

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
(via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Approximately 27 participants were in attendance via Zoom

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

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

Maryland Legislative Update – Delegate Luke Clippinger provided an update on the legislative session. The biggest issue is the economic relief from the pandemic. The unemployment system is struggling to deal with problems. There is a lack of customer service due to lack of people to support the influx. The state is working on planning better to respond better in the future.

The House of Delegates passed the Kirwin Blueprint 2.0 Bill to address COVID-19 issues related to the education system and the digital divide.

The House also passed House Bill 670 which is a comprehensive bill that made substantial changes to the way police officers are disciplined and beginning a process of community oversight, putting a majority of civilians on the trial board.

Senate Bill 71 was passed requiring body cameras to be worn by police officers in all jurisdictions by 2025 and setting up an independent investigative agency housed within the Office of the Attorney General for police involved killings.

Delegate Clippinger also discussed the transfer of control of the Baltimore Police Department to the City of Baltimore. The City has historically paid the budget for the Baltimore Police Department and making it an official City agency will be on the ballot in 2022.

Delegate Clippinger then took questions from the meeting participants. Any questions can also be sent to Delegate Clippinger at luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us

FHMS Update – Cathy Rosenbaum, Executive Director of FHMS, provided an update on FHMS initiatives. She shared that street art is being installed on Charles and Light streets designed to encourage people to explore Federal Hill and provide directional signage. She is continuing to work with Cross Street Market on installing street lights.

FHMS has distributed all of the checks issued through the SERI grant. Federal Hill received \$274,530 in funds that directly support the businesses in Federal Hill. An independent grant committee determined the amounts granted to each applicant.

FHMS has welcomed new Board members including neighborhood associations to encourage working together to improve Federal Hill. The neighborhood association members are not voting members of the Board.

The outside dining permit has been extended to June 2022.

FHMS and FHNA are hosting a Mixology Event on June 28, 2021 at Mothers. Sign up at www.FedHill.org/events

FHMS Board is working on strategic planning and will include all key stakeholders in developing a 3 to 5 year plan.

Public Safety Committee Update – Brad O'Brien shared that the neighborhood camera system has proven to be very helpful to the Baltimore Police Department. If you have a camera, please register it. You retain control of the camera and access to footage.

Through a joint effort, Danny the package thief was identified and arrested. By working with multiple neighborhood associations and creating peninsula-wide collaboration, crimes can be compiled and package thieves can be held accountable.

Speed bumps are to be installed on Warren Avenue in the beginning of July to stop speeding and reckless driving.

A lighting study was done on Battery Avenue (between Key Highway and Warren Avenue) to determine if the lighting is sufficient. It was determined that the lighting in the center of the street is sufficient, however it is not sufficient for pedestrians. The neighborhood needs to secure funding for additional lighting.

Sanitation Committee Update – Vincent Andrews shared that he met with the DPW and code enforcement for a status update on the issuance of recycling cans. New recycling cans are planned to be distributed to all residents. The issue is some neighbors have no place to store the cans so the Sanitation Committee is working on identifying solutions. They are trying to work with DPW to determine how to switch to smaller cans for those that can't accommodate the larger cans. Vincent is working with DPW to understand the plan and ensure it is communicated prior to the issuance of the cans.

Social Committee Update – Sheri Hunt encouraged neighbors to sign up for the Mixology Event on June 28th at Mothers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be no FHNA general membership meetings in July or August.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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