

Meeting Report

DAG Meeting February 5, 2009

Open Discussion

1. Peter Brown's new book "America's Waterfront Revival" – 20% off coupon distributed
2. Louis I. Kahn's Richards Medical Building - designated a National Historic Landmark Presentation Alliance will take a stand against the demolition of "Shirt Corner" buildings at the Northeast corner of 3rd and Market Streets
3. There might be an effort to "de-certify" the Sidney Hillman complex on the 2100 block of Chestnut (like Shirt Corner)
4. Gregg Heller is heading the taskforce to review and comment on the proposed Dilworth Plaza renovation. It's meeting is scheduled for February 27. Kiki Bollender and John Gibbons have prepared a video of their response
5. Comments are welcome about the proposed Design Review Board (deadline of February 9 for comments has been extended with no new date yet established).
6. Eva Gladstein, the new Chairperson of the Zoning Code Commission, discussed the organization and status of the work based on the 2007 Charter change, making the following points:
 - a. 31 diverse members, some appointees of the new mayor
 - b. Consultants, including George Claflen and WRT, among others, have been selected to create a set of recommendations and a plan of action
 - c. Rewriting will happen late
 - d. There will be ten fact finding community meetings between now and the end of March
 - e. Goal is to make a user friendly and predictable code that protects neighborhoods and spurs development
 - f. The task is how to balance various interests and engage the public
 - g. Best practices will be looked at
 - h. End of August is target date to make a report; at the time that the consultant contracts are over
 - i. The next step is an RFP or RFQ to rewrite the code with the revised deadline of 6/30/2010 at which time it will be reviewed by City Council for their input.

- j. Learned so far: current code is not well organized; enforcement issues are up for discussion
- k. All are encouraged to participate at the open meetings (2nd Wed. of each month @ 8AM in 1515 Arch St, 18th fl.) and by taking the survey @ www.ZoningMatters.org

Alan Greenberger discussed where the Planning Commission will focus in the interim before the new code:

- Work began with Janice Woodcock's Imagine Philadelphia on two tracks – citywide and neighborhood based – looking at what makes a livable neighborhood and deficits like lack of retail, transit, parks, etc.
- Ed Bacon's plan addressed rebuilding the center given the change from the recent industrial past, but not the large areas adjacent to the rivers (38 miles of riverfront) and major rail lines that should be considered a resource.
- Commission's goal for the proposed Design Review Board is not to critique the 'object' of the building, but rather its effect on the public realm.

The following items were distributed:

1. Zoning Code Reform Project – four page outline
2. Market Street East Strategic Plan – notice of Community Meeting, Tuesday, Feb 24th at Dorrance Hamilton Auditorium, 1001 Locust Street