



The Source

Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition

Your Source for News and Views in YOUR Community

Volume 2, Number 2

February, 2002

HEC By-Laws Adopted At January Meeting

A majority of members adopted by-laws developed by the By-Laws Committee and distributed at the November meeting.

As you may or may not know, the By-Laws of the Corporation serves as the primary governing document for the organization. In addition to restating the purpose of the corporation (often times more detailed than in the Articles of Incorporation), the By-laws establish the Board of Directors (how many, terms of office, responsibilities and authorities, frequency of meetings, etc.) and many other governance issues affecting the corporation.

Executed copies of the By-Laws will be available at this month's meeting. A copy will also be posted on the HEC website and will be on file in the HEC office at all times for anyone wishing to review them. Thanks so much to the By-Laws Committee (James Ferguson, Chair) for a job well done and to all the members who worked this project through to completion. The creation of this document was a thoughtful and deliberate process. Although the process typically involves key people on the Board of Directors, the HEC Board decided to form a By-Laws Committee and to invite all interested members to participate in the formation of the document. Not only does it serve to get the organization up and going, but also more importantly it can provide critical guidance during times of disagreement and dispute between members on the Board.

While the By-laws should not need to be changed or altered on a frequent basis, please note that it is an ever-evolving document. Because they are newly adopted, you should feel free to make recommendations for amendment by submitting a written resolution. The Board feels comfortable about making amendments as necessary to best conduct the affairs of the corporation.

Martin Luther King, Jr. And Civic Idealism

The Institute for the Study of Civic Values web site now includes a page devoted to Martin Luther King, Jr. and civic idealism. You can access it at

http://www.iscv.org/Civic_Idealism/Martin_Luther_King_Jr_/martin_luther_king_jr_.html

Or just go to the home page, <http://www.iscv.org>. The link is clear.

Martin Luther King reshaped not only civil rights in this country, but our conception of politics itself.

For him, politics was not simply about the pursuit of power, but our primary means of fulfilling America's historic civic ideals.

Equality, in turn, was an American birthright, set forth in the Declaration of Independence, reaffirmed in the Emancipation Proclamation, and at the heart of our fundamental civic values.

Though King's vision was national – even international – he chose to pursue it within specific communities: Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma, Chicago, Memphis – where ordinary citizens could fight locally to achieve global change. Yet wherever he fought, the goal was equal opportunity for everyone – not only for African-Americans, but for all those who are denied the relative prosperity that most Americans enjoy. “I am

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The March monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19th at the Arts Bank instead of on March 12th. This meeting date was rescheduled because Peter Nero of the Philly Pops had already booked the Rehearsal Room when our request was placed. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Reminder: The March meeting will be a Service Area Meeting held in conjunction with the Queen Village Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) on March 19th. (Refer to the article on Page 3 and look for more detailed information in the March issue of The Source).

It's Official We're Official

HEC received notice last month that effective May 20, 2001 HEC is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization with the Internal Revenue Service. The Board is happy to announce that HEC is now an officially recognized tax-exempt organization. This, an important milestone in the history of HEC, assures the longevity of our non-profit corporation.

As you may or may not know, 501(c) 3 status was needed in order for the corporation to apply for and receive funds in the form of grants and/or charitable donations. Without it HEC would not have been able to continue to operate much longer since there was no ongoing mechanism in place to generate operating funds or to establish and maintain much needed community programs and services.

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Next HEC Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2002
at "The Arts Bank", 7:30 P.M.

From the President:

I find myself even more exuberant than last month from the “rush” that comes from actually seeing and feeling the fruit of one’s labor. The Board and I have worked hard to bring about some very important developments and we’re excited about them all. We are so excited about (1) receiving our determination as a tax-exempt charitable organization from the IRS; (2) moving into new office space which gives us a central location and a base for operations that is other than my home office; and (3) working with the By-Laws Committee and members of HEC get our By-Laws passed. In this issue you’ll find information about these and other activities soon to be taking place now that the “basics” are now all in place. Going forward, our first ever fundraiser is being planned. We will be working with our members to develop committees to work on this and other important projects such as newsletter/advertising, fund-raising, special events, neighborhood beautification, web-site development and more. All we need is you to give a little of your time to help make your neighborhood what you would like it to be! I am looking forward to seeing and working with you at the February meeting.

Raydell Fisher

Cultural Diversity . . . Development At Hawthorne Cultural Center

The Hawthorne Cultural Center invites you to join in their celebration of the lives of influential African-Americans in observance of Black History Month on February 15th at 6 p.m. sharp. Highlights include performances by: (1) the children enrolled in the After School Program; (2) Dances by Hawthorne Community Dance Classes; and (3) Griot Don Dance Collectors. There will be lots of food and fun, so make plans to come. Cost: \$2 for Adults and \$1 for Children. For more info stop by The Hawthorne Cultural Center at 1200 Carpenter Street or call 215-685-1848.

Dr. King

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cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states,” he affirmed in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail. “I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

King’s cause, in short, was democracy itself. “We are here in a general sense,” he proclaimed in one of his first major speeches in Montgomery, Alabama, “because first and foremost we are American citizens, and we are determined to apply our citizenship to the fullness of its meaning. We are here also because of our love for democracy, because of our deep-seated belief that democracy transformed from thin paper to thick action is the greatest form of government on earth.”

This is the philosophy of civic idealism that Martin Luther King Jr. revived in America—the commitment to civic values, strong communities, equal opportunity, and democracy that lies at the heart of our democratic tradition.

The page on the ISCV website devoted to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Civic Idealism organizes many of his major speeches and sermons around these fundamental principles for which he fought.

Our challenge today lies in building a new politics of civic idealism that will carry King’s legacy into the future and restore civic idealism as the only appropriate moral standard for politics itself.

Ed Schwartz, Institute for the Study of Civic Values

NOTE: This is a reprint of an email sent to all persons on the “Neighborhoods Online” email list and published here in recognition of Martin Luther King’s Birthday (Jan. 15th) and Black History Month (February).

Logo Contest Closed

The logo contest was closed out at the January meeting. A majority of members voted to make the temporary logo permanent instead of choosing one of six other designs that were submitted and put to a vote. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest and please be encouraged to keep your design skills sharp, as there will be more opportunities to indulge your creativity in the future.

HEC Celebrates New Office Space

HEC moved into new office space during the week of January 28, 2002 at the Hawthorne Cultural Arts Center Building, 1200 Carpenter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. The new phone numbers are: Telephone: 215-468-6270; Fax 215-468-5576. Office hours are by appointment only, Monday through Friday, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. until further notice.

HEC February Meeting To be Held on Same Night As Mardi Gras Celebration

This is just a brief reminder to all who will be out and about on the evening of Tuesday, February 12th.

Many of you will be attending the February HEC General Meeting and we want to remind everyone to be careful. It is important to be observant, to report any suspicious activity you see (such as public drunkenness, public urination, etc.) while en route to and from your destinations. It may be a good idea to follow the strategy of the Bella Vista community by keeping your front lights on as a deterrent to those seeking to perform unsavory activities on smaller streets under the dark of night.



Board of Directors:

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Value-Added to HEC Website For Business Members, Community Partners, & Advertisers

While the HEC website is still under construction, (www.hecphilly.org) we want to inform current and potential business members, our community partners, and our current and potential advertisers of extra value being built into the site just for you. We want to be sure to give you the opportunity to take advantage of an array of benefits, which may be of particular interest to you.

Our webmaster is Edward Greenberg, owner of Wispernet Intelligent Communication Systems a business located within the Hawthorne community. He has graciously offered to maintain our site as a donation to our organization.

If your business or organization has an existing website and would like to be linked to the HEC website, we will provide the link at no cost to you. People visiting our site interested in learning more about your business or organization can simply go directly to your site from ours.

Our newsletter, The Source, is online each month via our website. When you purchase an ad in our monthly newsletter, The Source, we will provide a link to your existing website (or a special promotional page within your site) at no additional cost to you. All you have to do is let us know when you place your advertising order.

If you do not have a website and are considering developing one for your business or organization, we encourage you to contact Ed Greenberg of Wispernet. He will donate 25% on all paid invoices from any new business he receives from customers referred by HEC directly to HEC.

This is simply another way to help support the efforts of our neighborhood association that is working very hard to bring more value to you in appreciation of your support.

Finally, any business located within the Hawthorne Community who joins HEC as a Business Member will automatically receive a free quarter page ad in our monthly newsletter including a link to your existing website. This offer is retroactive and available to all existing business members. To place an ad, please call the HEC office at 215-468-6270. For more information about opening your own website with Wispernet, please call 215-462-3574.

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It's official

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The largest benefit of obtaining the official 501(c)3 ruling from the IRS is that HEC can assure donors that contributions, donations and gifts are tax deductible. And, because HEC desires to pursue writing grant applications, most foundations and grant making organizations require that a copy of the IRS letter accompany the grant request. Additionally, some local vendors also have a policy that they make donations or give discounts only to 501(c)3 organizations formally recognized by the IRS.

Queen Village NAC and HEC To Host Service Area Briefing

The March 19th general meeting will be a Service Area Briefing held in conjunction with the Queen Village NAC (Neighborhood Advisory Committee). Service Area Briefings are held periodically to inform the community about programs funded by the Office of Housing and Community Development. Programs include the Basic Systems Repair Programs, Homestart, Weatherization, etc. Rebate programs for seniors are also explained.

The HEC Board has been planning this meeting for several months and hope you will make plans to attend. The format will be a panel discussion around the theme of Neighborhood Beautification and representatives of the following organizations have been invited to give brief, but informative, presentations:

- Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee
- Office of Housing and Community Development
- Mayor's Initiative on Neighborhood Transformation
- Operation SWEEP
- Department of Licenses and Inspections
- UNI-PENN
- Livable Neighborhoods Program
- Fairmount Park Commission
- Alison Weiss of Community Gardens
- Ready, Willing, Able – Philadelphia

Questions and answers will take place after all presentations have been completed. It is likely the meeting will last longer than the normal one hour or we may continue to April if needed. Please plan to arrive on time. We will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Look for more detailed information in the March newsletter.



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Residential Parking Gaining Popularity In Hawthorne

The idea of using residential parking to ease the problem of people from outside of the neighborhood taking advantage of available parking on our streets is gaining in popularity with Hawthorne residents. People who work in Center City, looking to avoid the high cost of daily parking rates, park their cars in the Hawthorne community at no cost and walk the short distance to their offices in Philadelphia. As a result, people who live in the community are unable to park near their own homes.

The 700 Block of Marvine Street recently obtained residential parking. The 1200 Block of Catharine Street is currently applying to the Philadelphia Parking Authority. Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition does not encourage or discourage any block from pursuing residential parking. It is a decision that can only be made by residents on a block by block basis. HEC does; however, promote sharing information of interest to residents of

the Hawthorne community. Therefore, if your block is interested in applying for residential parking, please call the HEC office at 215-468-6270 for more information.

Get to Know Us

If you don't know us, please make an effort to do so. We are your the neighborhood association. HEC's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Hawthorne community by empowering neighbors to create their neighborhood based on a shared vision of what it should be. If we don't know you, we certainly want to! And...we are willing to do what we can to make it happen! Now that we've work hard to secure an office and to be officially recognized as a tax-exempt, charitable organization by the IRS and others, it is time to celebrate! We plan to celebrate in a big way with our first-ever HEC sponsored event. The plans for a Get-to-Know Us Reception and possible fund-raiser are underway. It will be held in September 2002 at an exciting location to be announced at a later date. There will be dinner, very fine entertainment, a keynote

speaker and, perhaps a surprise presentation. You, of course, will be invited as well as all of our current and potential business members, community partners, 3rd District Police Department, city representatives, elected officials, adjacent community groups, vendors, current and potential advertisers and others so everyone can get to know us. After all, we are here to stay. Mark your calendars now so you can plan to be a part of the fun! Come and get to know your neighbors and the HEC Board of Directors. Come and find out how you can participate in planning for the future of the Hawthorne community, and much more. With all the changes that are rapidly taking place in Hawthorne, together we can make it the place to be!


Update on Bill #010690

If you haven't heard already, the Planned Events bill became law on January 29. The Mayor neither signed it nor vetoed it, but left it unsigned, making it law. Councilman DiCiccio's office has begun to investigate with L&I and other city agencies how they will enforce the legislation.



Alvin M. Levin

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Our 62nd Year

Ready, Willing & Able – Philadelphia Grand Opening Celebration

Ready, Willing & Able (RWA) held two community events in honor of the Grand Opening of RWA – Philadelphia. Both were spectacular, but unique in their own way.

The community dinner and tour held on the evening of Thursday, January 31st at 1211 Bainbridge Street, was warm and very personal. Although everyone in the Hawthorne community was invited, there were certainly lots of delicious food left over, since preparations were made to feed 70 guests. Many people from the community did attend, however, and had fun meeting the staff of RWA and welcoming 23 men who currently live at 1211. We all dined together on a sumptuous and well presented meal in the spacious and sparkling cafeteria where the men eat their meals each day. After dinner, anyone wishing to tour the facility had the opportunity to do so. No matter what comes to mind when you think of a homeless shelter or what it might be like,

you will clear your mind of all negativity when you enter this beautifully renovated building. You have got to see this for yourself! Surely, a lot of people in the community are holding on to tainted views of this site based upon what was there before RWA came to town. It may be a little difficult to imagine things have changed this much – but they have! It is a new day at 1211 Bainbridge Street. It is a day of hope. It is a day of empowerment. It is day where men are treated like men. They are not treated as animals or warehoused in a manner that would insult their dignity. They live in a beautiful environment. They work for a living. They are down on their luck but not for long. They are fortunate to be a part of a unique program which, when they graduate from it, will make them ready, willing and able to start productive new lives.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on the morning of Friday, February 1st at 1211 Bainbridge Street was a busy and full-house of community people, local politicians, RWA staff from Philadelphia and executives from their New York headquarters. The press of all varieties was very present and a local celebrity from

the Philadelphia Eagles stopped by to offer words of encouragement and support to the 23 men enrolled in the exciting RWA program. Mayor John Street and City Managing Director Estelle Richman was on hand to cut the ribbon. All in attendance were treated to a luscious brunch and the opportunity to tour the facility if they had not already done so. It was a happy event, filled with speeches and acknowledgments to all whom participated in the collective effort to bring this innovative program to Philadelphia. It was a very proud moment for the Hawthorne community with cameras flashing and smiles even brighter than the flashbulbs. A good time was had by all that participated in this spectacular 2-day event.

More importantly, people were extremely impressed with all the positive elements RWA brings to the Hawthorne community. Just as the men are fortunate to be a part of this program – we, the residents of Hawthorne are equally fortunate that the Bainbridge Street site was selected as its home.

Look for a pictorial of this event in next month's issue.

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- University of the Arts
- Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
- Hawthorne Family Center of United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia
- Avenue of the Arts, Inc.
- Ready, Willing & Able- Philadelphia

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