

Revised Zoning Committee Report For March 9, 2010

1. The Benjamin Franklin Institute - On March 1, the Institute made a presentation in the Institute's boardroom to the near neighbors concerning an addition they are planning to make on the Race Street side of the building near 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Neighbors from Woodstock, Lambert, Race and other near streets who might be affected were in attendance. The presentation was very well received and the Institute indicated it would enter into a construction and/or development agreement with us. This matter will be presented to the board of LSNA on 3/9/10.
2. 1700 - 1800 Vine Street - On February 23, the Mormons made a presentation at The Watermark to the near neighbors concerning a temple and meeting house they propose to build on this site. Neighbors from The Watermark, The Tivoli, Carlton Street, the Cathedral, the Albanian church and others attended. There were as many as a hundred in attendance. This presentation was also very well received and their representatives also indicated they would enter into a construction and/or development agreement with us. Like the Franklin Institute, they will also present to the board of LSNA on 3/9/10.
3. The Proposed New Family Court Building - The site for this proposed building is the current parking lot bounded by Arch, Cherry, and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets. I have spoken to the architects for this project and they have agreed to make a presentation first to the near neighbors, probably in the next 2 to 3 weeks, and then to the board of LSNA, probably at our April 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
4. The Ecology Cafe At The Academy Of Natural Sciences - This cafe has been operating at the Academy since 1995. Recently, with a change in management, it was discovered that there was no permit to do so on file. L&I has issued a refusal and the Academy may now have to appeal this to the ZBA for a variance to continue what they have been doing for the last 15 years. They will probably seek a letter of non opposition from us. We should be willing to do so if and when asked.
5. 19<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden - Lori Westler, David Searles and I will be meeting with developer Joe Federman on Friday, March 12 to discuss the issue of sticker 6 parking spaces along 19<sup>th</sup> Street in front of businesses that are proposed to be located there.
6. Sister Cities Park - The Center City District will begin site clearance and excavation at the Sister Cities Park in front of the Cathedral Basilica SS Peter and Paul on March 8. They previously made a presentation to LSNA about this. See the attached for details.

Ed Panek  
Zoning Chair  
3/8/10

## **Preparatory Work for Sister Cities Park Improvements to Begin Next Week**

(March 5, 2010) – In advance of construction later this spring, the Center City District (CCD) will start site clearance and excavation on March 8, testing and exploring sub-surface conditions at select areas of Sister Cities Park, the eastern-most portion of Logan Square in front of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Then, later this spring the CCD will start construction of a children's discovery garden and play area, a fountain commemorating Philadelphia's global sister cities, and a 3,000 square foot pavilion containing a café and community room. The new, one-story building will incorporate contemporary green building systems including geothermal technologies, a green wall and a green roof. New trees, landscaping, walkways and lighting will also be added to the park. The \$4.6 million dollar project is slated for completion in 2011.

“The Center City District has been working for over a decade to improve the Parkway's public spaces with pedestrian and architectural lighting, new directional and interpretive signs, the reconstruction of Aviator Park in front of the Franklin Institute and most recently, the renovation of Three Parkway Plaza and construction of Café Cret,” said CCD President Paul R. Levy. “The Sister Cities Park project is the next step in plans to animate the Parkway.”

The project is one of several Parkway initiatives totaling \$17 million announced in the summer of 2008 by Governor Rendell and Mayor Nutter with support from the Commonwealth, City of Philadelphia, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the William Penn Foundation and the Knight Foundation. Funding for the renovation of Sister Cities Park, being undertaken in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, is from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the State Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Park renovations have been designed by DIGSAU, Pennoni Engineers, Inc. and Studio Bryan Hanes. Site clearance work will be performed by Tony DePaul and Son, Inc. in conjunction with historical survey work by CHRIS, Inc.

*The Center City District is a private-sector sponsored business improvement district dedicated to making Center City Philadelphia clean, safe and attractive. The Center City District is committed to maintaining Center City's competitive edge as a regional employment center, a quality place to live and a premier regional destination for dining, shopping and cultural attractions.*

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