Dear Society Hill Neighbors,

This is a brief update on the two property development matters in our neighborhood.

Proposed tower at 1 Dock Street: At the toe of the Society Hill Sheraton, the City granted a zoning permit for the development of a 31-story high-rise. The Civic Association studied the situation and we filed a challenge to the zoning permit. As you might have heard, on February 5, the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) denied our challenge to the permit. The Civic Association is currently reviewing the matter and deciding whether to appeal the ZBA’s decision to the Court of Common Pleas. On a related front, the City’s Civic Design Review (CDR) panel considered the design of the proposal and thought that several design issues were lacking and is requiring the developer to return to CDR next month. We are part of this CDR process and we have provided input.

The Dilworth House: As you may know, during the redevelopment era, former Mayor Richardson Dilworth and his wife Anne had a grand house built on the east side of Washington Square, on 6th Street between the Athenaeum and the Lippincott Publishing Building. The property goes through to Randolph Street. The Dilworths built the house and moved there with their family as a show of support for the rebirth of the neighborhood. Their architect was G. Edwin Brumbaugh, who had previously renovated Washington Square. Presently, the Dilworth House is owned by a developer, who is proposing to demolish the rear part of the house to make way for an 11-story condominium building. There are two relevant dates coming up: (A) the matter will be presented to the Architect’s Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission this coming Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 9:15am, at 1515 Arch Street, Room 18-029 (18th Floor). (B) assuming this moves forward, the matter will then be presented to the full Historical Commission and it is possible that that presentation will occur at the Commission’s next regularly scheduled meeting, which is Friday, March 8, 2019, at 9:00am, at the same location in 1515 Arch Street. We will keep you posted.

Thank you,

Rosanne Loesch
President