

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
Approximately 39 participants were in attendance via Zoom

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

Public Safety Update – Faith briefed everyone on the activity around Federal Hill Park over the past weekend. She shared that over 100 people were in Federal Hill Park until 10 p.m. on Thursday night. Police officers came around 10 p.m. to ask everyone to leave. There was also a lot of illegal parking and no parking enforcement on Thursday night. Major Conaway stated that they will continue to enforce the park rules. This past Thursday caught them off guard but they will continue to monitor and clear the park as needed. Officer Wilson shared that there will be a CRC meeting on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and encouraged people to attend. A neighbor asked if the generator lights were still needed in Federal Hill Park and if they could be temporarily turned off. Major Conaway expressed concern that if they weren't being used, they would be removed and deployed somewhere else. Another neighbor inquired about the uptick in dirt bikes around the neighborhood and if the Dirt Bike Task Force was still in force. Major Conaway stated that the Dirt Bike Task Force was only deployed during the summer months but FoxTrot is being used to determine where the dirt bikes are coming from. He told the group that they should email tips on where bikes are being stored. Officer Wilson shared the crime statistics for Posts 42 (Light/Charles/Hanover/Cross Streets) and Post 43 (Fort Ave/Key Highway/Jackson St).

	Post 42	Post 43
Robberies	2	1
Burglaries	2	0
Larcenies	6	5
Auto Thefts	3	1
Aggravated assaults	0	2

There has been a significant reduction in crime from last year and since 2016. District-wide robberies are down 30%, burglaries are down 37%, auto theft is down 12%, and larcenies are down 40%. They are struggling in the area of homicides and shootings and are focusing on violent crime in the West/Southwest district.

Brad O'Brien is working on coordinating efforts to deal with package thefts. The Public Safety Committee is coordinating obtaining footage from package thefts and presenting them to the BPD. They would like to get the serial package thieves off the streets.

Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods Update – Ondoria Harmon of Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods shared that Mayor Scott will be giving a COVID 19 updated on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. On Thursday at 7:00 p.m., he will be delivering his first State of the City Address and reflect on the accomplishments of his first 100 days in office. This address will be streamed on Charm TV. Yesterday, Mayor Scott presented a draft of his Violence Reduction Framework and is requesting comments and feedback.

FHMS Business Recovery Update – Cathy Rosenbaum shared that outside dining has been set up in Federal Hill and Cross Street Market will be participating starting in April. The north side of Cross Street is closed. The road closure permit was for the closure of Cross Street from Light to Charles. Last summer it was open from Patapsco to Charles but it will be closed this year due to complaints from neighbors that significant traffic was diverted to residential streets. Cathy is waiting on barricades to close the street to Charles. The south side of Cross Street will remain open. The current outside dining permit expires on June 30, 2021 unless the city decides to extend it. There have been requests to explore keeping the north side of E Cross Street closed as a permanent pedestrian walkway. FHMS had requested and received funding for \$274,000 in grants that will be passed through to businesses. Applications from businesses are due by March 31. The FHMS newsletter is being put on hold until April so that the team can focus on the grants and supporting the businesses. Cathy shared that she is working with the FHNA on virtual events and supporting the mayor's cleanup. There are no large-scale events planned due to COVID.

A member of the neighborhood questioned who supports the closure of the north side of Cross Street to traffic. He stated that he thought it was harmful to businesses on Charles Street and took away the main thoroughfare from east to west of Federal Hill. Cathy shared that FHMS had done a poll last year regarding the closing of both the north and south sides of Cross Street and 96% of the respondents supported the closing of both sides of Cross Street. A motion was made and was seconded to write a letter of support from the FHNA to the City stating that we would like a study of making Cross Street a pedestrian district in Federal Hill. There were 34 people on the Zoom call at the time of the motion. Members of the FHNA can send their vote of support or against the motion to [ehillsider@gmail.com](mailto:ehillsider@gmail.com). Beth will send the result of the vote via email.

Beautification/Trashcan Committee Update – Vincent shared that an adhoc committee had been created to address the issue of trash cans and recycling bins being left on public sidewalks on non-trash days. On one day it was observed that over 300 trash cans had been left outside in Federal Hill. The Trashcan Committee is focused on finding solutions for those that need assistance in removing their trash cans from the sidewalks. The committee is distributing a flyer to all residents to inform residents that trash cans should not be left on public property other than on trash days and provided an email to reach out for assistance in finding solutions.

Social Committee Update – Sheri shared that the Social Committee is working on coordinating the Mayor's Cleanup in April and will share information about the event as it is received. In addition, the committee is working with FHMS on holding a Mixology Class at Mothers in April

which will be both in person and virtual. In addition, a Trivia Night is being planned in May which will include Federal Hill trivia. More information will be shared as it is available.

May FHNA Board of Directors Elections – Beth shared that last year the elections were postponed due to COVID. This year we will be holding the elections on May 18th. If you are interested in running, you need two active FHNA members to nominate you. All nominations must be received 10 days prior to the election and can be sent to [ehillsider@gmail.com](mailto:ehillsider@gmail.com). You must be 18 years old, live in the boundaries of Federal Hill (area 9 parking) and be an active FHNA member to be nominated.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the February FHNA General Membership Meeting were approved.

#### 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.

Remember to renew your Federal Hill Neighborhood Association membership.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.