

To The Community:

As a concerned resident of this community, I urge you to get involved with your neighborhood association SOSNA, South of South Neighborhood Association. This organization is authorized to make community decisions regarding housing development, safe streets programs, beautification, zoning and economic development.

At present, the organization is in disarray, and operating without your consent or input. The organization was awarded \$100,000 for economic development by Pathmark for 2007 and is promised \$100,000 for each of the next seven years! Do you know what is being done with this money and who is controlling it?

COME OUT ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 2007, 7 PM MARIAN ANDERSON REC CENTER

Get involved and let your voices be heard. Working class people and long-term residents are under represented in SOSNA's decision-making.

Currently SOSNA'S board of directors

- Consists of 14 members, 13 men and ONE woman!**
- Fails to provide adequate notice for community meetings which would stimulate more diverse participation. Most of its information is communicated via the Internet, leaving large numbers of residents in the dark.**
- Makes major decisions without community input, like rejection of the \$50,000 NAC contract which would have provided energy assistance, weatherization, and referral information regarding housing for low and moderate income residents.**
- Is driven by the interests of developers and market rate housing.**
- Contains board members who do not live in the SOSNA service area, and has members who are suing other board members!**
- Has no policy for disclosure; who are the people on the SOSNA board and what are their economic interests in the community? Who votes for them, and who has oversight of their activities?**

The June 13 meeting is the last General Membership meeting until September 2007.

SOSNA IS SUPPOSED TO SERVE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, NOT THE INTERESTS OF A SELECT FEW!

There is a current SOSNA Board Member who resides in New Jersey and does own property or own a business or run a nonprofit organization within SOSNA’s boundaries. He does not vote in Pennsylvania and does not vote in Philadelphia, yet he holds a seat on the SOSNA Neighborhood Association Board.

Section 2 of Article XI: Elections of the SOSNA Bylaws says, “Only Full Members of SOSNA shall be eligible to be nominated for election to the Board”.

Section 2 of Article IV: Membership says, “Full membership is extended to individuals who have their primary residence or who own real estate within SOSNA’s boundaries, who have a business owned and/or headquartered within SOSNA’s boundaries, or who direct a non-profit organization headquartered within SOSNA’s boundaries. Full members shall be entitled to one vote. Businesses and nonprofit organizations described above may designate one member to cast one vote on their behalf.”

Section 3 of Article IV: Membership says, “Associate members shall be individuals residing outside SOSNA’s boundaries (except as provided in Section 2). Associate members are not eligible to vote.

(1a) The SOSNA Board Member who resides outside of SOSNA’s boundaries, as described above, should be automatically removed from the Board because he no longer meets the eligibility requirements.

Agree _____ Disagree _____

(1b) The SOSNA Board Member who resides outside of SOSNA’s boundaries, as described above, should not be eligible to vote on SOSNA area matters, whether those matters are Board related or General Meeting related. As described in our Bylaws, only Full Members are allowed to vote and Associate Members do not vote.

Agree _____ Disagree _____

Since October 2006 there has been an unfilled SOSNA Board seat. Eight months have passed and the seat remains unfilled. Most would agree that the SOSNA Board is better served with filled board seats rather than vacant board seats. Section VII of Article VII: Organizational Structure says, “Vacancies on the Board shall be filled from membership, nominated by the Board and ratified by majority vote of membership.”

(2) The SOSNA Board shall nominate to fill vacant seats on the SOSNA Board no later than the first Board Meeting following the Board Meeting at which the vacancy is announced to the Board Members.

Agree _____ Disagree _____

A current member of the Board of Directors brought a lawsuit against SOSNA, the Executive Director, and other Board Members. Article XIII: Disclosure says “Upon learning of SOSNA’s consideration of, or involvement in, an issue impacting upon, or having the potential impact upon, the interests of a Board Member or officer in a manner or to a degree not common to the broader community, a Board Member or officer shall immediately disclose such facts to the Chair and to the membership at the next General Meeting, and shall offer to recuse himself.” Many Board Members feel that the lawsuit is a Conflict of Interest, thereby requiring proper disclosure and automatic temporary removal from the Board. Otherwise, how can the Board defend itself from a rouge conspirator from within?

(3) If a Member of the SOSNA Board of Directors brings a lawsuit against SOSNA, it’s employees, or other Board Members, the individual shall follow the conflict of interest policy already present within the SOSNA bylaws, with proper disclosure and automatic temporary removal from the Board.

Agree _____ Disagree _____