

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2020
(via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Senator Ferguson Update on Spring Legislative Session:

Senator Ferguson shared that the key issues addressed during the session included:

- Kirwin Commission – 10 year plan to create more highly effective schools
- \$2 billion for new school construction
- Settlement of lawsuit outstanding with historically black colleges and universities
- Future of Preakness at Pimlico

The Senate passed every one of the pieces of legislation.

Currently facing the health pandemic, racial injustice and inequality, and the future of education during the pandemic.

Federal Hill Park Issues

Federal Hill Park has been a hotspot for gatherings from late night until early in the morning. There is excessive noise, traffic and trash. The neighbors are concerned about the safety of the community due to cars speeding down the roads, riding the wrong way down streets and the number of people congregating at the park after it closes. A Zoom meeting was held with Major Conaway, Eric Costello and others to determine how to address the issue. Major Conaway tasked his midnight shift to handle patrolling the Park. It was suggested that we utilize the parking authority to enforce parking restrictions, remove benches in the park for 30 days, and adding signage about park closing time.

John Bacci said that he spoke to the Parking Authority and there has been no timeline identified for resumption of parking enforcement. Need to work with Eric Costello and send a letter of support from the neighborhood association encouraging parking enforcement. There was a motion to write a letter of support to enforce permit parking restrictions and the motion was seconded. A petition signed by neighbors has also been created to enforce parking restrictions.

Eric Costello shared that the Department of Transportation is rolling out a Slow Streets Program where they put up barriers and signs to close off streets for access to local traffic only. Eric has

reached out to DOT to include the roads accessing Federal Hill Park which will reduce and slow traffic. Eric was not sure about the timing of the request being completed.

Rec and Parks Plan for Federal Hill Subsidence/Erosion

John DePagnier and Harper Kudler of RK&K shared the plans for final improvements to the east side slope in the Park. The long-term improvements include

- Removing the rip rap
- Re-grading and seeding the slope
- Installing permanent sidewalk and curbs along Warren Ave.
- Installing guardrail fencing
- Repairing the northeast corner of slope

They plan to have the design and permitting complete by early 2021. They are applying for funds in CIP to begin construction. If they are able to get the funds, construction could begin next summer or fall. If funding is not approved, they will need to wait until they get full funding to begin.

Federal Hill Business District Reopening:

Cathy Rosenbaum, Executive Director of Federal Hill Main Street, shared the general plans for reopening in Federal Hill. The final decision regarding road closures is that the north side of Cross Street will be closed 24/7 from Patapsco to Light Street. The south side of Cross Street will remain open 24/7. Charles and Light Street traffic will continue to be two-way. FHMS is wrapping up the infrastructure and is working on ways to make the areas welcoming by adding greenery, twinkle lights, shade sails and street art.

Baltimore Imentor:

Shakira Smiler of Baltimore Imentor shared the opportunity for neighbors to volunteer to mentor high school students on their journey to post-secondary education success. The volunteers communicate with their mentees weekly, meet monthly and maintain a relationship with their mentee for 3 years (junior year, senior year and 1st year after graduation). If interested, mentors should attend a mentor orientation, fill out an online application and complete the mentor screening process. Those interested in participating should contact Shakira at ssmiler@imentor.org.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.