

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
(via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Approximately 49 participants were in attendance via Zoom

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the March FHNA General Membership Meeting were approved.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Committee Updates-

Public Safety Committee – Beth shared that FHNA has received funding through a \$100,000 grant for license plate readers and lights around Federal Hill Park. FHNA has also received a grant from SBGP for pedestrian lighting on Battery Avenue next to the park.

Brad shared that Major Robert Velte is the new major of the Southern District of the BPD. He is committed to communication and provides updates to the homeowner and neighborhood association presidents twice a week about crime. He is focusing on proactive community policing. A fixed patrol schedule has been rolled out city-wide providing consistent post officers instead of rotating officers.

Brad reminded neighbors about the camera network. Currently the network includes over 100 homes and over 200 cameras. If you have a camera, please register it with the network. The camera network helps to solve crimes in the neighborhood. If someone is a victim of a crime, video footage can be provided from one of the cameras in the network and used as evidence in court.

There was a discharge of a weapon at the corner of Light and Warren where 15 rounds were fired. This location has been an area of concern. FHNA Board is writing a letter to the landlord of Zeeba Lounge asking him not to renew their lease. Zeeba Lounge has had many violations in the past.

Sanitation Committee – Vincent shared that over 40 unwanted trashcans were collected and returned to the City. On April 23rd during the Mayor’s Cleanup, there will be a dumpster at W. Montgomery and William. The Sanitation Committee is encouraging neighbors to bring their legacy cans to the area of the dumpster by 10 a.m. If you can’t bring your trashcan to the dumpster, turn the can over in front of your house, label “remove” and email ehillsider@gmail.com with the address for pickup. The cans will either be returned to the City or put in the trash.

Social Committee – Sheri reminded everyone of the Cross Street Block Party on Saturday, April 23rd from 1 to 5 on the north side of East Cross Street. We plan on having a DJ, face painter, balloon artist, the Orioles Bird, corn-hole contest and many other games and events. Everyone is welcome. The Social Committee is also working on a peninsula-wide event at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. More information will be provided.

EV Chargers – Zac Blanchard is working on having electric vehicle chargers installed in the neighborhood. There are currently approximately 11,000 residents and one public EV charger. Zac is working with the City to install EV chargers without impacting residential parking. There are 4 spaces at the corner of S. Charles and Montgomery that currently are not parking spaces and could be used for EV charging spots. Zac is asking FHNA for its support and approval of installing 4 EV chargers at S. Charles and Montgomery. Zac made a motion and Michelle Li seconded that motion for approval. To vote, email ehillsider@gmail.com to vote yes or no.

THREAD- Melinda Cianos of THREAD presented the mission of THREAD and a short video showing the impact that the volunteers of the organization have on young lives in the community. There are 39 students enrolled in THREAD from DHHS and 194 volunteers. Contact Melinda.cianos@thread.org for more information or to volunteer.

DHHS Update – Brooke Shird, DHHS Community School Coordinator, shared that DHHS is having a Spring Event to celebrate their 20 year anniversary on Saturday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

FHMS Update – Cathy Rosenbaum has resigned as Executive Director of FHMS. The FHMS Board is currently looking for a replacement. A new cleaning group started cleaning 5 days per week. Pinehurst will continue landscaping, weeding and planting the round pots. The Farmer’s Market will be held on Sundays and is moving to the north side of East Cross Street.

New FHNA Logo – Chase Farmer has developed new logos for FHNA. Two options were presented to the meeting attendees. The attendees suggested a few tweaks to the design. A vote will take place at the May or June general meeting to choose a logo.

Annual Elections – The annual Board elections will take place in May. Three Board members will be leaving the Board. There are several people interested in joining the Board. If anyone is interested, contact Beth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Peninsula Post Party at BMI on May 1
Federal Hill Prep Spring Fling on May 7
AVAM Kinetic Sculpture Race is May 7

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Post Meeting Vote Results: Although not all in attendance voted, the count amongst those who did was unanimously in favor of an EV Charger at the South Charles /E Montgomery location. We have since been informed by the city that location may not be a viable option.