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MINUTES OF THE NINETY-FIRST STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

30 March 1965

Present were: Mr. James L. Ferguson, Deputy Director of Finance
Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols
Mr. John Taxin
Councilman Mary A. Varallo

Mr. Grant M. Simon, Chairman

Also present: Mr. George S. Forde, Secretary, Mayor's Administrative Board
Mr. Oscar Goodstein, Public Property Administrative Services Officer
Mr. Myer Kerman, Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Secretary
Mrs. William L. Shannon, Clerk

Unless otherwise noted, all action taken herein is the result of motions properly made, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES of the Meeting held on 23 February 1965 were approved as circulated.

REPORTS

The Historical Values Committee, Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols, Chairman
The Report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copies of these Minutes.

Architectural Committee Meeting, Mr. George K. Trautwein, Chairman.
Mr. Trautwein's Report, read by the secretary in his absence, was approved and directed to be filed.

The Commission's Activities, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian.
The Report was approved and directed to be filed.

OLD BUSINESS

Delaware Expressway, Archaeological Studies. Dr. Tinkcom stated that letters have been written to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways, Mr. Harral, who seems to misunderstand their import. Dr. Tinkcom read excerpts from a letter from Miss Penelope Hartshorne and Mr. Lee Nelson, writing as private citizens, who cited three points which might be incorporated into another letter from the Commission to Mr. Harral, regarding the necessary arrangements to be made for a proper salvage program before any contracts are let.

Mrs. Varallo and Mr. Taxin asked for copies of the correspondence.

Dr. Nichols agreed to meet with Dr. Cotter and report to the Historical Commission. Nothing further will be done until that report is received.

NEW BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

The Delaware Expressway, a proposal to build it below grade. The secretary reported on a meeting at the Downtown Club 5 March 1965, called to discuss plans to tunnel the Expressway from Arch to Pine Streets. The secretary also read a letter from the Secretary of the Vestry, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church, asking that the proposed tunnel be extended as far south as Washington Avenue.

It was resolved that the Commission is in accord with this request and with the proposal made at the Downtown Club. It was resolved that letters be sent to both the Committee to Preserve Philadelphia's Historic Gateway and to Gloria Dei to that effect.

It was noted that the first study drawings for an express highway to carry traffic through Philadelphia had been made in 1932 by Mr. Simon.

Redevelopment Authority's proposed contract with the Historical Commission for historical research. Dr. Tinkcom reported on a meeting with Mr. Clarence G. Alhart, Deputy Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority, in which the relation of the Historical Commission with his agency was discussed in the light of their mutual interest in areas of the city where there are historical values to be preserved. Dr. Tinkcom read a memorandum from Mr. Alhart which resulted from that meeting (see attached). Dr. Tinkcom reported that at Mr. Alhart's request, the approximate cost of preparing the kind of historical survey the Redevelopment Authority requests for each building in which the Philadelphia Historical Commission is interested was discussed with Dr. Nichols and the figure of \$75.00 decided upon.

This proposal of the Redevelopment Authority's will require an enlarged budget for the Historical Commission in order to maintain the Commission's trained staff.

Mr. Kerman stated that there are two ways of getting more money for the research program: Ask Council for additional funds which would ultimately be offset by money coming in under this contract with the Redevelopment Authority, the contract to be with the commission not with the individual Historian or her staff. Or, payments could be made to the Historian(s) directly as is now being done.

Mr. Ferguson stated that any money required for this program would have to be within the Commission's overall budget; that any additional money would be most difficult to find.

It was determined that the Law Department should be consulted before there are any further talks with the Redevelopment Authority.

The Chairman's query regarding the advisability of going to Council to ask for increased funds for use in 1965 was answered by Mr. Kerman who advised that this be done only for the expanded program for 1966.

Dr. Tinkcom was asked how much money would be needed for the balance of this year and replied that \$3500 for Miss Porter for the second half of 1965 would be sufficient. Dr. Tinkcom spoke of certain funds

NEW BUSINESS continued

in Germantown which possibly could be directed toward research in the Market Square area. Dr. Tinkcom agreed to take this matter up with Mr. Hornung, Executive Director of Colonial Germantown, Inc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, on Motion by Mr. Taxin, at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

After the meeting was adjourned the problem of Commission finances was discussed informally by several members of the Commission and Mr. Forde. It was proposed that a request for an immediate increase in the Commission's funds might be received favorably by Council, and that Councilman Varallo be approached in this matter.