

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
(via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Approximately 40 participants were in attendance via Zoom

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Liaison to City of Baltimore – Larry Nunley, Southwest Liaison to the City of Baltimore, shared that curbside recycling pickup resumed on January 19. He shared that he can be contacted for any infrastructure issues at (443) 615-2626.

Jake's Skate Park – Claire Johnson and Cindy Conklin shared that they are working with Waterfront Partnership to raise money for Jake's Skate Park which will be at Rash Field. They are planning a virtual auction of skate decks that will be painted by more than 50 amateur and professional artists. Donations are also being collected to help the skate park become a reality. The goal is to raise \$50,000.

Safety Update- Major Conaway from the Baltimore Police Department shared that they are moving towards providing a community safety update in one meeting per month at the CRC meeting and not at the individual neighborhood association meetings. He shared that robberies have been declining since 2018. There was one individual that was arrested for package thefts and package thefts have dropped 40% since his incarceration. The individual might serve 10 years in prison.

Eric Costello Update- Eric Costello reiterated that curbside recycling resumed on January 19. He reminded everyone that plastic bags are not recyclable and to secure our recycling in a container with a lid (not in a kitchen garbage bag) but it doesn't need to be a recycle bin.

Eric shared that Maryland has entered Phase 1B of its COVID vaccination rollout plan. There are currently no appointments available for the remainder of the month. Go to coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov for more information about the rollout plan.

Private Security Patrol- Ian Neuman shared that he is working with a small group of neighbors to arrange for a pilot private unarmed security patrol of Federal Hill. Approximately 70 neighbors have agreed to pay for the trial period. The pilot program will take place in May, June and July and engage Wolf Security for 40 hours per week over 5 days to patrol the neighborhood. The weekday hours would vary and a weekly report would be generated indicating the areas patrolled. The areas identified for patrol are from Light Street to Federal Hill Park and from

Montgomery Street to Cross Street. The neighbors are creating a private corporation which is not associated with FHNA. The cost of the pilot is \$16,000 plus the cost of the lawyer to create the bylaws and for D&O insurance. For those that pay for security, the security personnel will escort you if needed and check your house when you are on vacation.

Federal Hill Main Street- Cathy Rosenbaum, Executive Director, FHMS, shared FHMS 2020 accomplishments. They include:

- Supporting local businesses by obtaining outdoor dining permits and funding sources during COVID. The permit expires in June 2021
- Purchasing equipment for 20 restaurants to enable outdoor dining
- Held a Red Cross Blood Drive
- Partnered with Light Street Church to provide 1,200 meals to healthcare workers
- Added 100 commercial planters to define outdoor dining spaces
- Maintained 104 tree wells
- Obtained grant for 5 days a week of cleaning
- Awarded \$275,000 in grants
- Added 21 new businesses to Federal Hill
- Created new donor database
- Created new website

FHMS 2021 goals include:

- Adding additional lights over Charles Street, Light Street and E Cross Street
- Adding sidewalk art
- Obtain grant from South Baltimore Gateway Partnership for 25 in depth photo essays of merchants by Baltimore Small on Social Media.
- Create electronic newsletter for residents and business owners
- Shift FHMS focus from just businesses to all stakeholders including residents and visitors
- Revisit strategic plan

FHMS would like to expand its community outreach and expand committees. A nominating committee has been created to identify potential FHMS Board members. Cathy encouraged neighbors to consider engaging in FHMS by joining a committee or the Board.

Cathy would like to hold some virtual events with restaurants and bars such as learn to make cocktails or a recipe.

Cathy also shared that there is an opportunity to donate to FHMS and earn a tax credit. If you donate \$500 or more, you can deduct 50% of the amount off of your state taxes and deduct it as a charitable contribution. The program ends December 31, 2021.

Beautification Committee- Faith would like to resume outdoor cleaning on a monthly basis and meet in the park for beverages after the cleaning.

Social Committee- Sheri shared that the Social Committee will begin focusing on ideas for social events in the second half of the year when social interaction may be feasible. In the meantime, ideas for virtual events are welcome.

Digital Harbor High School (DHHS) Update- Brooke Shird, Community School Coordinator for DHHS shared that in-person schooling will reopen for 9th and 12th graders on March 1, 2021. DHHS is accepting donations for hygiene bags and blankets for families in need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Visit Baltimore Logo – At the last meeting, FHNA decided to defer to the South Baltimore Renaissance to decide whether to have the logo installed in Federal Hill Park. South Baltimore Renaissance was not in favor due to the size of the structure.
- Area 9 parking pass renewal – no renewal is required. A year extension has been granted. Riverside is currently piloting virtual parking passes.
- Recycling curbside pickup begins 1/19/21
- Speed Hump Study for Battery and Warren is scheduled for March/April timeframe.
- Keep your lights on for safety!
- Register your security cameras with the City of Baltimore and FHNA Safety Committee.
- It is a new membership year – renew your membership to FHNA by logging into the website.
- Zac Blanchard shared that there are now 4 new block captains. Still need block captains for 800 William Street, 200 E Churchill Street and Lanasa Lane.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.