

**Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2019 MEETING:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The Motion was unanimously approved.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Architectural Review Committee Update – Fran Landolf gave an update on what is happening in the Architectural Review Committee. CHAP deferred external color choice review to the committee. Fran will be developing simple guidelines for choosing colors.

Updates on specific properties within Federal Hill included...

1 E Montgomery – Previously Scarborough Faire was purchased by someone in New York and is turning the property into 7 apartments. Only one permit has been issued to rebuild the roof. Fran asked that association members notify him if anything else is being done to the property. By code, 7 apartments need to provide 7 parking spots or ask for a variance to be taken out of residential parking. Bob Merbler asked if this property is zoned for 7 units. Fran replied that it is zoned as a hotel so they can put 7 apartments in without a variance.

45 E Cross Street – Soon to be The Charmery is planning on adding an awning and door in window to serve ice cream.

900 Light Street – Mr. Smoke has requested to put up a sign outside of the property.

Mural on Light Street previously Sun Trust Building – No permit was drawn. A work stop order has been issued until CHAP is satisfied.

Regis – Liquor license was approved. New owners plan to open in November.

Fran asked that members of the community contact him if they see something that should be of interest to the Architectural Review Committee.

A community member asked Fran if someone is repainting their property the same color, whether they need to call CHAP. Fran indicated that it would be a good idea to be safe.

Kevin Hayes of Councilman Eric Costello's Office - Kevin was representing Eric Costello's office and asked if any community members had questions or concerns that he should share with Councilman Costello. A community member asked for an update on the Key Highway construction and the timeline for the completion of the BGE work on meters and gas infrastructure. Kevin said that he would get an update and get back to us. Cathy Rosenbaum indicated that all of the construction in the neighborhood is having a negative impact on businesses. It was also asked about the patch work that BGE was doing to the sidewalks and if they will be replacing the asphalt with concrete. Another community member expressed concern that the new handicap ramps were being installed and the brick was being replaced with concrete and none of the work has been submitted to CHAP for review.

A member expressed concern that the Airbnb laws were not being enforced.

A member asked Kevin to provide insight into an incident that occurred just before the FHNA meeting at Riverside and Cross where there was an apparent assault.

Kevin said that he would address these issues/concerns with Eric as soon as possible. Kevin is available by phone at 301-254-0025 and by email at kevin.hayes@baltimorecity.gov. He encouraged community members to contact him if they have any issues or concerns.

Brooke Shird of Digital Harbor High School - Brooke Shird is the community liaison and staff at the school. She asked that the community contact her if there are any issues with students or any issues at all. She shared that there is a community blood drive at the school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on November 20th and a food drive for students from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the cafeteria on November 20th. Brooke's telephone number is 443-413-0166 and her email address is blshird@bcps.k12.md.us. Brooke asked the neighbors to call if they see anything positive or negative. If you see students roaming the neighborhood during school hours, send a picture to Brooke. Neighbors can also contact Travis Laird, Dean of Students.

Public Safety Committee Update – Pastor Brad O'Brian has volunteered to be the chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Pastor O'Brian said that there is strong support for public safety. All resident and neighborhood associations are trying to work together within the peninsula. Pastor O'Brian attended the Community Relations Council meeting. There is a plan in place with measurable results tracking. The issue is that there are only 99 police officers. The police department is looking into adding bicycle patrol. The Postal Inspector is looking to charge porch pirates with federal crimes. Pastor O'Brian asked that if you have a Ring doorbell to register it with City Watch. It is helpful for solving crimes in South Baltimore. If there is a concerted effort, chances of getting caught in Federal Hill are higher so crimes won't be committed in Federal Hill. He reinforced if you see something, say something. Use 311 to report non-urgent issues and contact Shannon from the Mayor's office if service requests or complaints to 311 are not resolved. Pastor O'Brian also reminded the community to keep their porch lights on for safety and he indicated that he will be surveying the members of the FHNA for their concerns.

A community member suggested that neighbors use the application “Nextdoor” to keep everyone informed of issues in the neighborhood.

Social Committee Update – Sheri Hunt provided an update on the Social Committee. The FHNA table at the Jazz and Blues Festival was a success. Many names were collected of people who would like to get involved in the neighborhood association. The Social Committee will be reaching out to those individuals as soon as possible. The Social Committee decided once per quarter to have the FHNA general membership meeting at a restaurant or business in Federal Hill to expose the neighbors to and support the businesses. Brooke Shird of Digital Harbor High School suggested that FHNA have a meeting at Digital Harbor High School. Everyone agreed that it was a great idea. The Social Committee is also working on planning events for next year and Sheri encouraged the members of the association to provide suggestions for events.

Business Relations Committee Update – Faith Millspaugh shared concerns over the SantaCon pub crawl which is scheduled to take place on December 14th from noon to 10 p.m. in Federal Hill. Federal Hill Main Street and FHNA just learned about the pub crawl secondhand. The concern is over security during the event and cleanup after the event. The permit for the pub crawl has already been issued so there is nothing that can be done to stop the event. Faith is asking the community to take pictures if they see any issues related to the pub crawl and send them to her, Beth Whitmer or Cathy Rosenbaum.

Faith also shared that Banditos has been served with liquor board violations. There is a hearing on Thursday. The owner of Banditos is taking many steps to remediate the issues. They are adding a vestibule, closing the doors at 10 p.m. and installing soundproof glass to reduce the noise. Faith made a motion to write a letter of community support for Banditos because they have always been very supportive of the community in many ways. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. A letter will be drafted and sent to the liquor board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cathy Rosenbaum shared Federal Hill Main Street’s upcoming events.

- November 30 – Small Business Saturday
 - Cross Street Market Holiday Market
- December 7 - Moonlight Madness
 - Tree lighting at 7 p.m.
 - Cross Street Market Holiday Market
- December 14 - Cross Street Market Holiday Market
- December 15 - Santa Meet and Greet

A community member asked Cathy is there was going to be an Angel Tree is CSM again this year. Cathy indicated that she did not know, but if CSM was not doing one, FHMS will do it.

Cathy shared that FHMS is merging with the Business Association. Cathy encouraged community members to join committees of FHMS. They are looking for individuals to join the Promotions Committee where events are planned and social media is leveraged. The committee is currently rethinking the event types, objectives and locations. She encouraged people to get involved and share their thoughts and ideas. The Clean and Green Committee, Business Development Committee and Organization Committee are also looking for volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.