

MINUTES OF THE 169th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

7 September 1972

Present: Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Richmond P. Miller, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Edward Pinkowski
Charles R. Tyson
Robert Silver, Deputy Commissioner of Public Property
James L. Ferguson, Deputy Director of Finance
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkson, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Isador Kransel, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor
Mrs. Joseph Segal, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Barbara Liggett, Archaeological Consultant to the Commission

Also: Frank Morris, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Lewis Kremer, A.I.A., Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

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

Before continuing with the usual business of the day, Mr. Tyson presented the Commission's new Chairman to the Board and suggested that a motion be made to endorse Dr. Haas' appointment and formally elect him Chairman of the Commission. A motion was so made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Dr. Haas graciously accepted his position as Chairman; thanked the Board; and proceeded with the meeting.

THE MINUTES for the Stated Meeting 6 July 1972 were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 18 July 1972 was read, in part, to the Commission by Mrs. Maurer. It was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

REPORTS (Cont'd)

Staff Recommendations for Certifying Buildings. The following buildings were certified by the Historical Commission as being worthy of preservation:

200 North Clarion Street
208-10-12-14 North Clarion Street
1313 Race Street
Southwest corner of Race and Juniper
120 Lombard Street
The Old City Historic District: Front (west side) to Fifth (east side)
The Bridge to Walnut (north side)

The Historical Commission was asked by Dr. Tinkcom to act favorably on the certification of the Old City District in view of the City Planning Commission and Redevelopment Authority concern for this area which has been listed as a Historic District by the National Register of Historic Places.

Certification of 237-39-41-43 South Twenty-first Street was deferred until photographs of these structures are available for review.

Report on Historical Commission Activities for July and August, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. This report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

Frank Morris, Director of Project Redevelopment for the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, introduced to the Historical Commission Mr. Lewis Kramer, A.I.A., staff architect for the Authority, who will replace Ira Winarsky as liason between the Commission's Architectural Committee and the Authority. The Historical Commission warmly welcomed Mr. Kramer.

OLD BUSINESS

301 Pine Street. Mr. Pinkowski will attend and testify at a hearing before a Congressional committee on September 8, 1972 concerning the Bill passed by the Senate in March allocating federal funds for the complete restoration of the Kosciuszko House. Mr. Pinkowski is concerned since the National Park Service will request that the designation of the house be changed from "National Historic Site" to "Memorial" permitting only the partial furnishing of the house. Mr. Tyson suggested that a copy of the testimony prepared by Mr. Pinkowski be appended to the Minutes and distributed to all Board members.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Head House and Shambles, Second and Pine Streets. Mr. Silver reported to the Board that his department has examined the market and is in the process of issuing orders to restore the Head House and Shambles to a sound and solid condition. This will include the removal of heavy locks on doors, rewiring, repainting, and interior repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Area F -- Front to Second; Ionic to Sanson Streets. The National Park Service asked the Historical Commission's support for their proposed program in this area.

The Park Service is currently proposing the addition of this site, known as Area F, to the Independence National Historical Park for use as a parking garage to replace a parking lot presently located at Third and Chestnut Streets. In view of the historic character of this area, the Park Service hopes that, in addition to the house associated with Robert Fulton at 129 South Second Street, at least the facades of the two fine Victorian buildings at 125-27 South Second Street might be retained and recommends that a parking facility, sensitive to the architectural interest and scale of the area, be designed.

The Historical Commission agreed to endorse the concept described in this proposal and directed that a letter, to this effect, be sent to Mr. Kimball of the National Park Service.

1706 Walnut Street. A request from Mr. Milton Murland, President of the Walnut Street Association, was received by the Commission asking the Philadelphia Historical Commission's support of this Association's protest against the opening of a MacDonald's Fast Food operation at this location. The Board agreed to support the neighborhood in this matter and it was suggested that a letter be prepared for Dr. Haas' signature and sent.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Miller expressed, for the entire Commission, his gratefulness to Mr. Tyson for serving as Chairman of the Commission with such courage, vision, and ability. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Tyson receive an official commendation for his unselfish dedication to the work of the Historical Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemientkowski
Secretary