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S O S N A

**Neighborhood Advisory Council
General Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2005**

Ann Hoskins-Brown, Chair opened the meeting at 7:40 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

The minutes from the April 13, 2005 General meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Ann Hoskins-Brown read the zoning agenda for the upcoming SOSNA Community Zoning Meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 and encouraged neighbors to attend.

Ms. Hoskins Brown introduced Ms. Eve Lewis, NAC Director to provide community announcements. Ms. Lewis announced the upcoming 3rd Annual Urban Genesis Spirit Awards sponsored by the Philadelphia District Attorney's (DA) Office. Ms. Lewis introduced Mr. Christopher Sample, Director, Community and Governmental Relations of the DA's office. Mr. Sample gave a brief description of the awards program. The Community Spirit Awards are made possible through Urban Genesis, Inc., the 501 (c)3, non-profit charitable corporation that the District Attorney founded in 1992. Mr. Sample gave the deadline and encouraged residents to submit nominees. Ms. Lewis announced the upcoming General meeting on June 8, 2005 and location change to Graduate Hospital.

Ms. Hoskins-Brown introduced Mr. Walker Gilmore, City Planner with the Philadelphia City Planning Commission to give a presentation of the final draft of the South of South Neighborhood Strategic Plan. Mr. Walker gave a power point presentation of the Plan and had copies of the plan available for review.

Mr. Walker began with the planning process and discussion of the series of meetings convened to gather community input. Phases of the process included: 1) A review of NTI goals, objectives and investment strategy; 2) Discussion of community vision; 3) Preparation of a community assessment and existing conditions analysis; 4) The reviewing options; 5) Development of an implementation strategy; and 6) Wide distribution of the draft community plan for public comment. Mr. Walker discussed the various organizations and agencies that participated and numerous public meetings that were held.

Mr. Walker discussed the various programs that are offered by city agencies i.e. the Targeted Basic Systems Repair Program (TBSRP), which was available for certain blocks in the Service Area. He covered the various topics including community heritage, arts and culture, commercial and economic development, parks, recreation and open space, community facilities and support.

Mr. Walker covered the four (4) sections of the draft, which included the planning process, South of South yesterday and today, the neighborhood analysis and concluded with the recommendations.

Discussion ensued about tax abatements, commercial use versus industrial, and the industrial heritage, character of Washington Ave and open space. There was ongoing discussion on open space. Ms. Terry Gillen, Democratic Ward Leader stated she and Ann Hoskins-Brown and others had been working with Council President Verna's office to secure open space in the service area. It was also noted that the

Schuylkill River Development Corporation is working to gain access from South Street to the Schuylkill River and that the Marian Anderson Recreation Center was programmed for Capital funding.

Discussion ensued regarding parking. Larry Schaeffer discussed traffic calming as a way to design streets, using physical measures to encourage people to drive more slowly. Members discussed the congestion on 22nd Street and all in attendance agreed that parking was definitely a separate meeting agenda.

Ms. Hoskins-Brown thanked Walker Gilmore for his presentation and requested a vote from the membership to approve the Plan. The members present voted in favor of accepting the plan presented. Ms. Hoskins-Brown informed the members that the plan was available for review in the SOSNA office.

Ms. Hoskins Brown introduced Ms. Lewis to present on Streetscape greening (trees). Ms. Lewis informed the residents that due to the busy season and restructuring of Fairmount Park the area Arborist now Dan Dolin was unavailable. She informed residents of the new Street Tree Management Division and contact information. Ms. Lewis discussed what is required to plant trees, when was the best time to plant trees and what is required when independent contractors are hired. Information is available in the SOSNA office for anyone needing additional information.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Eve Lewis
NAC Director