

FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
General Membership Meeting
May 21, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

President Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 pm.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM April 2019 MEETING:

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes of the December General Membership meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

BPD Public Safety update – Supervising Sargent Tavon Adams w/ Southern District

- Package thefts, larceny from auto, burglary, and non-fatal shooting reported in last month (4/21-5/18)
- Shooting occurred at BP Station on S. Hanover and caught on camera
- Package thefts from stoops; recommend coordinating drop-off/pick-up to prevent crimes of opportunity
- Crimes significantly down otherwise
- Tavon.Adams@baltcity.gov; 410-299-0773

Conversation with Our Delegates – Robbin Lewis

- Delegate Lewis has background in international health, research, and public health
- Lives in Patterson Park
- Led greening movements, alley projects in City
- Last Session: \$15 minimum wage act, bill to create commission to reduce price of prescription drugs; expand access to healthcare insurance--first state in county to add option on tax form
- Housing voucher transparency to control at city level and prevent discrimination against low income families, break up concentrations of poverty; tried to pass at State level (did not pass)
- First in state in county to create mobile app to enroll in healthcare through Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- 30% of primary care in State of MD is provided at Planned Parenthood facilities
- All-hands on deck to block assault on reproductive rights (overturn Roe vs. Wade) and ACA; Super Majority to block

Federal Hill Main Street Update – Hank Shoffer (for Cathy Rosenbaum)

- Cleanup in FH Business District including sidewalk cleaning and landscaping; 3x/week, working to get funding for daily cleaning and expanded area
- Lessons learned from Crushfest, daytime event with no late hours, less alcohol focused events and more community centric/involved (pets, parks, kids, parades)
- FHMS putting a hold on festivals this summer
- Seeking neighborhood feedback from businesses and residents
- Joint effort with FHMS, FHNA, and SBNA
- CSM delayed from ransomware hack on City – three vendors including candy, Fenwick Meats, and Steve's Lunch
- CSM farmer's market will run every Saturday through October 2019
- Middle Branch Waterfront: \$70 Mil competition to develop with bike/walk paths, discussion of Hanover St bridge re-haul

- Question raised regarding street sweeping status: resources pulled to areas of need, more private/localized efforts to clean
- DHHS – Dr. Bowden no longer with HS, but standing invitation to school to attend General Membership meetings; HS discontinued community involvement advisory board

FHNA Annual Elections

- 2-year terms
- Brief introductions of new Director candidates: Michael Lopez (Treasurer; 8-year resident), Throop Wheeler (10-year resident), Vincent Andrews (recently moved to FH, but has lived in city for 9 years and former teacher at Patterson), and Sheri Hunt (Secretary)
- Motion made and approved unanimously for Director candidates
- Officer Candidates; motion made and approved unanimously

Conversation with Our Delegates – Brooke Lierman

- Starting second term/5th session
- First state in country to successfully ban foam containers; would like to pass more comprehensive bill to include plastics such as plastic bags and single use containers; bottle deposit
- Ambassador for the City on Appropriations Committee with Bill Ferguson to improve facilities and education
- Kirwan Commission; fair funding for schools; successfully secured \$250 Mil to implement; Concentrated poverty – metric at national poverty level, how to account for schools falling through the cracks
- Opportunity zones with tax credits, part of Federal tax bill; tax credit incentives; 145 zones in state are determined by Governor and not regulated since created at Federal level
- Capital gains- “parked” in Opportunity zone; Baltimore City has nearly 1/3 of Opportunity Zones in State
- \$8 Mil for public safety to include tech upgrades for police (\$50-\$60 Mil total over next 5 years); violence intervention and prevention bill; Safe Streets program funded
- Former mayors’ inability to clearly articulate public safety plan with measurable inputs and outcomes needed to fund directly
- MTA – capital needs assessment; 25-year regional transit plan, it’s been decades since plan was updated
- Get MD Moving, advocacy group for new regional transit plan due out October 2020
- 5th Annual Community Picnic in the Park-June 2 at Patterson Park, elected officials and non-profits will be attending

New Business

- Mike Dickensheets – looking to organize cleanup / improvements and cookout in June; possible informal meeting in lieu of General Meeting in June

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:03 pm

Submitted by Michelle Li, Secretary