



Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Zac Blanchard

Minutes of the November 2023 general meeting were approved: Motion: Caroline Malinowski,
Second: Betsy Clark

- Christine Pannell from Reading Partners Baltimore gave a presentation about the program, a K-5 tutoring program for students who are reading below grade level.
 - o Reading Partners is looking to expand their pool of tutors.
 - o They're hoping to serve 500 students across the city this year
 - o Federal Hill Prep has a waiting list of 20 students.
 - o One hour per week is the requirement for volunteer tutors.
- Nigel Crocum spoke about community efforts along Warren Avenue and in Federal Hill Park by "South Harbor Renaissance" - aka Friends of Federal Hill Park
 - o Neighbors have taken multiple steps to achieve tangible results including:
 - 130 "311" requests were filed by neighbors
 - 54 neighbors have signed onto a multi-faceted initiative that includes:
 - Fully refreshing the playground equipment in the park, which is 10 years old and is in a state of disrepair.
 - o Quote to fully refresh playground: \$29K.
 - Reducing dangerous driving on Warren Avenue:
 - o Exploring putting in crosswalks
 - o Looking at options for creating a flat median on Warren Avenue to calm traffic. The goal is to apply for a Community Safety Works Grant
 - Traffic from dirt bikes, cars and other vehicles is a real concern in the park:
 - o Plantings, bollards, and other mitigation strategies are being investigated.
 - Miscellaneous general community improvements
- Sgt. Rivera has been the Southern District liaison since December. Sgt. Rivera announced that:

- Two (2) officers will be assigned to Federal Hill as part of the bike unit from 2pm-6pm daily.
 - Sgt. Rivera is looking for place in the Federal Hill business district to store officers' bikes.
- Ondoria Harmon, the outgoing 11th District representative from the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, introduced her replacement, Tierra Tuggle.
- Paco Cummings, FHNA Social Committee Chair reported that:
 - The inaugural spring Federal Hill Festival (hopefully in Federal Hill Park) is tentatively planned for May 18th
 - A Happy Hour co-sponsored by FHNA, Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association, and South Baltimore Neighborhood Association, will take place tomorrow evening (January 17), and the Third Wednesday of every month.
 - Parking Permit pickup will tentatively take place on February 24th. The window for ordering permits opens on February 1 (Locchanan Sreeharikesan is the parking chair)
 - Chili Cookoff (an FHSNA event) will take place on February 5 at Little Havana from 5-9 PM
 - A South Baltimore Gateway Partnership grant (\$9K) funds a weekly event in Federal Hill Park for young families. We're looking for someone to plan and manage this series of events.
- Public Safety (reported by Zac Blanchard)
 - We received a grant for multiple camera systems. We're working with businesses to install cameras at major intersections.
- Transportation and Parking - Locchanan Sreeharikesan reported that:
 - Charles and Henrietta got stop signs and crosswalks installed.
 - Light/Warren/Henrietta intersection is awaiting DOT permits and bids from contractors for crosswalks.
 - We're looking for additional intersections that need crosswalks, etc.
- Donna Price - Digital Harbor Liaison, reported that we partnered with FHSNA to feed hungry Digital Harbor students over the holidays through a food drive. Those efforts will continue.
- **1469** is the Harris Teeter Code that will benefit Federal Hill Prep.
- Cross Street is planning to reopen to car traffic. Federal Hill Main Street (FHMS) will continue to look for ways to create welcoming public spaces.

- FHMS Board voted unanimously (with regret), in response to requests from the Cross Street business community. There was a discussion during the meeting regarding this decision. While the decision may not be ideal, it can be revisited in the future.
- The next edition of Peninsula Post will come out on Friday, February 2.
- Saturday, April 27 is “I LOVE SOBO DAY”.
- Betsy Clark indicated that “Harbor Place Forum” is a group formed to ensure that neighbors are aware of the plan for the Harbor Place re-development. FaceBook: Harborplace Forum
- Councilman Costello is hosting another forum to discuss the Harbor Place redevelopment on January 24. The community forum will take place at IMAX at MD Science Center from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. A robust conversation ensued encouraging members to become informed about the project.
- Kathleen Robinson announced that Baltimore Outreach Services’ Gala will take place on June 7 from 6:00 –10:00 pm

February’s FHNA meetings (Board and General) will be pushed back a week

Minutes prepared by James Woody