

FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting February 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2018 MEETING:

Postponed until next general meeting

Crime Report

- Major Monique Brown, new Southern District Police Commander presented; Major Ward was promoted to Area Commander
- City-wide pattern of assaults, vandalism/destruction of property
- Forensic lab backlogged and less focused on crimes that are not against a person

Baltimore Liquor License Commission (BLLC) - Aaron Greenfield

- Annual renewal hearings; only decision BLLC is able to make during hearing is to renew or not renew a license
- Significant violations required to take away someone's asset; not minor infractions
- Free formal mediation recommended and offered by BLLC for renewal protesting parties
- Suggests sit down with bars/restaurants and neighborhood association for regular dialogue about ways to coexist and support businesses
- Previous posts on social media made by LAC members, not by FHNA board
- Irish Stroll bar crawl in neighborhood; promoter didn't have approval of BLLC before promoting and they ceased advertising until proper permits issued
- BLLC notifies all neighborhood associations of upcoming bar crawls
- BLLC officers will be onsite during Irish Stroll

Federal Hill Business Association (FBHA) - Hank Shoffer

- FBHA proposed separate security patrol to address uptick in crime
- Funded via private funds
- Offers benefit to whole peninsula, not just business areas
- Considering hiring the same security company used in Fells Point, Harbor East, and by the Waterfront Partnership
- Reached out to Federal Hill Hospitality Association to support
- Estimated to cost approximately \$300K annually
- To patrol primarily on weekends and would like to start program in two months
- More populated sidewalks are good for all in the neighborhood

Business Relations Committee

- All FHNA committees are being reevaluated to address changing needs of the community, including the Liquor Advisory Committee

South Harbor Renaissance

- Family Liaison presented plans to install new toddler train feature proposed in original plans with Federal Hill Park improvements
- Additional restoration planned of existing installations
- Funding raised with local fundraising events, pavers, and potential grants
- Requested support from FHNA (not funding) in form of letter of support to South Baltimore Grant Partnership
- Estimated cost of train and restoration around \$60K
- Voted unanimously in favor of letter of support

DHHS Community Update – Mike Holmes

- Requested support from FHNA (not funding) in form of letter of support to South Baltimore Grant Partnership
- Grant funding to be used to fix playing field next to DHHS, as surface is compacted and not currently safe in poor condition
- Researching methods to ensure planned improvements last, including secure gates
- Estimated cost of restoration to bring field up to acceptable standards around \$18K; requesting \$25K grant from SBGP
- Voted unanimously in favor of letter of support

DHHS Community Update – Dr. Bowden

- Upcoming DigiBall event in April provides scholarship funding
- New venue at AVAM (formerly BMI)

Beyond Plastic

- JHU student disussed proposed ban on Styrofoam due to toxic materials, does not breakdown quickly and can't be recycled
- Mostly polystyrene/Styrofoam containers from restaurants
- Requested support from FHNA (not funding) in form of letter of support for Baltimore City Council vote on ban during the last week of February
- 120+ cities across the US have adopted similar bans
- Voted unanimously in favor of letter of support

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- February 25-Family Friendly event planned at the Cross Street Market
- Baltimore State's Attorney Candidate Forum

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cross Street Market undergoing gradual renovations

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45pm.

Submitted by Michelle Li, Secretary