

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

Minutes for the Tuesday, January 21, 2020 General Membership Meeting

Call to Order:

Faith Millspaugh called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Beth Whitmer, President and usual presiding officer, was absent.

Minutes for the November 19, 2019 General Membership Meeting were approved by voice vote.

Meeting proceeded through the agenda, as follows:

1) Chap Update from Fran Landolf

Fran began by giving a general overview of the “Architectural Review Committee” that he leads (the “Committee”).

He then discussed the Committee’s most recent work with the company “B-Licks”, the entity looking to open an ice cream store in Federal Hill.

B Licks is the same company that owns the popular ice cream shop called BMore Licks in Canton. B Licks purchased the building at 101 Warren Avenue (currently Pitilis Dry Cleaning) and went before the Committee to request approval of the design plans for the new ice cream shop, including approval to 1) general paint of the building and 2) paint a mural on the Light Street side of the building. The mural will be a baby holding an ice cream cone.

The Committee reviewed the company’s request, mostly denied the painting of the building but did approve the painting of the mural on the light street side of the building, with some modifications. In allowing the mural, Fran noted that the building does not have the original, antique brick and that its current design is not necessarily historic. For the Committee’s exact recommendations and justifications, please contact Fran and the Committee.

The Committee forwarded their final recommendations to the CHAP Board, which were accepted by the Board. Fran noted that the ice cream shop and the mural are likely to move forward.

2) Digital Harbor High School Field Renovation Project from Donna Price and Vincent Andrews (Disclaimer: Vincent Andrews also drafted these minutes)

Donna Price and Vincent Andrews provided an update on the Digital Harbor High School Field Renovation Project they are working on. Quick facts as follows:

- Convert the current grass field into a multi-purpose turf field. Replace all the fencing surrounding the field.
- They are currently working with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership to advance the project.
- Donna and Vincent passed-around copies of the following initial site design, which was produced by the Ripken Foundation:



- The total project is likely to cost about \$1 million.
- Donna and Vincent are organizing a larger project committee to help coordinate the project and advance the fundraising. Contact Donna and Vincent if you would like to help with this project.

3) **Digital Harbor High School Update from Brooke Shird and Mr. Smith**

Ms. Shird and Mr. Smith, administrators at DHHS, gave an update on school activities.

- They are hosting monthly student / family counseling meetings on the last Monday of every month at 5pm;
- The school is currently hosting a winter coat and sweater drive. Community residents are asked to donate clean sweaters and coats to the school.

4) **Thread Update by Kathy McCleskey**

Gave a general presentation about Thread and passed around a sign-up sheet for community members who may want to volunteer. Generally described Thread as an organization that harnesses relationships to create positive change. They focus on students in the bottom 25% of their class by creating a support network of volunteers to breakdown barriers of social isolation across lines of difference. Encouraged community members to join.

5) **Public Safety Committee Update by Brad O'Brien: This agenda item was skipped because Brad was not in attendance.**

6) Greening and Beautification Update from Faith Millspaugh

The Committee is continuing their efforts to clean and beautify the neighborhood.

- Working to fill planters with the appropriate flowers/vegetation and are reassessing the effectiveness of the current street cleaning company. Most of the funding for these endeavors comes from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership and some grants from Federal Hill Main Street Association.
- Working with Department of Public Works to address the ongoing issue of residents leaving their green trash cans on the sidewalks. City ordinance requires that all residents keep their trash cans on their property, which likely means moving the trash can to the rear of the house (either through the sally port or through one's house). Partly in response to requests made by the committee, DPW will be sending a reminder to all residents about this requirement. Residents are not required to use the green cans offered by the city, they can use a smaller can so long as it has a lid and it meets other specifications.
- Dr. Larry Numley who works as a community liaison for DPW was in the audience and gave his input. He described fines associated with failing to properly maintain the trash can (\$50 for no lid, \$150 for trash bags being placed directly on the street). Offered his cell phone if people would like to reach him directly (443) 615 2626. Also fielded questions about recycling.
- Faith also notified the general body about an upcoming meeting with the Baltimore Tree Trust, to replace empty tree pits and dead trees in Federal Hill. Emily Green is organizing the meeting and any interested residents should contact Faith to receive more information.

7) Federal Hill Main Street Update from Cathy Rosenbaum

- Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) is continuing to do work in the business district, which may be disruptive but all businesses are still open.
- Main Street reviewed and expressed concerns with the City's parking plan that was recently released, which includes raising parking prices. The business community will be submitting alternative solutions to the city.
- Cathy is searching grant databases to fund dedicated patrol officers to walk a beat in the neighborhood.
- Main Street is also continuing to add string lighting to the business district.
- Upcoming events include:
 - Jazz and Blues fest which was previously held in June may be moved to May and they are looking to host it at an off-site location. Ultimately, the current business model for this event has to be reworked as it is not sustainable. For example, the security for such an event is extremely expensive and the city's event services for closing-off the street and setting-up the stages have not been reliable.
 - Looking into doing a Christmas Market with lots of events for kids. The goal is to engage with the community. Still looking for a good location.
- Main Street is doing a formal market analysis of the neighborhood's strengths and weaknesses to help plan for its future. Also considering at "brand modeling" for the neighborhood.
- The following Main Street committees are seeking members:
 - Cleaning and Greening
 - Organization Committee
 - Urban Revitalization Committee: Determining strategy to handle vacant buildings.

8) Parking Pass Pickup – John Bacci

FHNA will be holding the annual parking pass pickup on February 22nd at the Berkshire Hathaway Office, from 9am-12pm. This is for current Area 9 permit holders only, new permit requests must be done at the Parking

Authority's offices. \$20 for the decal, \$20 for the visitor pass. The resident must present the standard ID and proof of residency upon pickup.

No additional business offered from the audience members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Vincent Andrews

Submitted for approval at the February 18, 2020 general membership meeting.

END