

# FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## General Membership Meeting January 16, 2018

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

President Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING:**

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

### **Treasury Report for November/December**

- No questions were posed regarding the provided report

### **Councilman Costello Updates on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, Air B&Bs and Crime**

- Councilman Costello provided a recap and updates on recent crimes in the area, and ongoing challenges with the City, such as staff shortage of 500+ police officers in the BPD, average attrition rate of 19 officers/month, 70% turnover of lawyers in States Attorney Office, light sentencing handed down from the same judges, few consequences for juveniles convicted of violent crimes, watered down bill for illegal firearms possession
- Ongoing initiatives: \$2,500 property tax credit offered to officers that live in the City; 184 new cadets graduating from current academy class
- Ways to help address the ongoing crime in the city: Registering personal surveillance cameras with the City database; community involvement/presence at court hearings for charged offenders (including writing Community Impact Statements), additional COP/Community walks
- Five (5) DHHS students were among the victims assaulted on Halloween night
- Air bnb – Councilman explained in some detail the bill set to go before the city Council regulating airbnbs in residential areas
- Medical Marijuana dispensaries – Councilman explained state laws governing dispensary locations and confirmed the 2<sup>nd</sup> location on Key Highway. Answered questions and agreed to help facilitate a presentation by the new operator.

### **DHHS Community Update – Dr. Bowden**

- Provided list of upcoming opportunities for community to volunteer and/or engage with students, including FAFSA Workshop for Parents & Students, chaperoning field trips, etc.
- Additional December 2017 event scheduled for students to practice mock job interviews
- Two student representatives also provided recaps of recent activities, including ESOL Thanksgiving, and upcoming International Fair in 2018

### **Police Report – Major Ward**

- Statistics lower than perceived on social media
- Handgun laws need to change (not a misdemeanor)
- Juvenile repeat offenders pose ongoing challenges
- No decoy unit or officers on bicycles in place in neighborhood yet
- 15 Southern District officers scheduled per shift
- 1,400 calls received in last 7 days
- Currently short staffed by 49 officers in Southern District
- Goal to bring auxiliary police back to Southern District
- 500 new officers to start in city; hiring more officers than losing each year
- Recruiting efforts include a BCPD app and college fairs
- Efforts to change State laws with Gov. Hogan, but same impact not considered in other areas of the State
- School police in neighborhood stay close to school area, but work collaboratively with Southern District

### **CHAP - Eric Holcomb and Walter Gallas:**

- Website: chap.baltimorecity.gov
- Provides design guidelines and approvals for exterior work to a property
- If you see it from the ground, CHAP review required for structural changes (not AC units, etc.)
- Two-track review process with FHNA Architectural Review Committee (advisory role) and CHAP (ultimate approvers on changes)
- Same day approval for many CHAP approvals
- Larger projects require CHAP hearing
- CHAP hearing agendas are published online every month
- New building permits will be flagged as CHAP district, requiring applicants to complete review process

### **Clean Air Ordinance – Patrick ???**

- Wheelabrator incinerator in South Baltimore found to produce significant levels of toxic pollutants; largest single source of air pollution in City and top 12 polluter in State of MD; built in 1985
- Industry self-reports and regulates
- Clean Air Ordinance proposed to adopt new standards; legislation/bill in progress
- Where would the waste go otherwise? Other options such as landfills create methane gas; however, 1/3 of incinerator ash goes to landfill any way
- City Council adopted Zero Waste goal for the city
- Existing permit for Wheelabrator expires in 2 years
- Asking for support of FHNA and Board to formally endorse Clean Air Ordinance
- FHNA support vote tabled until further discussions held

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- April 19th (date tentative) meeting scheduled for Presidents of Southern Peninsula Neighborhood Associations and local politicians at National Federation of the Blind (forum for three Baltimore State's Attorney office candidates)
- Parking pass pick up scheduled for 2/10 for Area 9 residents @ Berkshire Hathaway office on Light Street
- FHNA Committee reorganization with member input on top concerns; more to come in February
- Free seminar on tax appeal process @ Berkshire Hathaway office
- DHHS students participating in AVAM Kinetic Sculpture race

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Submitted by Michelle Li, Secretary