

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

**Minutes for the Tuesday, September 17, 2019
FHNA General Membership Meeting**

Call to Order:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Meeting's agenda attached to these Minutes as Attachment A.

No minutes needed to be adopted as the previous meeting was substituted for a clean-up and cook-out at Robert Baker Park.

Baltimore City Liquor Board – Matt Achhammer, *Community Liaison*

Mr. Achhammer began his presentation by giving a quick overview of Liquor Board operations, the process for getting a license, and a general description of inspecting license holders (Note: he provided a powerpoint as a handout to the audience attached hereto as Attachment B). He also gave a brief overview of 2019 legislation which raised the minimum age required to enter into an establishment featuring adult entertain from 18 to 21 (unless active duty military).

Questions/Comments from the floor included:

- Community member asked whether the Liquor Board could get involved if a licensee had excessively loud music. Referenced a bar on Cross Street whose music is so loud it was affecting the neighboring business.
 - o Mr. Achhammer said that if a complaint is lodged with the board, they typically send an inspector within 24 hours. He indicated that inspectors will use a reasonable person standard when determining if the noise is too loud and encouraged the community to call/log a complaint with the board if they think it would be helpful. Ultimately, he said he would take the excessive noise issue back to his supervisor.

Scott Davis, Representing City Council President Brandon Scott

Provided an overview of the City Council President's priorities and the 24 point plan he published. Highlighted the following four priorities:

- 1) Clean-up government;
- 2) Crime and developing a comprehensive crime plan;
- 3) Children and funding for schools, which includes supporting the Kirwan Commission; and
- 4) Equity, to ensure that upcoming legislation and budgets address equity issues in the City.

Mr. Davis requested that people reach-out to the Council President's office to provide feedback on the full 24 point plan that was published.

Questions/Comments from the floor included:

- One community member asked the City Council President's position on holding youth committing crime accountable. The community member specifically cited crime and dirt bikes riding up Warren Avenue at night.

- Mr. Davis said he didn't know the City Council President's specific position was but that the City Council President generally wants police to do more proactive policing. Will take this concern back to the City Council President.
- Another community member asked that something be done about the very bright lights installed on Warren Avenue, worried that the trees will be killed.
 - Mr. Davis said he would take the issue back to his office.

Digital Harbor High School – Introduction of Principal Dr. Swinton

As the new Principal of Digital Harbor, Dr. Swinton asked to speak with the FHNA to connect and engage with the community (also present was one of her Vice Principals). She moved to Baltimore from Newark Public Schools, where she worked for 10 years. Indicated that she does not have all the answers but that she is hoping to work with the community. Currently the school has approximately 1,300 students and 125 instructional staff, offering courses in 5 CTE Pathways. She announced and passed-out a flier for a “Dog Pawty” that she was hosting on September 21st to further engage with the community.

Questions/Comments from the floor included:

- A community member expressed their delight that the Principal was present at the meeting. Requested that an officer be placed on E. Cross Street in the morning when students are being dropped-off to ensure the student's safety considering all the traffic.
- Another community member asked if the school had a police officer with the authority to handcuff
 - Dr. Swinton indicated the school police did have the authority to handcuff but that she was focused on instituting a system of restorative disciplinary practices.
- Another community member asked if the school had a volunteer coordinator.
 - Dr. Swinton indicated that they were filling the position and would have somebody starting in October.

Jenelle Harvey from Thread

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.

New Business Presentation – Boaz Bistro - Mr. Ronald Price

Mr. Price came to describe his restaurant concept for the new restaurant he plans to open in what was formerly Reggie's. His restaurant concept is “Where food meets art” and is trying to be different from the standard sports bar. He's hoping to cater to both a younger and older crowds by putting up inspirational art, perhaps a jukebox, and does not want “wild parties”. Food will be seafood based and is thinking about opening for breakfast. Currently hiring staff including bartenders, servers, etc. Hoping to open in November but is having issues with the liquor license, the Liquor Board is claiming the license was inactive for too long.

- A community member offered to help draft letters of support.

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership – Marissa Ramirez

Briefly described the SBGP and how it operates. They are currently seeking people to join their board of directors, community member should apply via their website by October 16 (flier handed out at meeting). Once applications are received, SBGP will be post them publicly for people to provide comment.

- A community member emphasized that the SBGP is a very important organization that helps fund multiple community initiatives including Federal Hill Business District “cleaning and greening”.

Update from Federal Hill MainStreet and BRC – Faith Millspaugh and Cathy Rosenbaum

Ms. Millspaugh presented on the community clean-up organized by Wayward, multiple community members came together to pick up trash and pull weeds.

Ms. Rosenbaum gave an update on upcoming activities including:

- There will be no Octoberfest this year.
- The Hilloween Bar Crawl is happening on October 26 and the organizing company is in contact with Federal Hill MainStreet to ensure the event occurs without any problems. The organizing company has donated \$12,000 to MainStreet for clean-up initiatives after the bar crawl.
- October 26 is the last day of the Cross Street Farmers Market for the season.
- October 27 is the Jazz Fest, which will feature live music as well as kid friendly activities such as pumpkin decorating. The event is currently seeking volunteers.
- MainStreet is continuing to fund a street cleaning services (Living Classrooms) for 5 days per week.
- MainStreet will also continue a weed killing initiative, which they are hoping to start earlier in the season for 2020.
- MainStreet organized a code enforcement walk with 26 people from city government and business. Will send an email to all businesses with follow-up matters.
- Currently planning an anti-graffiti and sticker initiative. Looking at option for painting surfaces with a special anti-graffiti coating.
- Rooster and Hen will be joining as a vendor at Cross Street Market.
- The Charmery is opening a location at 26 E. Cross Street.

Finally, MainStreet is seeking volunteers to join their committees. Community members are encouraged to reach-out if they would like to participate.

Letter of Support Requests – Beth Whitmer

President Whitmer update the general body about a new day care center that requested a letter of support from the FHNA Board. The FHNA Board granted the letter of support on the condition that the day care have a pick-up and drop-plan for parents, to address any potential traffic issues.

Announcement and Reminders

- Mayor’s Fall Clean-up is happening on October 26 and Federal Hill will have a dumpster available.
- Community Member are invited to attend Pigtown Festival happening on September 21st, flier was passed-out at meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Minutes Prepared By: Vincent Andrews

Presented for Approval at the FHNA Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Attachment A – Meeting Agenda



To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle

**FHNA General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
6:30 PM**

- 6:30 Call to Order
- 6:35 Adoption of June 2019 Board Meeting Minutes waived – Picnic held at RBP
- #3 ➤ 6:40 Introduction to New Digital Harbor High School Principal – Dr. Swinton
- #2 ➤ 6:55 Baltimore City Council President's Office – Scott Davis
- #1 ➤ 7:05 BLLC Community Liaison – Matt Achhammer
- #4 ➤ 7:15 Thread – Jenelle Harvey
- #6 ➤ 7:20 South Baltimore Gateway Partnership – Marissa Ramirez
- #5 ➤ 7:30 New Business Presentation – Boaz Bistro – Ronald Price
- #7 ➤ 7:40 Federal Hill MainStreet and BRC Update – Cathy Rosenbaum
- #8 ➤ 7:50 Other Letters of Support Requests
 - Day Care Center
- 7:55 Announcements and Reminders
 - Mayor's Fall Cleanup -October 26th 9-12
- 7:58 New Business
- 8:00 Adjourn

Attachment B – Liquor Board PowerPoint Handed-out at Meeting

BLLC – Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City

DOUGLAS K. PAIGE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

THOMAS R. AKRAS, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

STACI RUSSELL, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MATT ACHHAMMER, COMMUNITY LIAISON

2019

BLLC MISSION

The Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) is tasked with licensing and regulating alcoholic beverage and adult entertainment establishments in Baltimore City. The BLLC promotes transparency and clarity for all stakeholders by utilizing a highly collaborative process with various governmental and community stakeholders through which it develops City-wide rules and policy. This process furthers BLLC's primary mission to regulate alcoholic beverage and adult entertainment licenses in compliance with Federal, State, and local law.

Presentation Overview

- Divisions
- Getting a License
- License Types
- Enforcement
- Community Involvement

3 DIVISIONS OF THE LIQUOR BOARD

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- 4 Commissioners (3 permanent, 1 alternate)
- Holds hearings on new licenses, transfers, protests of renewal, violations.
- Approve, disapprove for licenses, transfers, renewal.
- Fine, Suspend, Revoke for violations.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- 5 Staff Members
- Responsible for reviewing, processing, posting, preparing, and scheduling all applications to be heard by the Board at a public hearing.
- Also responsible for all one-day and special event licenses.

INSPECTION

- 10 Staff Members – 1 Chief and 9 Inspectors
- Conduct inspections, each licensee at least 4x / year (~5000), plus special investigations.
- Cite and write reports for violations.
- Respond to 311 contacts.
- Work with other city agencies on special task forces. (*Social Club Task Force / Underage*)
- Regulatory authority only. Unarmed, no police power, no power of arrest.

GETTING A LICENSE

Purchase An Existing License

- ▶ Apply to Transfer License
- ▶ Hold Public Hearing
- ▶ Board Determines if application and applicant are "fit and proper"

General Considerations:

- Amount of Licenses in area
- Community Support or Opposition
- Background check and fitness of owners / applicants
- Good standing of corporation and business

Legislation

- ▶ MD State Legislature can pass legislation to issue new licenses

New "B" Licenses

- ▶ *Different parts of the city require different capital investments*
- ▶ The applicant must show a minimum \$200K investment in the property – this does not include the purchase of the property
- ▶ At least 75 seats, Food Receipts totaling at least 40% of all sales
- ▶ Public Hearing
- ▶ Board Determines if application and applicant are "fit and proper"

LICENSE TYPES

CLASS "A"	CLASS "B"	CLASS "C"	CLASS "D"	"CLASS BD7"
-Beer and Wine, or Beer, Wine and Liquor -"Off Premise" Only (Package goods)- 6am to 12am Mon. - Sat. -Special Sundays when applied for and approved. -A-2 - 9am to 12am	-Beer and wine, or Beer, Wine, and Liquor -7 days / week 6am to 2 am -Generally Restaurants, also Hotels, Arenas, and Racing Facilities.	-Beer and wine, or Beer, Wine, and Liquor -Non-profit Private Clubs -7 days / week 6am to 2 am	-Beer and wine 7 days 6am to 1am or Beer, Wine, and Liquor -Mon. - Sat. 6am to 1am -Taverns	-Beer, Wine, and Liquor -Taverns -7 days / week 6am to 2 am

* Park Heights Master Plan area: A and BD7 hours of operation: 9am to 10pm, all others 9am opening.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Involvement for New or Transfer Licenses

Support

- ▶ New business can often be very welcome to a neighborhood as a source of pride, employment, and revitalization.
- ▶ Voice your community support of new establishments.
- ▶ Submit letters of support and attend hearings in support.

Concerns

- ▶ Talk with owners. Invite to meetings, work with them toward understanding, if possible.
- ▶ Contact the Liquor Board.
- ▶ Voice opposition, if needed. Testify at hearings, submit letters of opposition.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Involvement for Existing Licensed Establishments

Problems

Common issues:

- Noise Complaints
- Underage Service
- General disturbance
- Hours of operation
- Unauthorized Live entertainment

▶ 311

**Phone
Website
App**



What You Can Do



-Drugs, Gambling, Prostitution, Loitering Call 911 or Police District.

-Executive Secretary - Douglas Paige
douglas.paige@baltimorecity.gov

-Deputy Executive - Secretary Thomas Akras
thomas.akras@baltimorecity.gov

-Chief Inspector - Mark Fosler
mark.fosler@baltimorecity.gov

-Community Liaison - Matt Achhammer
matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov
Mobile: 410-241-6525

<http://www.llb.baltimorecity.gov>

Main office: 410-396-4377

Community Engagement Initiative

Community Liaison
Activity June 2018
through July 2019

- ▶ 101 Community or Business Associations Visited
- ▶ 12 Special Presentations
- ▶ 3144 People - Total Reach
- ▶ 417 Individual Community Member Questions Asked and Answered
- ▶ 14 Council Districts - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14
- ▶ 6 MD Legislative Districts - 40,41,43,44,45,46
- ▶ 929 BLLC Informational Folders
- ▶ 3005 Presentation Handouts
- ▶ 19 Mayor's VRI Walks
- ▶ 36 Specific Complaints Resulting in 42 investigations: 14 special, 12 Social Club Task Force, 4 underage, 4 BD-7

BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

August 2019

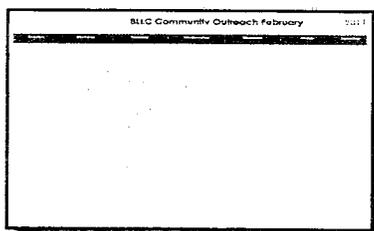
Summer Festivals



Sydmonauts by Amigo & Amigo amidst the crowd on Charles Street at Artscape 2019

July and August marked the height of Baltimore's Summer Festival season, with two notable events: The AFRAM Festival in Druid Hill Park, and Artscape in the Mt. Vernon area. Both are multi-day events highlighting the City's arts and culture. AFRAM is in its 43rd year and Artscape in its 38th.

Both festivals are free events and host crowds in the thousands with Artscape billed as the Nation's largest free outdoor arts festival. All festival organizers applied for and received permits to serve and sell alcohol, and the BLLC performed inspections at the events as appropriate to ensure compliance and public safety.



Community Outreach Calendar

Our Community Liaison is scheduling for September, October, and November.

Email Matt at

matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov to have the BLLC come to your business or community association meeting.

Rules and Regulations in Translation

Did you know that the Rules and Regulations of the BLLC are available on our website and at our office, and are available in English, Korean, and Spanish? The BLLC has produced these translations in order to more fully serve our diverse community of stakeholders.

You can find the Alcoholic Beverages Rules and Regulations here:

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Korean](#)

One Day Licenses?

Hosting a fundraiser for your organization, a block party, or a festival? You may need a one-day license and we can help:

<https://lb.baltimorecity.gov/applications-on-process>

Good Neighbors?

Does your community have a good relationship with a Liquor Store, Bar, or Restaurant owner? We want to hear about it. Email Matt with your story:

matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov

Community Questions

Each month our Community Liaison receives questions from neighborhood associations and business organizations across the City. In July of 2019, the BLLC visited 7 community associations, engaged with 225 people, and answered 35 questions from citizens on a wide range of topics. The BLLC also participated in 3 Mayor's Safety Walks: in the Eastern District in the Johnston Square neighborhood; in the Northwestern District in the Park Lane neighborhood; and the Northern District in the Woodbourne Heights neighborhood.

This month's common question posed to the agency was: What should a community do if they suspect an establishment is selling to minors? Anyone with such a concern should submit a 311 request or directly contact the agency. The BLLC has a special task force that works with police cadets in an undercover capacity to test whether an establishment is properly checking ID and complying with the Rules and Regulations.

If a licensed establishment sells to a cadet in this case, the licensee is then brought before the Board for a public hearing, at which time community members may testify to the impact of the violation.

Fun Fact: Baltimore City is currently home to 4 distilleries:

Baltimore Spirits Company, <https://baltimorespiritsco.com/>

Louthan Distilling, <https://www.facebook.com/LouthanDistilling/>

Old Line Spirits, <http://www.oldlinespirits.com/>

and Sagamore Spirits Distilling, <https://sagamorespirit.com/>