

FEDERAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
General Membership Meeting
October 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM September 2018 MEETING:

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

Federal Hill Main Street Beautification Update – Sean White

- Initiatives include tree pits, large flower pots
- Funding sources: Clean and Green \$40K grant from South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (SBGP); recent golf tournament raised \$10K; some out-of-pocket and from City
- Timeline TBD
- Similar improvements to what has occurred in Fells Point with Business District Tax applies
- Caves Valley Partnership-\$250K grate to sidewalks and infrastructure arounds Cross Street Market
- Collaborative Neighborhood Clean-up October 20, 10am-12pm with discount on brunch at 101; possible collaboration with Mayor's Fall Cleanup
- FHMS Board to grow to include collective voice of business/commerce and residents; Fells Pt. Bid Process consultant helping with FHMS; Executive Director position still vacant

Crime Report - Southern District – Capt. Jones

- Over the last 28 days, misc. crimes reported include Nine (9) robberies in Sobo and Three (3) assaults, including in Otterbein and Cross Street
- Arrests made include mostly juveniles
- Southern District includes approx. 15 officers at any given time (24/7) that cover 13 square mile area; 10-hour shifts; three stationed in Federal Hill
- Still in deficit of number of officers; down 22-23 officers in S. District
- Focus on violent crimes, so non-violent crimes are not priority
- Lowest paid officers in the State, with highest real estate taxes makes campaign to hire new recruits challenging
- Help response by providing dispatch exact address
- Supplemental staff of 30 officers in S. District will be out on Halloween, including "buffer zones" away from main streets
- Residents expressed fear of walking around neighborhood
- Attendees asked what can we do to help police?
 - Walk in groups
 - Don't be distracted
 - Keep lights on at night
 - Remove items from care
 - Don't have packages delivered to unattended homes
 - Always call 911 dispatch is see suspicious behavior (near real-time notices on crime)
 - Call Tip Line directly (410-396-2499)
- No central site/database/outlet to share all details of crime reported in Southern Peninsula

Business City States Attorney's Office – Evelyn Vargus

- Ms. Vargus is an advocate for victims and community liaison
- Encouraged community impact statements, signed by residents, to provide in support of court case (on behalf of Community)
- Sentencing Judge may take these impact statements into account and the statements follow defendant's record; at discretion of judge for community impact statements to be heard
- Also, victim impact statements are helpful
- Approximately 80-100 cases/day; currently 40 for S. District
- For juvenile crimes, request to be transferred to adult circuit court
- As liaison, communicates where crimes are occurring
- If arrest is made, contact Ms. Vargus to follow case and we can draft community impact statement
- Also encouraged residents to come to court to see full process in action
- Recent murder victim's suspects in District Courte, will move to Circuit Court
- Maryland Caste Search will show interactive map of cases
- It was requested that Ms. Vargus follow-up after this meeting to let FHNA President know what cases occurred in the neighborhood, on a regular/frequent basis; FHNA President will share with Neighborhood Association
- Ms. Vargus' contact information to be included in future issue of Hillside
- Residents expressed extreme concern over M. Mosby's recent comment about being "numb" to homicide; asked Ms. Vargus to take that feedback to M. Mosby

Security Camera Demo – David Evans (ACE Hardware Manager)

- Lighting and cameras play important role in crime prevention and evidence
- Nest and Ring cameras are easy to install; ACE can help
- \$200-300 per system, with audio feature
- Can rent tools and ladder from ACE
- Motion detector lights, dusk-to-dawn bulbs, some programmable
- Provided 10% discount coupons

Announcements and Requests for Letters of Support

- Baltimore Jingle Bell Arthritis Run @ Rash Field-600 people; December 8; no road closures; Letter of support approved unanimously
- Mayor's Cleanup October 27, 9a-12p

New Business

- Cultra medical marijuana dispensary recent event had permit, but no notice provided to FHNA; should be held to the same standards at bar crawls, including noise levels and parking impact considerations

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 pm

Submitted by Michelle Li, Secretary