



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA)
 General Membership Meeting (GMM)
 Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2013

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| Date: October 15, 2013 | Start Time: 7:00 pm | Chair: Eric Costello |
| Location: Christ Lutheran Church | End Time: 8:35 pm | Secretary: Kelly Sheehan |
| Board Members Present: Eric Costello, Kelly Sheehan, Bob Merbler, Ginny Gerhart, Joe Halperin | | |
| Board Members Not Present: Jody Martin, Gayle McClure, Claire Bogdanski, Bob O'Donoghue | | |
| Members / Guests in Attendance: 30 | | |
| Itemized Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 1. Call to Order – Eric Costello – 7pm . 2. Approval of Minutes – Kelly Sheehan – 7:02 . 3. Treasurer's Report – Gayle McClure – 7:05 . 4. Special Election – Kelly Sheehan – 7:08 . 5. Retrofit Baltimore – Whitney Graham – 7:10 . 6. AARP Experience Corps – Bill Romani – 7:15 . 7. Higher Achievement Baltimore – Randi Morris – 7:30 . 8. Federal Hill Main Street – Andrea Sommer – 7:45 . 9. Committee Updates – 8:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Parking – Ginny Gerhart B. Liquor – Diana Sugg | | |
| Approval of Minutes - Kelly – No corrections we made. Minutes were unanimously adopted. | | |
| Treasurer's Report - Gayle – Gayle could not be there, so Eric reported on her behalf. Approximately \$19,000.00 in bank. We are in good standing. It was suggested that we publish our Treasurer's Report in the Hillside. | | |



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Special Election - Kelly – Claire Bogdanski was voted in by the general membership as an At - Large Board Member. 24 votes YES, 3 votes NO. This election was held to fill a vacancy on the Board. It was also moved that another member be added to the board, which the Board will consider.

Retrofit Baltimore – Whitney Graham – Please sign up for the Federal Hill Co-op. For every homeowner who joins they get a 1% discount and can get up to 15% discount, capped at 15 people. To receive the discount, deadline is October 29th. The co-op is basically collective purchasing. Depending on how many people join, dictates the amount discounted. An audit costs \$100.00. Retrofit does the screening and vetting for you. They have a pool of trusted contractors. A sign up sheet was passed around. For more information go to their website; www.retrofitbaltimore.org.

AARP Experience Corp – Bill Romani – Bill is Branch Director for AARP Experience Corp. www.aarp.org/experience-corps. They train seniors to be placed in K – 3rd grades in underserved populations to help with reading. The seniors spend about 10-15 hours per week in the classrooms. It is a win- win situation; the seniors' health improves and the outcome for the child improves –attendance and reading. AARP are in 30 title one schools and they started at Fed Hill Prep last year. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact **Bill Romani at** wromani@aarp.org.

Higher Achievement Baltimore – Randi Morris – couldn't make it to the meeting.

Federal Hill Main Street – Andrea Sommer – Andrea Sommer, Executive Director of Federal Hill Main Street, introduced herself. She has lived here in Federal Hill for 14 years, her children have gone to Fed Hill Prep. Please stop by at 42 E. Cross Street to see her or you can email her at andreasommer@historicfederalhill.org. Upcoming events are; Festive Flavors Dec. 10th, Moonlight Madness and Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 13th. The tree lighting is from 7 – 8 pm and Moonlight Madness from 8 pm – 12 am. When asked what is the direction of Federal Hill Main Street. Andrea responded that they would continue to work with the Federal Hill Main Street Board's vision. They are concerned with retail; filling empty storefronts, looking at Cross Street Market, want a balance of businesses and merchants. They have an active business development committee. They want to attract businesses that would do well here and work with the ones here to help them be successful. FHMS also want the storefronts to look nice and have the same concerns as residents with the trash. In the past we had a larger volume of retail here, but they were impacted due to the downturn in the economy. Someone brought up the issue of our parking problem and can the Business Association and Federal Hill Main Street work on that. The Business Association is working with with the city to change the parking meters. Please see more about this in the parking updates. **If you have any questions or want to get involved please contact Andrea at** andreasommer@historicfederalhill.org.



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You can also find more information at their website www.historicfederalhill.org.

Committee Updates -

Parking – Ginny Gehart

Area 9 updates:

1. Covington Street parking – You can now park on Covington Street between Key Highway and Grindall from 9 pm to 8 am. This is for area 9 decals only. No visitors passes are accepted. There are approximately 66 spaces on the angled side only. The sign there says for area 9 decals only. An announcement will be sent out.
2. Fed Hill Prep Parking Lot – Sara Long, Principal of Federal Hill Prep, has agreed to do a trial parking program for area 9 residents in the parking lot of Federal Hill Prep. An area 9 resident can park there from 7 pm to 6:30 am. If your car has an area 9 decal, the towing company will not tow you. There are special events in which you would not be permitted to park there. For example, PTO uses the lot for fundraisers for Ravens game parking. They will put up signage to make it clear. There are about 20 spaces and you can fit up to 40 cars. Saturday and Sunday are open unless there are special events. Stay tuned for announcement.
3. Handicap plate or tags - Can no longer park in area 9 without a decal. Metered parking will no longer be free for them either.
4. Metered parking - Hours will change to 10 am to 9 pm. From 10 – 6 pm it will cost \$1.50 hour and from 6 pm to 9 pm it will cost \$2.00 an hour. Sunday hours will be enforced. FHNA has been vocal against this change, because it hurts residents. The Business Association looks at the metered parking on Charles and Light Street as commercial thoroughfares and not residential overflow. The job of the metered parking is to keep cars moving. Have not received a final approval yet.
5. Food and clothing trucks - If you need to complain, contact housing department, if you have trouble with the housing department site then call 311. Food trucks have to be 300 feet away from restaurant and clothing trucks can be anywhere. It is a zoning issue. Right now the city is working on putting together laws and enforcement to handle this
6. Zip Car – There are new zip car spaces on the corner of Light St. and Cross St. next to the Digital Harbor Tech Center. There are 2 – 3 zip cars there. Using a zip car takes about 15 to 30 cars off the road, depending on neighborhood.

Liquor – Diana Sugg

1. Illusions – wanted to swap being open on Sundays instead Tuesday. Senator Ferguson is working on this and will get back to us.
2. Arabian nights – They applied for the Late Night Operating License and were denied because the area residents signed a petition opposing it. They have an appeal with BMZA. FHNA will meet with them to discuss a potential MOU. Once we get an MOU we will bring it back to the general membership to vote on.
3. No Way Jose - An MOU was executed and the transfer went through. You can view it on our website under liquor committee. www.federalhillbaltimore.org



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4. Michael's – Michael's pulled out. Jake Rupert, the owner of the property, is looking for a new operator and will get back to us.

5. Crossbar – A written proposal was submitted to FHNA and we have to get back to them by Oct. 18th. Keenan analyzed the proposal and it isn't close to what we want. Their zoning hearing is postponed until November 12th. The appeal of validity of license is December 13th. The Liquor Committee, the coalition of Presidents, and FHNA Board has been meeting to see what the next steps should be.

Some issues that were brought up by members were:

1. Can someone look into the claim that all these restaurants/ bars use Schofer's parking lot. Do they really?

2. Brian McComas has owned the buildings on Cross Street for a while, the building decorum needs to be maintained and it clearly hasn't. Right now they are not zoning compliant.

A question was asked, should we draw a hard line going forward not allowing for any expansion of bars/restaurants in the neighborhood, what do people think? A lively discussion ensued.

Diana also asked for people who are in favor of the bars to please be a part of the committee, all people need to be represented.

New Business – Update from Jessica Damen, Schools Liaison

We have been working with Digital Harbor High School and together we built a community garden June 1st. There are 10 raised beds with tomatoes, greens and herbs. FHNA donated \$1500.00 in grant money to get this done. The next phase is to build pergolas and install rain barrels on Saturday, November 2nd. Jessica sent around a sign up sheet for those that are interested in volunteering. Tools are being donated thanks to John B. and Home Depot. The purpose of the garden is to help the communication between the community and the students. If you work in the garden, you can harvest what you want. Please email Jessica if you want to volunteer or have any questions.

New Business – Historically Hip Halloween

The Federal Hill Business Association (FHBA) is hosting its annual Historically Hip Halloween. Each business participating will have orange and black balloons outside their place of business. They will be giving candy to all the tricker treaters. FHHA (Federal Hill Hospitality Association) are providing hot dogs and drinks at Marshall Street. Please come on out, it is from 4 – 7 pm.

Adjourn – 8:35 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

C. 10/17, Thu, 6pm – FHNA / SBNA Social, Mad River



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- D. 10/17, Thu, 7pm – SDPCRC Mtg, SD Police Station
- E. 10/24, Thu, 7pm – COP Walk, Porters
- F. 10/25 – Hillsider Submissions DEADLINE
- G. 10/26, Sat, 9am – 1pm, Mayors Cleanup
- H. 10/27, Sun, 1pm – 6pm, SOBO Halloween Bash, Riverside Park
- I. 11/04, Mon, 7pm – Parking Committee Mtg, YWGC
- J. 11/05, Tue, 6:30pm – FHBA Meeting, 42 E. Cross Street
- K. 11/6, Wed, 7pm - Liquor Committee Mtg, YWGC
- L. 11/19, Tue, 7pm – FHNA General Membership Mtg, Christ Lutheran Church

Minutes Approved On: November 19, 2013

Minutes Approved By: Unanimously by General Membership