

MINUTES OF THE FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (FHNA)
MEETING OF February 21, 2011



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

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The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Ryan Hada, President. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting were not available although a summary was printed in the Hillside. It was agreed that going forward, minutes from the previous meeting will either be distributed electronically in advance or copies will be available at the next meeting, or both.

Digital High Community Scholarship Fund – Digiball Fund Raiser

Jim Shapiro explained the Scholarship Fund which awards college scholarships to selected students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. It has been in effect for 5 years and has awarded funds to 33 or 34 students. On March 24th their annual fundraiser will be held. It is titled Digiball and is held at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Tickets are \$75 and admits one to a party with food, drink, dancing, silent auctions, etc. Martin O'Malley is scheduled to attend.

Homestead Tax Credit

Bill Cole, Baltimore City Council explained the Homestead Tax Credit program as a result of a recent article in the Baltimore Sun related to abuse of the tax (<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-baltimore-homestead-credits-20111217,0,661235,full.story>).

Elections

In December, several individuals were appointed to the Board to serve in an acting capacity. In accordance with the bylaws, these individuals were nominated at the January General Membership meeting. A motion was made and seconded to elect Eric Costello as Acting Vice President, Lamberto Camacho as Acting Treasurer, Bob O'Donoghue as Acting Secretary and Claire Mullins, Bob Merbler and Kelly Sheehan as Acting Directors At Large. The vote to elect

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was unanimous and they are now Officers / Directors, as opposed to Acting Officers / Acting Directors. It was noted that these individuals will have to be re-nominated at the April meeting and reelected in May.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Lamberto Camacho, Eric Costello, Vice President gave the Treasurer's report. He indicated that the cash flow has turned positive, up \$3k in 3 months. Bank accounts have been switched to avoid service charges. A 2012 operating budget is being drafted and will be presented to the board in early March.

South Harbor Renaissance

Sandy Apgar led a presentation detailing plans for the renovation of the children's playground in Federal Hill Park. The present equipment is worn and there are some drainage issues. The proposed playground will be the same size as the present one and will be designed to be multi-generational and family oriented. The summer of 2013 is the target date for completion. He also discussed plans to improve the area around the base of the flagpole. Mr. Apgar also mentioned the retreat that is planned for March 16th by the Pershing Rifles Alumni Association which will be holding a convention in Baltimore at that time.

Mr. Apgar also mentioned work being done on the 2 statues in the park, the fact that the water fountain is to be repaired and that the work being conducted on the irrigation system should be completed this summer.

Area 9 Parking

Pickup is scheduled for February 25 at the church from 9am to Noon. Eric Costello urged residents that have had issues obtaining their permits online to visit the City Parking Authority, not the neighborhood pickup.

Block Captains

Kelly Sheehan introduced the Block Captains who were in attendance.

Bill Ferguson – MD State Senator

Mr. Ferguson highlighted the initiatives he is working on:

1. Universal pre-k for 4 year olds.
2. Mandatory parental unpaid leave to be allowed to attend school conferences.
3. Electronic infrared detection for commercial vehicles operating where they are not permitted.
4. The ability of neighborhood associations to file a nuisance claim against a vacant or nuisance property.

He also discussed the budget gap the state is facing – some combination of spending cuts and additional taxes is likely.

Traffic Circle / Roundabout

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Nikia Mack of the Baltimore Department of Transportation explained that plans for the roundabout are “30% completed at the Engineering Phase.” When 60% is reached, public hearings will be held, probably in the next 3 – 4 months. Reports in the Sunpapers and the Hillside were incorrect, construction will not start until June/July 2013, not 2012.

Live Entertainment

Dave Rather of Mother’s discussed his desire to include live entertainment at his establishment. He stated, “I love live music and the City passed a law permitting it.” “Live music will be another reason to come to Mother’s.” Mr. Rather understands that there is concern among the neighbors. The 2 areas of Mother’s that might be suitable could each accommodate 50 – 75 people. He anticipates local bands, R&B, Jazz and Funk and feels it will appeal to an older, less rowdy crowd. In addition, he plans to have comedy at least one night per month and is exploring other types of live entertainment. An application will be made in the next month or so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes approved by: Bob O’Donoghue, Eric Costello, Kelly Sheehan, Claire Mullins, and Ryan Hada, via email, on Mar 06 2012.