



Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA)
General Membership Meeting
Draft Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2015

Date: January 20, 2015	Start Time: 7:00 pm	Chair: Beth Whitmer
Location: Christ Lutheran Church	End Time	Secretary: Jessica Damen
Board Members Present: Jessica Damen, Walt Ettinger, Gayle McClure, Bob Merbler, Aimee Sanfilippo, Brooke McDonald, Deb Nelson, Beth Whitmer		
Board Members Not Present:		
Members / Guests in Attendance: 33 members		
Itemized Agenda: Adoption of November 2014 Meeting Minutes – Jessica Damen presented. Walt Ettinger moved to accept minutes as written. Seconded Bert Lane. Accepted		
Treasurer’s Report--- Beth Whitmer presented. No questions regarding the treasurer’s report. Move to accept by Jon Klapper and seconded Ken Horner. Accepted as written.		
Public Safety – Lt. More from Engine 2 presented. The city has a program for installing a smoke detector for residences. Call 311 to request and the fire engine will install. A 10-year battery is recommended. Lt More recommended a carbon monoxide alarm although not installed by the City. She also recommended having fireplaces checked for cracks and obstructions.		
Olive Street BMZA – Rich Polan presented information regarding 1026 Olive St. negotiations involving variances and parking permits. 1026 Olive Street is a single-family residence that would have covered about 95% of the lot. This development was speculative. Mr. Polan provided detailed information about the negotiations and changes agreed mutually agreed upon. For instance it was agreed that only one parking decal would be issued and no visitor passed, that the 4 th floor be eliminated and there be a roof deck set back written with an MOU.		
Paul Cole of Retrofit Baltimore provided information to the membership regarding going solar.		



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Complete Streets Presentation – A planner of DOT, City department of transportation, Ms Phillips spoke. “Complete streets” is a concept that will be applied specifically to Baltimore. Improvements are funded by anticipated casino funds. Underlying the concept is the question, “What will make the streets more useable?” What is the character of Federal Hill?” A detailed description of what constitutes a Complete Street was presented, including many modes of transportation as well as the trees, bike lanes, utility poles, as well as the utilities parts underground. It was noted that about 1/3 of adult populations does not own cars in Baltimore City. The membership offered many examples of areas that need more lighting, better cross walks, (Light, Charles, Hanover & Warren, Henrietta, there are many heavy pedestrian area, need crosswalks). 100 -220 block on Cross Street, need school drop off areas. Membership also suggested a traffic calming study.

Odessa.phillip@baltimorecity.gov. Ms. Phillip asked the membership to collectively send emails using the provided checklists. But first submit the information to Beth Whitmer. Complete Streets coordinates with all relevant government and non-government entities to complete the identified goals of neighborhood.

DHHS Green Team – Kerry Broersma, a teacher from DHHS who is leading and supervising ninth grade students to collect litter, trash weekly in Federal Hill as weather permits. Ms. Broersma distributed flyers. She is planning to integrate pick up items into the recycling program.

- Diana, a member noted that about 90 coats came from DHHS from last year coat drive.
- The March 27 Digi ball at the Museum of Industry was announced by a member

RPP Renewal and Pick-up – Bob Merbler is February 21 at Christ Church. He asked for 15-20 volunteers. Contact by email. Mr. Merbler also noted that the neighborhood received permission for another 30 spaces along Key Highway

2015 FHNA Budget Adoption- Beth Whitmer: The 2015 budget is very close to our actual disbursement and income from 2014.

Special Election for Treasurer – Beth Whitmer presented. Walt Ettinger moved to approve Nancy Gordon as treasurer of FHNA. Seconded by Len Horner. Approved by majority.



LAC Update (Crossbar)- Walt Ettinger and Rufus Lusk presented an update. FHNA has been working on this issue for three years. Ober Kahler has been litigating on behalf of the FHNA whether the license for Crossbar is valid or, has become expired, commonly known as a “zombie license.” The Crossbar filed their brief, then OK will have 15 days to respond, then Crossbar can respond and finally, a ruling from the Bench. It may go up to special court of appeals, in which case, there could be a written opinion. Theoretically if there is a ruling stating that the Crossbar license is expired, that ruling could effect up to 100 “zombie” licenses.

SBNA has a MOU with Crossbar stipulating a capacity of up to 155 seats and zoning ordered to get eight spaces. They have no valet parking plan because they are not operational. Roof is enclosed. Peter Auchincloss says roof is completely enclosed.

Rufus and Bob believe that the best approach is with zoning and there should be a square footage limit to bar seats.

Now the FHNA is faced with the practical issue of what we should do now that Crossbar has bought the “Joey B’s” license. If we continue to fight this new license transfer, can we stop them? Joey’s B has been closed for more than a year. Crossbar received a hardship extension and they filed just three or four days before it expired. The membership had voted that Joey B could have a transfer because it was to be a restaurant.

Discussion from membership: Len Horner suggested that one option would be to ask Judge Ward to read the SBNA MOU into the license and that could stop the expansion of capacity. A former president of the FHNA stated that historically the Liquor Board ignores MOUs. A member inquired about the status of the Working committee to establish a mega approach to the ongoing issues of increased “bar stools” in the neighborhood. The response was that the Working group is formed by Beth Whitmer, Walt Ettinger, Brooke McDonald, Neil Savil Diana Sugg, Keenan Dworak-Fisher and Kyle Warner.

Vince refers to the rule of 51 % oppose of residents within 200 ft of the establishment. We need to discuss this off line because we need more facts.

The membership will vote at the next meeting whether to oppose, accept or remain neutral to the transfer of the formerly Joey B liquor license to Crossbar.

New Business – Beth Whitmer – none

Meeting Adjourned

There being no new business the meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm

Minutes Approved On: Insert Date HERE



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Minutes Approved By:

Adjourned
