

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
(via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Approximately 28 participants were in attendance via Zoom

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Entertainment District Initiative Update- Randy Conroy, the General Manager of Horseshoe Casino, shared plans for the entertainment district that is being planned near Horseshoe Casino. Private owners of Horseshoe Casino have been acquiring land around the casino including 4 parcels on Warner Street. They would like to create a pedestrian walkway to showcase the Baltimore local art scene. They are planning on having Top Golf, the first urban Top Golf, to be operational by the end of next year; Paramount Baltimore, a 3800 seat concert venue which will be operational by the end of 2022; a 200 to 400 room hotel which will be connected to the casino via an underground walkway; and a bowling alley or Dave and Busters or indoor soccer field. It will be bike and pedestrian friendly and tie into the trail system. They are investing \$250 million and it will create over 1,000 new jobs, \$25 million in revenue to the City of Baltimore and attract more business to Baltimore.

Federal Hill Main Street Update- Cathy Rosenbaum shared that they plan to open up outdoor dining by mid-March. FHMS is also working on beautification of Federal Hill by adding string lights, planting new trees and performing tree maintenance. The first priority is the dead trees that pose a safety risk. FHMS has also received a grant from South Baltimore Gateway Partnership to do Baltimore Small Business stories which will include 25 in-depth photo essays of local businesses including retail, restaurants, bars and personal services. They are also working on issuing an electronic newsletter that will be relevant to residents and business owners. You can sign up for the newsletter by going to FedHill.org. Cathy also shared that there is a Community Investment Tax Credit available to those that make a minimum of a \$500 donation to FHMS. You will receive a 50% tax credit to the state in addition to being able to take a charitable contribution deduction. It is a good way to support the neighborhood and save taxes.

Trash Can Committee- Zac Blanchard shared that a Trash Can Committee is being formed to address trash cans being left out in front of residences on a regular basis. Having trash cans in front of homes degrades the neighborhood. City regulations require that trash cans only be left out the night before trash pickup and brought in the next day. The effort is being led by the block captains. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Zac.

Hillside Pilot Committee- March 2020 was the last issue of the printed Hillsider publication. Work is being done to pilot a digital-only Hillsider that will be advertisement free. Zac Blanchard and Jeanne McCann are spearheading the initiative. A PDF version will be emailed to the FHNA mailing list. The first publication is planned to be distributed in March. If you have things you want to share in the Hillsider, send ideas to Zac or Jeanne.

Digital Harbor High School Update- Brooke Shird, DHHS Community School Coordinator, thanked the community for their generous donations. They were able to support over 200 families. Baltimore City Public Schools is reopening DHHS for 9th graders on March 15. Brooke wanted to remind the neighbors that the recycling truck is no longer at DHHS. Please do not use the school trash cans to dispose of your waste.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership is offering community grants. The grant cycle is from February 1 through March 31. If you have an idea for something that would benefit the community at large and it is supported by at least one neighborhood association, email Beth. There are 3 tiers of grant funding and it is easy to apply.

Parking Passes – You do not need to renew your parking passes. The current parking passes are good through February 2022.

Remember to renew your Federal Hill Neighborhood Association membership.

Keep your porch lights on for safety.

Annual FHNA elections will be held in May. If you are interested in running, contact one of the Board members.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.