



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA)
General Membership (GM)
Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2013

Date: September 17, 2013	Start Time: 7:00 pm	Chair: Eric Costello
Location: Christ Lutheran Church	End Time: 8:34 pm	Secretary: Kelly Sheehan
Board Members Present: Jody Martin, Eric Costello, Kelly Sheehan, Bob Merbler, Ginny Gerhart and Joe Halperin,		
Board Members Not Present: Gayle McClure, Bob O'Donoghue		
Members / Guests in Attendance: Approximately 30		
Itemized Agenda:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order – Eric Costello – 7:00 2. Adoption of Minutes – Kelly Sheehan – 7:01 3. Treasurer's Report – Gayle McClure – 7:04 4. Committee Changes – Eric Costello – 7:07 5. Announcement on Casino / LDC – Eric Costello – 7:08 6. Announcement on Baltimore Green Energy Challenge Table – Gayle McClure - 7:09 7. No Way Jose's Transfer – Eric Levitt / Patrick Morrow – 7:10 8. Illusion's Request for Sundays – Ken Horsman / Spencer Horsman – 7:25 9. FHNA's CHAP Efforts / Presentation – John Thompson – 7:40 10. Introduction of Federal Hill Main Street's Executive Director – Andrea Sommer - 7:55 11. Introduction of Federal Hill Prep's Principal – Sara Long – 8:10 12. New Business - 8:25 13. Adjourn 		
Call to Order – Eric Costello 7:00 pm		
Adoption of Minutes - Kelly Sheehan		
Corrections were made. Minutes were adopted with a unanimous vote by general membership.		
Treasurer's Report - Gayle McClure		
Eric presented on behalf of Gayle who could not be there. Eric reported that we are in good standing. We have approximately \$20,700.00 in the bank with about \$3000.00 in obligations to be paid out for Grand Prix Community Impact Awards. Even though the Grand Prix will not be happening in 2014 and 2015, we will still get the community impact funds for 2013. If anyone		



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has any questions regarding finances, please email Gayle at GayleFHNA@gmail.com.

Committee Changes - Eric Costello

Lynn Halperin is the new Chair for the Public Safety Committee.

Announcement on Casino / LDC (local development council) - Eric Costello

Important meeting on Friday, September 20, 2013 at Leadenhall Baptist Church 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Voting on community Casino impact funds. The communities were surveyed. Approximately 9 – 10 million will be shared by area neighborhoods. There will be a casino development master plan meeting on Saturday, September 21st from 9 am – 12 pm at DHHS (Digital Harbor High School) cafeteria. Transportation infrastructure, public safety seems to be top priority. Casino information can be found on FHNA website under committees.

Announcement on Baltimore Green Energy Challenge Table – Whitney Graham

Whitney Graham from Retrofit Baltimore announced the launch of an energy co-op in Federal Hill. Everyone who signs up will get between a 1% - 15% discount on the Retrofit work. The deadline is October 29, 2013. She encouraged everyone to get a home audit. The rebates come through the Maryland Power Act. For more information contact Retrofit Baltimore.

No Way Jose's Transfer - Eric Levitt / Patrick Morrow/ Charlie

There is no expansion to the third floor. Eric Levitt wants to buy No Way Jose at 38 E. Cross St. as a real estate investment. He owns 40 – 50 commercial properties and one restaurant, Admiral's Cup in Fells Point. Eric wants to tweak a few things at No Way Jose, make it a little more upscale, raise the beer prices and is not looking to expand. He also added he is not looking to have more people, probably less and will look into valet parking as a possibility. Eric wants to work with the neighborhood on the MOU (memorandum of understanding) as long as it doesn't go against what his liquor license says he can do. He also bought the building where the laundry mat and 7 eleven used to be on Light Street. They will take their time on developing that. They are in the process of moving Charm City Yoga to the second floor there. Interested in securing something healthy for the first floor, they are in talks with Milk and Honey, Trader Joe's, and some bagel places etc. Results of survey from neighborhood were used.

A suggestion from one member regarding No Way Jose transfer – Can we get the MOU signed before you present to Association. Great idea for the future, in this case time was not on our side, we didn't have an August meeting.

A motion was made to give Eric and Keenan authority to negotiate an MOU and if successfully executed then FHNA will support this transfer. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Illusion's Request for Sundays – Ken Horsman / Spencer Horsman -

Illusion's wants to swap being open on Sundays instead of Tuesdays. Right now they are open



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everyday except Sundays, operating about 10 hours per week. They want to be open on Sundays to meet the needs of their clientele; offering earlier shows and convenience of weekend versus workweek. Illusion's does a lot of special events and private parties. The type of license they have is a BD6, they serve no food, have a 250 capacity and no violations. They want to be open Sunday from about 10 am to 10 pm and will sign an MOU (memorandum of understanding). This process has to go through state legislation. Senator Ferguson wants to know what the neighborhood thinks. A motion to support Illusion's request and send it to Senator Ferguson and delegation upon successful execution of MOU (memorandum of understanding). Motion was adopted unanimously.

FHNA's CHAP Efforts / Presentation – John Thompson

Introduced idea to have CHAP (Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation) district in Federal Hill. CHAP district would make MURO (Montgomery Urban Renewal Organization) null and void. MURO will expire in a few years. There are 30 districts in the city that use CHAP. CHAP would benefit both businesses and residents; aesthetics, property values rise, historic nature is protected, and people can get tax credits. John introduced what he thinks makes the most sense for creating boundaries for CHAP in the Federal Hill Area. The proposed area would include Hanover, Fort, and all around the waterfront line. John suggested doing what is achievable. John has also presented to Fed Hill South Neighborhood Association. After the boundaries are determined the next steps would be to go to council to introduce legislation. FHBA (Federal Hill Business Association) recently did a walk through the neighborhood with Zoning and Housing Authority checking appropriate business signage, coverage of windows, and dumpster run off. Businesses were given a warning citation and they can work with FHBA to mitigate. If the businesses are compliant then there is no fee. If you have any questions about CHAP, please go to federalhillbaltimore.org and find the preservation committee page. FHBA also has an exterior paint color chart if you wanted to see it.

Introduction of Federal Hill Prep's Principal – Sara Long

Sara invited us to attend Federal Hill Prep's (FHP) events and open houses anytime. She thanked us for our contribution to help with their green school initiative, please check out the garden. They also compost and recycle. FHP is working on partnering with Digital Foundation Robotics program and outreach to Francis Scott Key and other area peninsula schools. Sara shared that they are focused on integrated and project-based learning this year. Please stay out of the parking lot from 7 am to 7 pm, they will tow. PTA does have a permit for Ravens games. FHP has close to 300 students, majority come from Federal Hill and Sharp Leadenhall. Grades pre- K to 5th and average class size has no more than 24 students. There are 2 crossing guards: one at Light/Cross and Cross/William. There is no set procedure for cars when dropping off/picking up students. Police say that a car can't be unattended. Jessica Damen, schools liaison, introduced herself and looks forward to working with FHP.

New Business



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Arabian Nights – Is currently open to 4 am, they want to file an application to stay open until 5 am. FHNA is not taking an official position concerning this. Residents who live in the election district boundaries can oppose this application. Only 15 signatures are required. There were some concerns about the fighting and trash outside Arabian Nights and people looking like they were up to no good.

Jack Baker – President of the Southern District Police Community Relations Council

Announced that Friday, September 20th is Southern District Police Officers Appreciation Day at 10 Cherry Hill Road opposite the Harbor Hospital. Please come by and say hello. It is a day to show our appreciation and thanks for the police. The officers are fed breakfast, lunch and dinner. All food is donated by area neighborhoods/restaurants. FHNA made a donation.

Adjourn - 8:34 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Thu, Sep 19th, 7:00pm – Southern District Police & Community Relations Council Mtg – SD Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road
2. Fri, Sep 20th, 6:00am – 6:00pm – Southern District Police Officer Appreciation Day– SD Police Station, 10 Cherry Hill Road
3. Fri, Sep 20th, 6:30pm – Casino Local Development Council Mtg – Voting on FY2015 Priorities – Leadenhall Baptist Church
4. Sat, Sep 21st, 9:00am – Noon – Casino Department of Planning Master Plan Mtg – DHHS Cafeteria
5. Thu, Sep 27th, 7:00pm – C.O.P. Walk – Porters (corner of Riverside and Cross)
6. Tue, Oct 01st, 7:00pm – FHNA Parking Committee Mtg – YWGC Conference Room
7. Mon, Oct 07th, 6:30pm – FHMS Business Development Mtg – 42 E. Cross Street
8. Tue, Oct 15th, 7:00pm – FHNA General Membership Mtg – Christ Lutheran Church

Action Items Moving Forward:

Eric and Keenan – Negotiate MOU with Illusions
Eric, Bob, Jody – Negotiate MOU with No Way Jose



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Minutes Approved On: October 15, 2013
Minutes Approved By: Unanimous Vote by General Membership