

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE MINUTES OF
THE SIXTIETH STATED MEETING OF
THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

27 March, 1962

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Present were: Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols
Mr. George K. Trautwein
Mr. R. Norris Williams, II.

Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman

Also present: Mr. Philip Carroll, representing Commissioner Corleto
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Secretary

Unless otherwise stated, all actions mentioned herein were taken after motions properly presented, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES of the 27 February, 1962, Meeting were approved.

REPORTS

The Committee on Historic Values, Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols, Chairman

The Report was approved and ordered to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes. Several matters in the report were acted upon separately.

1. A sign for 217 Spruce Street was approved provided that it be displayed on special occasions only. A letter to this effect will be sent to the owner and to the Art Commission. The Art Commission's suggestions, embodied in the letter from its Executive Secretary, regarding size and design of this sign will be followed. The Historical Commission went on record disapproving of signs in general.
2. The Certificate of Merit. A statement of the regulations governing the awarding of this certificate will be presented to the Commission at its next meeting.

The Chairman stated that the Mayor will present the first certificate to the owner of 330 South Camac Street, Mr. Joseph T. Fraser, Jr., Director of the Academy of the Fine Arts.

The Architectural Committee, Mr. George K. Trautwein, Chairman

The report was approved and ordered to be filed with the authorized copy of the Minutes.

The Commission's Activities. Dr. Tinkcom's report was approved and ordered to be filed with the authorized copy of the Minutes. The Report was

REPORTS continued

acted upon as follows:

1. Old Pine Project. It was recommended that a letter be sent to Mr. Paul A. White, Executive Secretary to Presbyterian Homes, Inc., 300 Suburban Building, Ardmore, saying the Historical Commission recommends the restoration of the old buildings on Addison and on Lombard Streets; and another letter to Dr. Alexander Mackie, reiterating the Commission's interest in these certified buildings. This was approved.
2. Dr. Tinkcom suggested that the office for international visitors be asked to take an interest in moving to the Physick House, 321 South Fourth Street. This suggestion was withdrawn after discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Demolition by Neglect. Mr. Carroll stated that the City Solicitor's Office is reluctant to proceed on the present basis of information. It was moved, seconded and carried that the matter be kept on the agenda and that a list of other cities, beside New Orleans, having such ordinances, be given to Mr. Carroll.

Delaware Expressway. No action was taken, except that it was resolved that the Expressway be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

Fifth Street Shopping Centre. Action postponed until further information is available from the Redevelopment Authority.

Measured Drawings by Mr. George A. Robbins. The Chairman reported that five sheets of authenticated details are ready to present to the Commission. Discussion followed on means of duplicating these, for a fee, at the request of interested individuals. It was agreed that the Department of Records will make copies and charge the public for prints. Mr. Robbins will have the final two sheets ready soon.

Ordinance on Aesthetics. Mr. Simon stated that he will attend the Conference in New York on April 3, to be held at the Hotel Plaza on the subject of urban aesthetics. It was proposed that this ordinance be incorporated with that of the Demolition by Neglect. The Commission was reminded that, in general, the Art Commission has jurisdiction over the aesthetic factors of buildings. Members of the Commission expressed pleasure that the Chair would represent the Commission in New York.

NEW BUSINESS

Preston Retreat. Mr. Trautwein reported on his inspection of the building and stated that developers have offered the Pennsylvania Hospital an acceptable price for the property which will be demolished and an apartment house erected on the site. The building is in good condition and worthy of preservation for several kinds of use. It was approved that the Preston Retreat be brought to the attention of Mr. McConnell of the PIDC

The Harrison Building. The Commission agreed to take no action on this uncertified building.

NEW BUSINESS continued

Letitia Street building. The Commission agreed to express no opinion on the proposal that this building be moved.

Air conditioning for certified buildings. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Architectural Committee, since each presentation must be judged on its own merits.

Report to the Mayor. It was approved that a copy of these Minutes and of the Reports be sent to the Mayor.

A plaque for City Hall. It was approved that Plaque No. 75 be authorized for City Hall.

243 Delancey Street. The Architectural rendering showing the proposals for the restoration of this certified building were viewed by the Commission. The architect will be asked to submit a site plan before any recommendations are possible.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted