

C.A.D.
7/6/72

MINUTES OF THE 167th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 June 1972

Present: Charles R. Tyson, Chairman of the Commission
Hon. John B. Kelly, Jr., Councilman-at-Large
Edward Pinkowski
John Tazin
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian
Mrs. Charles J. Maurer, Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Isador Krangel, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor
Mrs. Joseph Segal, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Mrs. Sydney Patton, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Patricia Sieniontkowski, Secretary

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

THE MINUTES for the Stated Meeting 4 May 1972 were approved and directed to be filed.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 16 May 1972 was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

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

2020 Bainbridge Street (residence of Alexander M. Calder)
Reading R.R. Station at Sedgwick
Chestnut Hill Academy, 500 W. Willow Grove Avenue
8205 Seminole Avenue
433 W. Stafford Street
5128 Wayne Avenue
3401 Powalton Avenue

Report on Commission Activities, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian.

A report was made on the deteriorating condition of the Head House and open markets at Second and Pine Streets. Mrs. Maurer had noted flaking paint and cracked windows and also a lack of supervision over the activities being carried on during the weekends. Mr. Kelly agreed to talk with Commissioner Costello concerning repairs to the market and its continued maintenance.

Dr. Tinkcom's Report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Correspondence between the Historical Commission and Residents of Delaney Place, pro and con certification. Both Dr. Tinkcom and Mrs. Maurer reported to the Historical Commission on community reaction to the certification of the 1800, 2000, and 2100 blocks of Delaney Place. Of the eighteen residents who responded to the Board's action, fourteen had favorable reactions while four did not. It was Dr. Tinkcom's opinion that these few objections resulted from the owners' misunderstanding of the Commission's work. Mr. Krammel was then asked to speak to this matter.

Mr. Krammel stated that because of the Historical Commission's recent interest in certifying post-Civil War buildings the base of homes listed has tremendously increased and such unfavorable reactions may become more frequent.

The Commission considered the issue and proposed a motion calling for the notification of owners prior to the certification of their property. If no objections are raised, the structures will subsequently be approved for certification. In the case of protest by an owner, the structure in question will again be studied by the Historical Commission.

Additional Funds for the Commission (a report from Dr. Tinkcom). As directed in the Commission's Minutes for 6 April 1972, Dr. Tinkcom investigated the possibility of obtaining funds for the Commission's preservation activities from both the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Register of Historic Places. It was reported that money is only available on a matching basis and only for individual structures. Funds which could be added to the Historical Commission's Operating Budget for surveying and planning are not existent, except for any which might be available from a Foundation or from the Council on the Humanities. The time and effort, however, expended in making application for such a grant, suggested Dr. Tinkcom, might not be worth the effort. The Chairman directed that the matter be tabled for the present.

NEW BUSINESS

The Liberty Bell. Dr. Tinkcom reported to the Commission members the proposal of the Preservation Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects that the Liberty Bell not be moved into the new belfry as planned by the National Park Service but placed in the first floor of the First Bank of the United States.

Mr. Tyson suggested that because of the extent to which the design and planning stages had progressed little could now be done to change present plans.

Both Mr. Taxis and Mr. Kelly expressed their discontent with the Park Service's desire to move the Liberty Bell out of Independence Square and suggested the bell remain in the Park behind Independence Hall protected

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

by a rotunda. Mr. Kelly agreed to get a Councilmanic resolution underway protesting the bell's removal from Independence Square. This will then be forwarded to the Congress.

Washington Square West - Redevelopment Authority's suggestion from its staff. Mrs. Segal suggested to the Commission the possibility of having the Historical Commission's Architectural Committee review plans for the exterior rehabilitation of non-certified buildings in the Washington Square West Redevelopment area as well as certified ones in view of this area's nomination to the National Register. Such an arrangement would give the Historical Commission an opportunity to see that alterations within the historic district would not be unacceptable in an area lined with historic buildings. It was agreed that no action was needed in this matter and that this procedure may be carried out informally by the staffs of both agencies. The same procedure will be followed in the Old City as in Washington Square West.

Volunteers. Dr. Tinkcom reported to the Board members the staff's acquisition of a volunteer worker from Hallahan High School. Dr. Tinkcom requested that \$50.00 be encumbered for this student, Hanna Bonislowski, to pay transportation expenses during the months of June, July and August while she is working for the Commission. Mr. Taxin made a motion that \$100.00 be encumbered to cover Miss Bonislowski's out of pocket expenses. This was seconded and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Sismiontkowski
Secretary