

# FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## General Membership Meeting May 15, 2018

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

President Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 pm.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 2018 MEETING:**

Postponed until next general meeting

### **Baltimore Water Taxi – Claire Walker & Zach Rogers**

- 2017 was an experimental year; taking feedback to reshape service into public transportation system/routes
- 2018 brings more changes including easier to navigate routes and technical improvements (e.g. new website baltimorewatertaxi.com, e-ticketing)
- Catering to local customers, including 10-ride packs for \$40, annual passes for daily commuters
- Private charters with BYOB and snacks
- 241 days of service annually
- Still not permitted to take passengers aboard that originate from Fort McHenry stop
- Ridership statistics based on rough estimates: approximately 20% capacity during weekdays; 50% capacity on weekends
- Will allow 2 bicycles per boat starting Memorial Day weekend
- A member raised a safety concern with the boats newly painted black, making it difficult for other boaters to see them at night
- Another member suggested offering a buddy passes (rider + guest)
- The docks (owned and maintained by Baltimore City) in state of disrepair; long-term plan for repair and replacement (funding is the issue)

### **Crime Report - Major Monique Brown, Southern District Police Commander**

- No robberies reported for 28 days in Federal Hill/S. Baltimore until car jacking on May 15
- Police did not catch young suspects, but did recover car
- Major Brown stated they will increase police presence, but too many incidents at bars are diverting resources at nights (i.e. bar fights); certain bars more problematic than others
- FHNA to coordinate with private security company hired by FHHA

### **Baltimore Museum of Industry – Auni Gelles**

- 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year
- Farmer's Market starts May 19, running through November
- Additional events planned through the year
- Starting a teen advisor program June 3

### **Business Relations Committee – Faith Millspaugh and FHBA/FHHA Board Members**

- BRC will be meeting with FH Hospitality Association regarding crime report
- Light City events in neighborhood (e.g. parade) were well attended
- Federal Hill Main Street – received \$5,000 grant for adopt-a-plant program
- Jazz and Blues Festival – June 3
- Community Cleanup with Happy Hour after at Banditos – June 9
- Dr. Bowden w/ DHHS to coordinate neighborhood cleanup with resident volunteers, students, and businesses with pizza party to follow in mid-June
- Cross Street Market – 1950's retro feel; about ¼ way through project (ahead of schedule); estimated phases completed in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019
- Looking to establish better communication and dialogue with businesses and residents
- New business openings include Diablo Donuts and Urban Deli; better publicized
- Second floor of Spoons opened
- Suggestion to offer one free ad in the Hillside for new businesses
- Include local business coupons/promotional materials in new neighbor welcome packets
- June General Membership meeting will be at a local bar/restaurant

### **Thread – Nikhil Gupta**

- Thread works with lowest 25% (performing) freshman students (by GPA)
- 32 freshman enrolled in DHHS Thread program for 2018, with about 100 volunteers supporting those students
- Now 3-4 months into first year at DHHS program
- Requesting additional volunteers to participate to work with 32 new freshman for Jan 2019 program
- 10 year program for students, with minimum one year commitment from each volunteer

### **DHHS Community Update (Tabled)**

#### **Election of Directors and Officers**

- Motions made to re-elect Candidates for Officer and Active Directors; motions seconded and approved, including new candidate, Faith Millspaugh
- 4 board members resigned or retired

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and REMINDERS:**

- June 6<sup>TH</sup> – Baltimore State's Attorney Forum; no interaction between candidates, but will field questions from attendees
- Collaborative Neighborhood Cleanup

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45pm.

Submitted by Michelle Li, Secretary