

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2025

Date: May 20, 2025

Meeting called to order at 18:30 by Locchanan Sreeharikesan

April Meeting Minutes adopted

Councilman Zac Blanchard:

- A package of housing bills is being introduced
- The bills are supposed to help reduce homelessness, increase population in the city, and lower property taxes
- Much of the city currently has requirements that make having more housing options difficult, and hypothetically the proposed bills would help remedy that
- Mentioned that the bills have nothing to do with height restrictions and the like, particularly considering Harbor Place
- One of the bills would exempt new builds from minimum parking mandates (in turn, hypothetically reducing costs)
- Someone has raised concerns about the parking situation, claiming it would worsen
- Not allowing new builds to have RPP is allowed, which could help avoid extra strain caused by the proposed bill
- Concerns were raised about not addressing the vacant properties first
- They are still working towards resolving the vacancy issue, but it is an ongoing process
- Each bill (five total) will have a hearing, but they likely will not be for at least two months
- Did not really get around to speaking on the spike in violent crime, did not have enough time
- Several neighbors raised brief safety concerns that ought to be considered, though

MONSE:

- Trying to create proactive things to do and outreach for youth, especially over the summer
- Federal Hill Park has been added as one of the zones they are targeting

- Concerns raised about funding based on changes at a federal level
- Concerns were also raised about how ineffective the diversion efforts have been
- The program is fully funded for the coming year
- Concerns raised regarding the actual MONSE presence at Federal Hill Park, as well as the lack of control for large crowds of youths gathering at the park and skate park
- They will reassess their presence at the park
- Request for the Movement Team to be active, even during out-of-school times
- Question about what the course of action should be when neighbors have issues with youths late at night
- One option is calling 911 (resident countered that they would not respond unless the situation is dire. but it would still collect the data)
- Another option is calling the department of social services
- 988 is also an option, they are a help line with social services resources
- Concerns raised about how early DHHS dismissal time is
- They will follow up with the school system to see the justification for the timing
- They are also working towards a rec center in the area to help keep students occupied outside of school
- There will be a follow-up for some of the questions eventually

Public Safety:

- There has been a recent increase in violent crime
- Accelerating the use of the grant for sheriff's office overtime
- So far, over 300 hours of sheriff's office overtime have been paid for
- They have issued over 200 parking tickets
- They have done several business checks and citations for moving violations
- They have been policing the park as well
- Have requested that the inner-harbor BPD unit also cover Federal Hill Park
- There has been an increase in registrations with the camera network
- With the 4th of July coming up, BPD has committed to blocking certain streets for it
- Jen will be taking the lead on the public safety committee going forward

Bylaw Changes and Board Member Introductions (votes:)

- There are some proposed changes to the bylaws, primarily based on suggestions and feedback
- The draft of the proposed bylaws has gone out
- Question about adding paper communication in addition to the usual communications

- It would be very expensive to implement without someone running the block captain program
- Those running gave a brief introduction themselves, and the bios for prospective members went out earlier this month in the newsletter
- An email with the voting link should go out to members

DHHS:

- They had a clean-up day a couple weeks ago
- They also took care of the area around the mural, which should be done around the end of the month
- There will be a celebration for the completion of the mural in June
- The school is running programs for students to learn about and become certified in certain trades
- The snack program for the athletic department will continue next year

Prep:

- The Value Village program was successful, they ended up making over \$1,000 to help homeless students
- They got several thousands of pounds of donations
- Many of the donated books went directly into the Prep library
- Many of the dresses and shoes went to DHHS for prom

Open Floor + Misc.:

- A concerned neighbor has requested that people make sure to keep their front stoops/blocks clean
- One resident shared his suggestions for the neighborhood based on some experiences he has had:
 - o try to get DHHS to change their dismissal time to something later
 - o when it comes to theft, try to get package boxes
 - o try to get the BPD districting to change
- Question asked about the status of the women's shelter after the fire last year
- Unsure, but will try to figure it out

Meeting adjourned at 20:03 by Locchanan Sreeharikesan

Bylaw Vote:

On May 27th, online voting concluded, and the bylaws were adopted unanimously.

Board Member and Officer Vote

On May 27th, online voting concluded, and the following officers and board members were elected:

Officers:

- President: Locchanan Sreeharikesan
- Vice President: Nigel Crocombe
- Secretary: James Woody
- Treasurer: Seamus Dowdall

At-Large Members:

- Celine Plachez
- Charlotte (Carly) Dennis
- Donna Price
- Fran Landoff
- Mark Braun