



*To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle*

**Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA)  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES (Feb 19, 2013)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Minutes Completed By</b>
February 19, 2013	7:07pm	8:52pm	Christ Lutheran Church	Karen Angelici
<b>Attendees</b>				
Approximately 72 Attendees				
<b>Agenda/Main Issues Discussed</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call to Order</li> <li>2. Parking Permit Pick-up – February 23rd, 9am – 1pm, at Christ Lutheran Church (more info available at: <a href="http://federalhillbaltimore.org/area--9--parking/">http://federalhillbaltimore.org/area--9--parking/</a>)</li> <li>3. Membership Drive (<a href="http://federalhillbaltimore.org/become--a--member/">http://federalhillbaltimore.org/become--a--member/</a>)</li> <li>4. Treasurer’s Report and Annual Budget – Gayle McClure</li> <li>5. Irish Bar Stroll and Saint Patrick’s Day street closure – Brian McComas, President, Federal Hill Hospitality Association</li> <li>6. The Hill liquor license transfer – Bill Rupert and Tony Pettaway</li> <li>7. Biking Discussion – Nate Evans, Baltimore City Bicycle Planner</li> <li>8. Civic Works / Retrofit Experience – Gayle McClure</li> <li>9. Upcoming Tech Classes – Matt Kalman</li> <li>10. Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines</li> <li>11. New Business</li> <li>12. Adjourn</li> </ol>				
<b>Parking Permit Pick Up (Eric Costello)</b>				
Eric announced the parking permit pick up is Feb 23rd from 9am-1pm with coffee and donuts. Everyone must bring their drivers license, registration and copy of RPP receipt. If anyone is having problems purchasing decals/passes online, they should call the parking office at 443 573-2800.				
<b>Membership Drive (Eric Costello)</b>				
Eric encouraged everyone to become a member of the neighborhood association; membership costs \$20. The fees are used to support neighborhood events and charitable efforts, and for volunteer efforts (like coffee and donuts for volunteers at the parking permit pick up event), a fourth of July parade, and supports charities that help families in need. There is a link on the agenda for sign up.				
<b>Treasurer’s Report and Annual Budget (Gayle McClure)</b>				
Gayle handed out copies of the FHNA Budget Guidelines for 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013 and an Income/Expense Report By Category from 1/23/2013 through 2/19/2013. She explained that the FHNA has \$21,502.47 in the bank. She announced that the Board met last week and approved the FHNA Budget Guidelines for the year and reviewed them line by line below:				
<b>FHNA Budget Guidelines - 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013</b>				

<b>Income</b>	
Hillsider Advertising	25000
Membership	2000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>27000</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Business Expenses	3500
BGP Grants Outstanding	821.62
Hillsider Publication	12500
Events	4000
Donations	3000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>23821.62</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3178.38</b>

Gayle also announced the Grand Prix funds, which include \$6,250 plus another \$2,500. The Board is planning a similar process as last year, but will be streamlining it]. In March there will be a call for proposals. The board will review them and the membership will vote on them at the April meeting. The Board will consider larger requests up to \$2,500.

Gayle also discussed a trash awareness initiative called “One Piece.” The idea is to pick up one piece of trash a day. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 11 and she asked that interested residents contact Gayle. Ginny also mentioned that the City has the trash cans which we ordered and the city needs to come to the neighborhood to determine where they need to be placed. We expect them this spring.

One resident asked if FHNA makes a donation to the Society for Preservation of Fells Point and Federal Hill to support our design reviews because we are in the historic district, and Gayle suggested we note that suggestion.

### **Irish Bar Stroll and Saint Patrick’s Day (Brian McComas)**

Brian McComas, President of the Federal Hill Hospitality Association (FHHA), spoke about the Irish Bar Stroll on March 09 and the street closure for Saint Patrick’s Day on March 17. Eric explained that Brian provides us with information before any events to be distributed to FHNA Board and Liquor Committee. Brian thanked the group. He announced it is the 15<sup>th</sup> year for the Irish Stroll and they are doing many things to proactively keep crowds under control. This year’s Irish Stroll will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> starting at noon and 4000-5000 people are expected during the course of the day. There will not be street closures on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There are 19 member establishments in the Hospitality Association and tickets are sold in advance. Miller Light and Guinness are the beer sponsors. 5000 tickets will be sold in advance. Tickets provide a discounted Miller Light and Guinness special. Last year approximately 4500 tickets were sold. On St. Patrick’s Day, the 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a street closure as huge crowds are expected. He explained that a beer garden on E. Cross Street is the best way to contain crowds. Brian explained there are four pub crawls every year.

Residents raised concerns about being able to get to their homes, parking for residents and the crowds, trash pickup and police presence. Brian explained that many attending will take public transportation. It was suggested that parking could be arranged at the stadium and bused into Federal Hill. It was suggested that the FHHA clean up Cross Street.

At the suggestion of Dianna Sugg, Brian said he would ensure that Cross Street gets cleaned from Hanover to Key Highway, on a regular basis. Brian explained that FHHA arranges for trash to be picked up twice a week,

and they empty the city receptacles and they remove the trash via waste management.

Brian explained that the police presence will include 8-10 officers during the day and they will be ramped up over time, which can include at least an additional 4-6 overtime officers. He explained that the bars' individual security would look like a Friday or Saturday night. He addressed questions about Federal Hill being the new Fells Point and how to strike a balance. A resident asked about the number of arrests during big events. Sergeant Kelly Johns explained that maybe 1-2 per night might be locked up... usually guys who are drunk and start a fight. Police give \$500 citations if anyone is walking outside with any open container. Eric suggested anyone contact Eric directly if there are any additional concerns.

### **The Hill Liquor License Transfer (Bill Rupert and Tony Petteway)**

Bill Rupert (the proposed new co-owner) and Tony Petteway (chef) from The Hill, at 1015 S. Charles Street, addressed the group. Bill explained that the current owner with Tony, Clark Hudak, became sick and Bill explained that he arranged to take it over. He doesn't have plans to make any changes and looks to run it just the way it is. He has participated in ownership in other restaurants, and has typically been on the financing side. They have considered adding a pizza oven. Bill explained that he was a partner in Bo Brooks, Emerald Tavern, Schawan Liquors, and a few other businesses. Bill explained that he will be the only one listed on the liquor license and he's been told that the requirement is to own property in the city. Bill explained there is no current plans to expand the restaurant. He said The Hill would continue to be primarily a food establishment.

The group unanimously voted to do an MOU with Bill and Jake and continue discussions. The group unanimously voted to delay the hearing until more information could be obtained about the liquor license transfer since there was confusion over who would be on the license. It was believed that both Bill and Jake Ruppert, his son, would be on the license and someone else saw that Tony was supposed to be on the license based on what was posted on the establishment.

### **Biking Discussion (Nate Evans and Chris Merriam)**

Nate is the bike planner for the Department of Transportation and he explained that the City is now updating their bike master plan for the first time since 2006. They hope to finalize it by the end of 2013. He suggested the group review the maps provided and provide ideas on how to improve the plan by adding bike lanes, bike parking, etc. Plans would be included in the City's annual capital improvement plan. Nate also explained that with Spring coming up there is Bike to Work Day and there will be great bike rides: Baltimore Bike Party which is the last Friday of every month, for example. Nate explained that they have added new bike lanes on Light Street. He explained it is illegal to ride on the sidewalk. Nate explained that he could help business owners get bike racks installed in front of businesses.

Chris Merriam, the Executive Director of BikeMore.Net explained that he is building a movement for safer streets for everyone to make it easier to bike. He had mailing list signups and business cards available.

### **Civic Works/Retrofit Experience (Gayle McClure)**

Gayle explained that they are a non-profit organization that aims to improve energy efficiency in homes. They act as a homeowner's advocate. Gayle explained that this group came in to her home did a test for \$100 and they discovered major drafts, for example, in her house. They helped identify a licensed contractor to seal the leaks in the house. Gayle recommends having the test done which take 30 minutes to find out where energy leaks are in the house.

### **Upcoming Tech Classes (Matt Kalman)**

Matt explained that he lives on Light Street and is an IT management consultant. He suggested the group consider whether he should set up some classes on how to use basic internet technology, including how to conduct Google searches, get to the FHNA site, use Skype, Facebook, and YouTube, as well as how to do

these things on a tablet and telephone. This would be a three part series, starting with the basics. Eric suggested ideas and expressions of interest be directed to Eric.

### Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines (Eric Costello)

Eric announced the following upcoming meetings and deadlines.

- a. 02/21, Thu, 7pm – SDPCRC Mtg, SD Police Station
- b. 02/23, Sat, 8am – 1pm – Area 9 Pickup, Christ Lutheran Church
- c. 02/28, Thu, 6:30pm – LDC Mtg, Leadenhall Baptist Church
- d. 02/28, Thu, 7pm – COP Walk, Porters
- e. 03/05, Tue, 7pm -- Liquor Committee Mtg, YWGC, 1011 Light Street
- f. 03/06, Wed, 7pm – Parking Committee Mtg, YWGC, 1011 Light Street

### New Business

None announced.

### Other Items (Crime Update and Beer Garden)

Sergeant Kelly Johns from the Southern District's Neighborhood Services Unit provided a crime update. She reviewed stats from the past 28 days: 2 aggravated assaults, 1 burglary, 2 car break-ins, 1 rape reported at 1 E. Cross Street outside on Jan. 23 at 10pm, no robberies, 2 stolen autos. Also, there were 2 young females committing multiple robberies (around 8 robberies) who were caught. They were arrested, identified and charged with 5 armed robberies and are pending trial. We haven't had any robberies since they have been arrested.

Eric explained that Brian McComas is planning to open a new bar on Cross Street and that he asked Brian to discuss it with the membership. Brian has an existing license at 12 E. Cross Street and he wants to do a beer garden concept at 14-18 E. Cross Street (walls would be knocked down and iron gates erected). The maximum occupancy would be almost 400 people. Brian would have to have a liquor license expansion. He would likely explain that he wants to use the 12 E Cross Street license to expand. Eric discussed concerns about the increase in the number of drinkers in the neighborhood. A resident asked if there is any way to stop this. It was requested to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

It was asked whether Bill Rupert could transfer his liquor license to his son Jake, who owns a lot at Cross and Charles. A resident explained that the liquor board has some power and one can call Bill Cole or Stephanie Rawlings Blake. It was suggested to develop an overall strategy for Federal Hill to describe what is the big picture we want for Federal Hill.

A motion was made that Federal Hill look into gaining legal counsel pro bono or at a charitable rate to advise the neighborhood association on matters related to bars, and posted in the Hillsideer. The vote passed the motion. There are major concerns about building a mega bar at the end of Cross Street. It was suggested to have another general membership meeting to discuss this further.

Jim Slavucci, the Vice President of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association invited folks to have a discussion about the future of the greater **Cross Street** area and what the vision for it is of the future. A week from tonight, on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7-9pm, at the Digital Harbor Tech Center at E. Cross and Light Street on the North East corner.

### To Do's

- Consider suggestion to donate to Society for Preservation to support design reviews.
- Work on MOU with new Hill owners.
- Delay liquor license hearing for the Hill until more information can be obtained.
- Explore inviting Brian McComas back to discuss new expansion plans.

- Consider developing a plan/vision for Federal Hill
- Explore obtaining legal counsel
- Consider introducing tech classes