



Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA)  
 General Membership Meeting  
 Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2014

<b>Date:</b> January 21, 2014	<b>Start Time:</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Chair:</b> Eric Costello
<b>Location:</b> Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Charles Street	<b>End Time:</b> 7:55 pm	<b>Secretary:</b> Jody Martin
<b>Board Members Present:</b> Claire Bogdanski, Eric Costello, Jody Martin, Bob Merbler, Bob O'Donoghue		
<b>Board Members Not Present:</b> Gayle McClure		
<b>Members / Guests in Attendance:</b> Approximately 50		
<b>Itemized Agenda:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adoption of Minutes from 12/12 and 12/17 (see attached) – 7:01</li> <li>2. Treasurer's Report – Gayle McClure – 7:04</li> <li>3. Membership Drive –7:06</li> <li>4. FHNA Board Open Positions Update – 7:07</li> <li>5. Area 9 RPP Pick-up Event on 02/15 –7:08</li> <li>6. Vote - Illusion's (1025 S. Charles Street) request to open on Sundays without alcohol sales.</li> <li>7. Vote - BLLC's Administrative Hearing on the Validity of the license at 12 - 14 E. Cross Street.</li> <li>8. Vote - Cross Bar Beer Garden's (12 - 14, 12 - 18 E. Cross Street) request for variances and conditional uses at a Board of Municipal Zoning and Appeals (BMZA) hearing on January 28, 2014.</li> <li>9. New Business – 7:55</li> </ol>		
<b>Adoption of Minutes</b> – Meeting minutes from December 12, 2013 and December 17, 2013 were adopted unanimously.		
<b>Treasurer's Report</b> – Eric provided overview of funds available (\$18,900), profits from 2013 (\$3,900), and explained the report is available on FHNA's website.		
<b>Membership Drive</b> – Neighbors were reminded to rejoin FHNA for 2014.		
<b>FHNA Board Open Positions</b> – Eric explained the Board plans to name three Acting Directors before the February Board meeting.		
<b>Area 9 RPP Permit Pick-up Event</b> – A call for volunteers was made for the pick-up event on February 15, 2014. The following neighbors are absolutely awesome for volunteering: Neil Saval, Susan Bridges, Ivo Jamrosz, Bob Gisriel, Claire Bogdanski, Pauline Hilderbrandt, and Bill Struthers!		



*To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle*

**Vote - Illusion's (1025 S. Charles Street) request to open on Sundays without alcohol sales.** - Per Article V Section 7 of the FHNA Bylaws, a 10 day notice of this vote was emailed to the membership, on January 11, 2014, by the FHNA Board, from [eHillsider@gmail.com](mailto:eHillsider@gmail.com).

**Written notice stated the following:** *Vote - Illusion's (1025 S. Charles Street) request to open on Sundays without alcohol sales. Specifically, the owners of Illusions, Ken and Spencer Horseman, have requested a letter of support to the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) with regard to their request to be open on Sundays without the privilege to serve alcoholic beverages. Under current State law, they are restricted from doing so, because they have what is known as a "6 day license", which only permits them to be open Monday - Saturday. The vote will be: "does FHNA wish to: 1) support; 2) oppose; or 3) not take a position -- with regard to Illusion's request to be open on Sundays without the privilege to serve alcoholic beverages". Any vote must be in the majority. This action would result in a letter of support or opposition to the BLLC.*

Discussion ensued, questions were asked, and comments were made. The question was moved, resulting in a vote in favor of supporting Illusions' request, 46 -0.

**Vote - BLLC's Administrative Hearing on the Validity of the license at 12 - 14 E. Cross Street.** Per Article V Section 7 of the FHNA Bylaws, a 10 day notice of this vote was emailed to the membership, on January 11, 2014, by the FHNA Board, from [eHillsider@gmail.com](mailto:eHillsider@gmail.com).

**Written notice stated the following:** *Vote - BLLC's Administrative Hearing on the Validity of the license at 12 - 14 E. Cross Street. As many of you know, our motion in Circuit Court for Baltimore City appealing the BLLC's ruling that that this license is alive was denied, and subsequently remanded to the BLLC for a hearing prior to February 24th, 2014. At this time, no date for this hearing has been set, and it is unclear if FHNA may take a position at the upcoming hearing. The vote will be: "if FHNA is permitted by the BLLC to take a position, does FHNA wish to take a position that: 1) the license is valid; 2) the license is invalid; or 3) not take a position -- with regard to whether the license at 12 - 14 E. Cross Street is dead, at the BLLC hearing scheduled to take place on or before February 24th, 2014". Any vote must be in the majority. This action would result in a letter of support or opposition to the BLLC, including testimony and potential submission of evidence.*

Eric provided the following update, which was also provided in writing to the Membership on January 20, 2014 and January 21, 2014: *Since the time of the notice of vote sent on 01/11/2014, we have learned that the validity hearing will be held "soon", no further clarification was provided. Written testimony related only to the validity may be submitted in advance and must be accompanied by a signed affidavit. New evidence related to the validity may also be submitted in advance. Verbal testimony at the hearing will not be admitted.*

Discussion ensued, questions were asked, and comments were made. The question was moved, resulting in a vote in favor of asserting that the license is invalid, 44 - 2.



**Vote - Cross Bar Beer Garden's (12 - 14, 12 - 18 E. Cross Street) request for variances and conditional uses at a Board of Municipal Zoning and Appeals (BMZA) hearing on January 28, 2014.** Per Article V Section 7 of the FHNA Bylaws, a 10 day notice of this vote was emailed to the membership, on January 11, 2014, by the FHNA Board, from [eHillsider@gmail.com](mailto:eHillsider@gmail.com).

**Written notice stated the following:** *Vote - Cross Bar Beer Garden's (12 - 14, 12 - 18 E. Cross Street) request for variances and conditional uses at a Board of Municipal Zoning and Appeals (BMZA) hearing on January 28, 2014. The operators of the proposed Cross Bar Beer Garden are requesting a conditional use for outdoor seating and variances exempting them from a 30 foot rear yard setback and from parking requirements. More information on this establishment's proposal is available on our website. The vote will be: "does FHNA wish to: 1) support; 2) oppose; or 3) not take a position -- with regard to Cross Bar Beer Garden's request for: A) conditional use for outdoor seating; B) variance for exemption for 30 feet rear yard setback; and C) variance for exemption to parking requirements". Any vote must be in the majority. This action would result in a letter of support or opposition to the BMZA, including testimony and potential submission of evidence.*

Discussion ensued, questions were asked, and comments were made. The question was moved, resulting in a vote in favor of opposing Cross Bar Beer Garden at the January 28, 2014 hearing, 42 - 4.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Thu, Jan 23, 6:30pm – Casino Local Development Council Mtg –Leadenhall Baptist Church
- Mon, Feb 03, 6:30pm – FHNA Parking Committee Mtg – YWGC Realty
- Sat, Feb 15, 9am – 2pm – Area 9 RPP Permit Pick-up Event – Christ Lutheran Church
- Tue, Feb 18, 7pm – FHNA General Membership Mtg – Christ Lutheran Church
- Darlene Smith provided information on Live Baltimore's Sweet Sixteen Party on March 13, 2014. More information is available online at: <http://livebaltimore.com/events-education/details/sweet-16/#.UuG-I9lo5hG>

**Other Announcements** – Eric reminded everyone that Grace City Church uses the Federal Hill Prep lot on Sundays from 7:30am – 1pm, and asked that neighbors not use the lot during this time.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm**

**Minutes Approved On: February 18, 2014**

**Minutes Approved By: Vote my membership, unanimous.**