

MINUTES OF THE 196th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

4 September 1975

Dr. F. Otto Hays, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Hays, Chairman
Charles E. Tyson, Vice Chairman
The Hon. John E. Kelly, Jr., Councilman-at-Large
Edward Pinkowski
Joseph Hickey, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission
David Rosenblum, Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Sloniowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 3 July 1975, were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Reports of the Architectural Committee for 13 July 1975, 5 August 1975, 19 August 1975 and 28 August 1975 were approved by the Commission and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Mr. Herbert Levy, appointed by the Mayor as the Councilman's Architectural Advisor, will succeed Mr. Magaziner who resigned this post several months ago. The Chairman asked Miss Sloniowski to prepare a resolution acknowledging Mr. Magaziner's service to the Commission.

The Chairman asked the staff what recourse the Commission had when an historically certified structure is unsuitably altered without the required building permits from the Department of Licenses and Inspections and the Commission's approval, as in the case of 215 Chestnut Street (see Minutes of the Architectural Committee for 5 August 1975). Mr. Tyler reported that the Commission had the authority to refuse to sign the building permit application when brought in for the legalization of work but that the Commission could not require the owner to return the building to its previous condition.

The Board agreed that some form of penalty might be helpful in discouraging illegal work on certified buildings. Mr. Kelly offered to introduce an ordinance into City Council if the staff with the assistance of Mr. Rosenblum would draft the proposed text. Mr. Rosenblum agreed to confer with Mr. Tyler concerning this matter and to draft the proposal for the Board's review.

Nominations for the Certification of Buildings, Richard Tyler, Historian.

At the request of the owners, the following buildings were certified by the Commission:

Walters Memorial A.M.E. Church, 609 South Clifton Street
2103-05 Lombard Street

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, Report on, Richard Tyler, Historian. Dr. Tyler's Report for the month of August was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Mr. Tyler expressed the hope that the Art Club situate at 220 South Broad Street might still be saved from demolition at this late date. The building is being considered by the Jenkins Law Library for acquisition and use as the Bar Association's Law Library. If necessary, the Commission will ask the Bankers Security Corporation for additional time to arrange for the completion of a feasibility study of this project.

OLD BUSINESS

Haviland Paneling, Richard Tyler, Historian. Since the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company can use only a very small portion of the paneling for display, they agreed to give up all of the paneling if a better home could be found for it. In order to save the paneling intact, Mr. Tyler recommended that the Commission consider allowing the paneling to be given to a museum outside of Philadelphia. The City might prepare a package for the sale of the paneling with the advertisement of bids through the Department of Public Property. The Commission left the matter in the hands of the staff and requested that it be discussed with the Department.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from William Rafsky, Philadelphia '76, Inc., Richard Tyler, Historian. Philadelphia '76, Inc. has expressed an interest in making application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for money to fund an archaeological "dig" and exhibit at Head House Square. At the request of William Rafsky, the Commission is being asked to make this application through Philadelphia '76 as a non-profit group. The space for the exhibit is being contributed by Van Astor and Moss, Developers. The \$40,000 to \$60,000 being requested, on a matching basis, will be used to maintain and display the collection and to publish a pamphlet on the project.

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The Commission agreed to cooperate with Mr. Hafsky and directed the staff to assist Philadelphia '76 in making this application. Mr. Mickey agreed to check with Mr. Hafsky concerning the source for the matching funds. A total amount of 3 million dollars in matching money is available in the Capital Budget for use during Fiscal 1976 and could be offered to Philadelphia '76 if no other source of funding has been arranged.

Charles Tyson asked to be recorded as not voting on this matter.

NAAS Catalog, Reimbursement of Expenditures, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Board approved the reimbursement of \$20.01 to Mr. Tyler for xerography. This cost was incurred in connection with the publication of the Catalog.

The Annual Meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Richard Tyler, Historian. The Board unanimously agreed to have Mr. Tyler represent the Philadelphia Historical Commission at the Annual Meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Boston, October 6 - 12, 1975. Dr. Haas reported to the Board that funds to cover Mr. Tyler's expenditures were available for use in Class 200 of the Fiscal 1976 Operating Budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Simionescu
Executive Assistant to the Chairman

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