'll report to us on September 17.

Street Lights on Front Street - these are state-controlled and connected with I-95 landscaping project. The Penn's Landing Square condo committee objecting to light conditions there will have to deal with the state (call Sam Rappaport). If trash and maintenance is the problem, that's the City's bailiwick. (Call Joy Lindy).

Street vendors - the police have been a great help with removing vendors in restricted residential areas. Call them if you have complaints.

MUSIC ON THE DELAWARE

The beat goes on at Penn's Landing where a full calendar of events - most of them musical - will keep toes tapping now through early September. But, my, God, can't they keep the volume control turned down. Like, it's too piercing, man! You can hear them bopping a half mile inland!

For those with lazy weekday afternoons, there are the Afternoon Concerts at 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offered in cooperation with the City's Department of Recreation, the Penn's Landing Lunchtime Weekday Shows began June 30 and will continue through August 30.

Look for a Polish Festival on Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17 when a colorful celebration of Polish pride will bring dancing and culinary delights to the Delaware River esplanade.

Youngsters will have their own entertainment when the Camerata Opera Theater takes over the Floating Stage for a production of "Little Red Riding Hood" on August 10 and "Cinderella" on August 30. Performances of both shows will be held at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Little folks who like to hear stories are invited to Story Telling Theater in the Landing's World Sculpture Garden on Monday, September 1 at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday nights during the month of August will be devoted to Jazz at 8 p.m. Dates and performers are: August 6 - Cullen Knight Sextet; August 13 - Bill Newman Six + 1; August 20 - Ted Forrest Sextet and August 27 - Bernie Berle Band.

Dockside Concerts will be held on Saturday afternoons and evenings during August. On August 2, Josh White, Jr. will perform at 4 p.m. and Jim Labig is scheduled for 8 p.m. The following Saturday, August 9, Guy Van Duser and Billy Novick will be on stage at 4 p.m. and Priscilla Herdman will star at 8 p.m. The entertainment on August 23 will be provided by Tahuantinsuyo at 4 p.m., and by Tony Bird at 8 p.m. August 30 performances will be by John Roberts and Tony Barrand at 4 p.m., and by Saul Broudy at 8 p.m.

Sunday adult concerts will feature the Big Band Sound. The schedule for the 4:30 p.m. concerts includes: Cal Shaw Orchestra, August 3; Red Garter Dixieland Band, August 10; Polka Band, August 17 and The Stardusters, August 24.

THE MARINES HAVE LANDED AND THE SITUATION IS ALL FOULED UP

Almost a decade ago, an association of retired US Marines managed to get hold of a parcel at Dock and Spruce to build a museum to commemorate the founding of the Marines in Philadelphia during the Revolutionary period. SHCA opposed the award on the grounds that the Marines already had a museum in the Independence Historic Park, that the neighborhood was already overly-museumed, that the site would be better as open space. The Marines were represented by Louis Johannson, then a deputy in the Tate Administration. Needless to say, Tate's people awarded the site to the Marine War Memorial Foundation, which was never able to raise enough money to build a museum. They did get enough to dig a hole, though. And the Rizzo Administration hosted a fancy ground-breaking. After several years of watching the hole, Penn's Landing Square residents and the SHCA reported it was a public nuisance and danger and asked that the Foundation's 99-year lease on the ground be cancelled and the site restored as parkland. The Green Administration had the hole filled and graded after that, at about the same time that Louis Johannson, by now a City Councilman, had been indicted for his alleged role in the Abscam happening. Semper paratus.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Sometimes a hole in the ground isn't so bad after all. Take the case of the twin low-rise apartment buildings on the northwest corner of 4th and Spruce. The plan was proposed eons ago and opposed by neighbors on the ground that it flagrantly violated the Urban Renewal Plan. Eventually, the developer dug out basements and fenced off the area. For years nothing more happened. Then suddenly, as if by magic, the developer started building like mad. When the apartment houses were completed, they had marble staircases that blocked most of the sidewalk on Fourth Street and a big multi-car garage accessed from Spruce Street, a street which the City Planning Commission has long ruled cannot be accessed for parking. When residents screamed to City Hall, Wilson Goode's office promised the case would be investigated.

MEET YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICIALS

1980-81 Officers and Board Members: Michael Willmann (p) 335 South 2nd WA2-1415 (o); 925-9283 (h), Nancy Frenze (vp) 532 Manning Walk WA3-5459, Helen Rodgers (s) 437 Spruce Street 923-2877, Robert S. Thanhauser, Jr. (t) 210 Locust St. (3-B) 609-235-3511 (o); 922-7896 (h)

NE: Kathleen M. Lynch, 210 Locust St., 9-G, 988-2700 (o); 923-7659 (h), James Bennett Straw, 112 Spruce St., 561-1050 (o); 925-7399 (h), Mary R. (Sissy) Futchler, 273 South Third St., MA7-2857.

SE: Carole M. Saft, 314 S. Front St., 922-4888, Karl E. Wenk, Jr., 110 Pine Street, 925-5390, William G. Filmyer, 313 South American St., 925-2348, Fredric Edelstein, 103 Pine Street, 925-2703.

NW: Myrna Paul Field, 530 Manning Walk, 545-1913 (o), Aaron Jay Beyer, 632 Spruce Street, WA5-4288, Robert J. Holtz, 43 St. James Court, 928-1809 (h); 665-8300 (o).

SW: Milton (Tony) Schneider, 345 S. Fifth St., 925-3233 (o); 923-1911 (h), Elizabeth H. Ostrander, 408 S. Sixth St., WA2-6179 (o); 922-0895 (h).

1980-81 Committees

Newsletter - Jan Stephano 923-4921, Alan Halpern 925-3431
Legal Review - Paul Putney 925-1413, Joanne Denworth 925-9513, Harry Goldberg 569-3700 (o); 629-1228 (h).
Neighborhood Preservation Coalition - Joy Lindy 922-4042
Trash - Nula Thanhauser 922-7896 and Liz Ostrander WA2-6179 (o); 922-0895 (h)
Pennsylvania Hospital - Dr. Paul Wallner 922-6376
Independence Place - Marsha Perelman 293-0410 (o); 922-7822 (h)
Advisory - Joy Lindy
Communications - Nancy Frenze
Zoning, Design Review and Urban Renewal - Jim Straw
Fund Raising - Aaron Beyer, Bill Filmyer
Legal Review - Paul Putney, Joanne Denworth, Harry Goldberg
Liquor - Marsha Perelman
Long-Range Planning - Karl Wenk, Nancy Frenze
Membership - Carole Saft
Neighborhood Preservation Coalition - Karl Wenk, Joy Lindy
Nominating - Michael Willmann
Resident Newsletter - Alan Halpern
Streets, Traffic and Parking - Tony Schneider, Carole Saft
Real Estate Taxes - Tony Schneider, Bob Holtz
By-Laws - Bob Holtz, Tony Schneider, Karl Wenk
Trash - Elizabeth Ostrander, Myrna Field, Bill Filmyer, Nula Thanhauser

Ad Hoc Committees

Cable Television - Tony Schneider
Chernock Properties - Aaron Beyer, Marsha Perelman
Anti Disco - Gee Elliott
Head House Craft Fair - Fredric Edelstein
Low Income Housing - Liz Ostrander
Neighborhood Crime Protection -
NewMarket - Karen Edelstein, Sissy Fatcher
Pennsylvania Hospital - Aaron Beyer, Dr. Paul Wallner
Political Forum -
Tun Tavern -
Independence Place - Marsha Perelman, Nancy Frenze
Abbott's Dairy - Fredric Edelstein

Some ad hoc committees are in need of chairperson. If you wish to be a chairperson of one of these committees or active on a committee, please contact the chairperson or an officer of the board.

FEAST, DO YOUR STUFF

France has Paul Bocuse and Boston has Julia Child but Society Hill has its great cooks, too. To prove it, we're going to run a series of favorite recipes by local amateurs de cuisine. Our first entry is a beat-the-heat meal prepared by Joan Putney who runs a class in child cooking at Old Pine, is an inveterate bread-baker and is married to a chap who was a lot leaner when he was single:

A Summer Supper: Menu: Gaspacho, London Broil, Sphagetti with fresh basil peas and macaroon pie. For the soup use: 1 cup onion, chopped; 3 cups cucumber, peeled and chopped; 2 cups green pepper, seeded; 2 large cans Italian tomatoes; 2 cans consomme; 1/2 cup lemon juice; 1 1/2 cup V-8; 1/2 cup olive oil; 2 1/2 tsp. salt; 1/4 tsp. each of pepper, basil, marjoram, thyme, oregano; 1/2 tsp. each of parsley, tarragon; 1 clove garlic, minced; optional - a few dashes hot pepper sauce. Combine all ingredients in bowl. Blend in blender, not until smooth, but let there be texture and recognizable pieces of vegetable. Chill and serve with croutons. For the London Broil use: 1/2 cup soy sauce; 2 1/2 tablespoons brown sugar; 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1/2 tsp. ginger; 1/2 tsp. garlic salt; 1 large London Broil. Combine first 5 ingredients in a stainless steel or glass bowl. Put meat in and marinate in the refrigerator for a few hours or up to 10 days. Broil as you like and serve hot or cold. For the sphagetti with fresh basil use: 8 slices bacon; 2 eggs; 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves chopped; salt and pepper to taste; 2 cloves garlic, crushed; 1/2 lb. finely grated Swiss cheese; 1 lb. box thin spaghetti noodles. Fry bacon until crisp. Drain and crumble. Save grease. In a bowl beat eggs and mix in basil, salt, pepper, garlic and cheese. Boil noodles according to package directions. When done, pour bacon grease into boiling noodle water. Stir through and drain noodles in colander. Toss noodles with egg-cheese mixture. Serve in bowl, garnished with crumbled bacon. For the Macaroon pie use: 1 package (about a pound) macaroons; bourbon whiskey, 2 quarts ice cream (coffee, butter almond, toffee, praline); 1/2 pint heavy cream. Crumble macaroons and soak in about 1/4 to 1/2 cup whiskey. Pat into 9" pie plate and chill. Soften ice cream a bit, so it can be spooned into shell. Top with whipped cream to which you have added another 1/4 to 1/2 cup whiskey. Serve as soon as assembled or keep in freezer until dessert time. More recipes to come...

COMPANIES COMING

Corporate Members (Dues for corporate membership are \$100.) - Provident National Bank, Domsy and Simon Advertising, Plumer-Levitt Real Estate, Philadelphia Maritime Museum, Lily's of Philadelphia, Penn Mutual Life Insurance, Dickens Inn, Central Penn National Bank, Institute for Scientific Information.

Non-Corporate Associate Members (Dues for non-corporate associate members are \$25.) - Shirt Corner, Society Hill Veterinary Hospital, This End Up Furniture, Dr. Timothy J. Michals and Dr. Theodore W. Wasserman, Society Hill Club.

Congratulations and thanks to the above new corporate and non-corporate members. Many were solicited and these chose to join the SHCA under our new membership drive. A welcome from all of us.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

Archaeology at NewMarket, an exhibit of artifacts that was first mounted for the bicentennial, has been reinstalled in the BakeHouse.

It is now open as a permanent exhibit of artifacts that were found, processed and preserved by formal excavations during the restoration of NewMarket from 1970-1976. The exhibit is a joint venture between the Atwater Kent Museum of the City of Philadelphia and NewMarket, a project of Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company.

The archaeological excavations at NewMarket were planned as an integral part of the restoration. Working closely with The Redevelopment Authority, the City Planning Commission and the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the archaeological team, headed by Dr. Barbara Liggett, was able to retrieve and substantiate information which established the life-style of 18th and early 19th century Philadelphians.

The exhibit contains only a fraction of the 4,000 reconstructed vessels that have been counted to date. Among them are a fine range of English tablewares and teawares, and other housewares such as tankards, chamber pots, bowls, dishes, porringers and jugs produced by Philadelphia potters for local use and export to other colonies.

Archaeology at NewMarket will be open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and additional hours by arrangement. Admission is free.

Archaeologists of the future will no doubt be intrigued when they unearth such current NewMarket staples as the edible pants on sale at the nut shop and the cheeky toilet seat covers available at the bath shop.

THE TAXMAN COMETH

Tony Schneider (925-3233 (0); 923-1911 (h)) is chairman of the SHCA Real Estate Committee. Call Tony if you want information on the old assessment of your home, the new assessment, the market value, the address and the date of the last reassessment, or if you wish to ask Tony for some information on the subject.

ZONING UPDATE

Dock Side - A family-oriented, moderately-priced restaurant is proposed for the Postal Workers' House at 8th and Locust. Eighteen neighbors would be directly impacted by the opening of the restaurant. In a recent poll of the immediate neighbors, a majority did not object. The SHCA board has not taken a position at this time.

Front and Pine - A petition signed by neighbors has been handed to Councilman Tayoun for Tow-Away and No Parking on the south side of 100 block of Pine and west side of Front between Pine and Delancey.

Abbott's Dairy - This site between Lombard, South, Second and Third will be marketed and four developers presently have shown interest. Report has it that a tower, twin-tower or midrise will be proposed. The SHCA board presently favors low-density, residential development.

Exchange Place - 3rd and Walnut SHCA approved plans for the development of four townhouses with parking on this site.

214 Spruce - SHCA board does not object to zoning variance to put in a rear parking space.

712 Locust - The property was sold to Pesot Construction Co. in early July for a ten-condo unit with 13 parking spaces - three will be sold to the Square residents.

707 Pine - The tax abatement is still not through City Council and therefore no development can commence.

6th and Wash. Square - All legal opposition has been removed and the south tower should start construction August 1, with completion in 1982 and commencement of the north tower at that time.

Dock Street Site (triangular plot in front of Bookbinders) - The City will advertise this site for commercial use within existing Urban Renewal controls by August 1, 1980, but they will accept proposals which would increase the present height limitation from 40 to and up to 110 feet. The developers have 60 days to submit proposals, at which time the City will decide whether to negotiate with finalists, enter a second stage competition on design or consider residential alternatives based on lack of interest in commercial development. The neighbors directly impacted (towers and Pei houses) along with residents at large favor residential development of the site. The Society Hill Towers resident owners voted by a 5-1 margin for residential development of the parcel over commercial development. However, in view of the consent decree requiring the City to market the property commercially, the Washington Square Townhouse Council (Pei Houses) voted (almost unanimously) at their annual June meeting for a recommendation that would accommodate a 100-room hotel which would be compatible to the residential character of the neighborhood, one similar in scale to the Georgetown Inn, rather than the 400-room hotel with 275 parking spaces that developers favor. This matter will be brought before the membership in September. Parking and traffic congestion as well as view were of prime concern to the Towers residents. The City has not responded to the neighborhood's concerns over the critical issues of parking and access other than to give an overview of parking availability, present access patterns and recommendations of how access can best be achieved in a new development. The access issue is further complicated by the City's efforts currently underway to consider expanded access of I-95

and the awaiting of the opening of the Park Authority garage at 2nd and Sansom. Due to the possibility of a suit filed by a resident or group of residents based on the height and use concerns, it is hoped that the developer and the City will abide by the existing 40-foot height restrictions in the Urban Renewal Plan and act in a good faith effort with the community to solve the immediate parking problems. Surprisingly, the Rizzo Administration appears to have been more responsive to local concerns than the Green Administration has been thus far Dick Doran seems determined to see a large hotel go into the site, rather than the several dozen houses residential developers have already proposed.

DARTS AND LAURELS

- Laurel - To Joel Chernock for sweeping.
- Dart - To A&P co-managers, Robert Riley and Mary Middleton, for the Fagin-style boy's camp outside the entrance to their market.
- LAUREL - To RDA for its promise to see why there's been no development at 502 Spruce. It's been a year since owner Joseph Cruz got approval to develop the property and so far nothing has happened.
- Dart - To Aquaro and Fantasia Associates for filing a taxpayer's suit against Redevelopment Authority (RDA) on the 712 Locust property after it was taken away from them for non-development... we've always heard: no work ... no deposit returned.
- LAUREL - To Police Captain Wendell Rich for the 6th District who was recently promoted to Staff Inspector and a hearty welcome to his successor, Capt. Henry Marek.
- Dart - To RDA and whoever else is responsible for the unkempt condition of 707 Pine. If the agency has control of the property, it shouldn't let it become an eyesore.
- Dart - To the Sunday worshippers at St. Georges who have been blocking Manning Street with their cars. Render unto Caesar ...
- Dart - To La Buca's parking valets who have made the 700 block of Locust Street the most active parking lot in the city; and to La Buca for the left-outside leftovers which have given Eighth Street an unholy stench.
- Dart - To Mike Guzzardi, an unsuccessful candidate for state rep, for not removing all his election posters.
- Dart - To the Delancey Street resident who conscientiously sweeps in front of his house, then dumps the refuse, bottles and trash around the corner on the east side of 2nd Street.
- Laurel - To Western Savings Bank for sweeping their sidewalk on a regular basis. Lets reward them with our deposits.
- Dart - To the pushcart syndicate which controls the corners of Delaware Avenue at Spruce and Dock Streets. They sell canned sodas by the thousands and provide no clean-up. We think their permit might be checked.

Goodbye now... the staff thanks the staff for contributions to this issue. Next Newsletter will be in October. Deadline for articles is Septmeber 15 and may be mailed to the Resident Newsletter, Box 3, Phila. 19105.

Tear off and Robert S. Thanhauser, Jr. Please renew my(our) membership
Mail to: 210 Locust Street-Apt. 3B in the Association for May 1980-
 May 1981.

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

Add \$1 per member for your numbered SHCA parking sticker.