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MINUTES OF THE 252ND STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

5 February 1981

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Rosemary Crumlish
Edward Pinkowski
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission
Frank Thomas, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Architectural Historian
Hillary Browne, Historical Research Technician

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

Before proceeding with the usual business of the day, Mr. Tyler introduced Hillary Browne and Frank Thomas to the Commission members. Mr. Thomas, an Assistant City Solicitor with the Law Department, will serve as the Commission's legal counsel and attend the Commission's monthly Stated Meetings. Ms. Browne, on assignment from the Office of Housing and Community Development, will supplement the Commission's staff of three and allow our continued participation in environmental reviews for OHCD.

The Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Philadelphia Historical Commission held on 6 November 1980 were approved and directed to be filed.

The Reports of the Architectural Committee, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, for 19 November 1980 and 17 December 1980 were reviewed and approved. The Minutes of the 21 January 1981 meeting of the Committee were reviewed and amended. On page 1 under 924 Clinton Street, Mr. Levy asked that the word "bulb" be changed to "fixture". Subject to this revision, the Report for 21 January 1981 was approved. All reports were directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

The Reports on Philadelphia Historical Commission Staff Activities for November, December and January. Mr. Tyler elaborated briefly on several items mentioned in the monthly reports including the present status of the Lit Brothers Department Store. Each of the reports was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Reading Terminal. Mr. Tyler reported on the receipt of a letter from the Reading Company withdrawing its prior objection to the certification of the Reading Terminal and Trainshed at 12th and Market Streets.

Mr. Pinkowski made a motion to acknowledge the Reading Company's decision to accept certification and to certify the head house and trainshed. This motion was seconded and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alfred Crease Public School, 6214-6222 Wissahickon Avenue. The staff advised the Commission of the Philadelphia Association for Christian Schools' decision not to accept the certification of the Alfred Crease Public School. The Association, which plans to sell the building in the near future, expressed its concern for the placement of controls on the property. Following some discussion of the matter, the Commission asked that the Historian contact the Association and offer an explanation of the ramifications of certification. It is hoped that a better understanding of the Commission's jurisdiction over the property will encourage the Association to withdraw its objection.

Letter of appreciation to John C. Mitkus. At the recommendation of the staff, the Commission members voted to send a letter of appreciation to John C. Mitkus for his support and encouragement of the Commission's work during his term as Executive Director of the Planning Commission. Mr. Mitkus is leaving public service to accept a job in the private sector.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Architectural Historian