

MINUTES OF THE FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (FHNA)
MEETING OF DECEMBER 20TH, 2011



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

MINUTES OF THE FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING OF
JANUARY 17, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Eric Costello, Acting Vice President. Approximately 45 people were in attendance. The acting board members were introduced.

Treasurer's Report

Lamberto Comacho, Acting Treasurer gave the treasurer's report. He indicated that we continue to work to get our hands around the FHNA finances of the past few years, similar to a forensics audit, during which all expenditures will be understood and evaluated for their appropriateness.

When the investigation is concluded, accounts will be moved from Bank of America, where charges are being incurred, to a local institution that will not charge us.

The Baltimore Racing Development funds have been replenished and segregated from other accounts, in order that their eventual disposition may be decided.

South Harbor Renaissance

Mr. Sandy Apgar explained that the South Harbor Renaissance group is a non-profit, primarily made up of neighbors on Warren Avenue, who have come together to sponsor specific projects. Mr. Apgar stated they have recently received their 501[c][3] status from the IRS. Their initial focus is an effort to improve the children's playground in Federal Hill Park. Utilizing their own funds and grants from the City, they have commissioned architectural plans and intend to conduct a Planning Workshop at the Digital Harbor High School on January 30th. flyers have been distributed throughout the neighborhood and more information is available at www.south-harbor.org or by phone at 410.605.0499.

HillSider

Bob O'Donoghue gave a report on the monthly FHNA newsletter. In December, the HillSider was expanded from 12 to 16 pages and a group of volunteers has been assembled who are committed to its continued growth in quality, size and ad revenues. Jeannie Malkiewicz is the Editor. Gayle McClure is handling advertising and billing with assistance from Nicole Quinn. Bob O'Donoghue

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is handling layout. Practices in the recent past of paying commissions to board members for procuring ads, paying third parties for layout and design services and using ads to comp for food for board meetings have been discontinued. All assistance is welcomed.

Area 9 Parking

The Baltimore city Parking Authority web site is in operation. Plans are being made for parking pass distribution through FHNA similar to past years. Details to be announced shortly.

55 Day Plan

The 55 day plan was conceived as a planning tool by the Board. It was titled arbitrarily based upon the time between the December Board meeting and the February General Membership meeting.

- Website – the present site is down. It is anticipated that a new website will be operational within the next few days with a new domain name.
- Bylaws – FHNA is working with the parliamentarian to identify areas requiring changes. The Board will redraft the bylaws with the parliamentarian's assistance. All changes will be fully explained to the general membership and the draft will be presented to the General Membership for ratification.
- Board Expansion – It is felt that there is too much power in one place and that the board should be expanded to more accurately reflect the makeup of the neighborhood.
- BRD funds – Create a process for appropriate use of these funds.
- Hillside – Expand the publication.
- Membership – Due to the difficulties with the website, the membership deadline has been extended to January 31, 2012 to vote in the February 21 election.

Inner Harbor Carousel

Operators of the carousel near the Science Center have been advised that their lease will expire and will not be renewed. This notice was received without any reason being given and comes after 31 years of operation at this location. The operators are looking for support from all quarters and suggest going to "Baltimore Inner Harbor Carousel" on Facebook for more information. FHNA will write a letter to the City and to the Baltimore Development Corporation expressing support for the carousel and requesting reasons for this action.

Board Nominations

In accordance with the existing bylaws, Ryan Hada made appointments to Acting Board positions after the December General Membership meeting. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Eric Costello as Acting Vice President, Bob O'Donoghue as Acting Secretary, Lamberto Comacho as Acting Secretary and Bob Merbler, Kelly Sheehan and Claire Mullins as Acting Board Members At Large. No additional nominations were made and the motion was passed unanimously. These individuals will then be up for election at the February General Membership meeting. Regular nominations and elections will be conducted at the April and May meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.