



Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA)
GM MEETING
Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2014

Date: March 18, 2014	Start Time: 7:00pm	Chair: Eric Costello
Location: Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Charles Street	End Time: 8:30pm	Secretary: Jessica Damen
Board Members Present: Eric Costello, Jessica Damen, Walt Ettinger, Jody Martin, Gayle McClure, Bob Merbler, Bob O'Donoghue, Aimee Sanfilippo		
Board Members Not Present: Claire Bogdanski		
Members / Guests in Attendance: 102 Voting Members and about 15 other neighbors		
Call to Order: Eric Costello called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Michael Brasser is a voting member of FHNA He introduced himself to the meeting while he set up his videography equipment. The meeting was videotaped.		
Adoption of Minutes: Jessica Damen asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of 2/18/14. Kelly Sheehan so moved. Seconded and passed unanimously.		
Treasurer's Report: Gayle McClure, Treasurer, submitted the report of \$16,404 in bank and \$2,000 in paypal account. Member questioned the rationale for the amount of potentially lost income as a result of the free membership offer provided to non-senior, residents who have never been FHNA members, at the parking permit pick-up event on 02/15/2014. The Treasurer explained that free membership has been a method of increasing membership prior to 2014 and that the decision to do so this year was unanimously approved by the Board. The sole purpose of this offer was to increase enrollment of FH residents in the neighborhood association. As a result of this offer 140 new non-senior members were added to the membership roll, and an additional 72 members renewed.		
Announcements of upcoming meetings / events:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Sheehan: Regarding Dog waste Pick up campaign. • Digital Harbor scholarships – Jim Shapiro talked about the students who receive scholarships DHHSalliance.org • Anne Apgar and Walt Ettinger provided an update about the FH park. New playground work will start work this week or next. There will be 4 weeks of demolition. Projected date of completion in June 2014. There will be a celebration with the governor. • There will be a cornered off area for the Easter Egg Hunt on 04/19/2014. • Federal Hill Thinking Green competition open with landscape architects April Arbor Day. Rich Polan requested a CAD file plan for reforestation plan. The event will honor Richard Kaminski's memory. 		



- Walt Saxon – Mayor’s clean up day is April 26 from 9-1. The dumpster will be located at William and. Looking for volunteers. Trash Bash party at Robert Baker Park to immediately follow.

Vote on pursuing validity of CrossBar Liquor License in Circuit Court - (Will Runnebaum moved and seconded by Jon Klapper for a roll call vote of the voting members rather than a secret ballot. Discussion ensued as the reasons for a secret ballot vs. a roll call vote. The motion was called by hand vote and the motion did not carry.

Background information and discussion ensued prior to the vote as to whether the membership wishes to legally pursue in circuit court the validity of the liquor license owned by the operators of the Cross Bar.

After the BMZA hearing, members of the Board considered that the ruling presented an opportunity to negotiate with The Operator for issues of importance remaining with the Association. The Board charged Walt Ettinger, Bob Merbler and Rufus Lusk to contact Peter Auchincloss about negotiating. Mr. Auchincloss declined to meet with them.

Len Homer counsel for Ober Kohler, provided information about this firm’s willingness to accept the validity case on a pro bono basis. Furthermore, Len and his wife will pay for all court costs. He explained that if the license is declared invalid, there is nothing to transfer. The time constraint for filing is Friday, March 21st. He also stated that his firm is already representing individuals within the community who have a vested interest in the liquor license validity outcome.

Motion was made and seconded to move the vote. Motion was made and seconded to move the vote, and the motion passed. “Does FHNA wish to appeal the BLLC’s decision of 02/20/2014, that the license at 12-18 E. Cross Street is viable, in Circuit Court for Baltimore City?” Discussion ensued as to the pro and cons of the motion. Motion to end discussion at 8:10, seconded, and the motion to end passed

Ballots were collected and counted by three members of the Board, Walt Ettinger, Jody Martin, and Aimee Sanfilippo. The motion to proceed in Circuit Court passed with 56 in favor, and 44 opposed.

Police Report from Officer Vaught: Most recent crime has been larceny from automobiles. Regarding the Irish Stroll there were no major crime incidents. There were six 911 ambulance calls apparently for alcohol induced pass outs.

Minutes Approved On: April 15, 2014

Minutes Approved By: Unanimous vote of membership.