

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

Date: September 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 18:31 by Locchanan Sreeharikesan

June Meeting Minutes adopted

DHHS Principal Mavis Jackson:

- Their AP exam scores in the past year were substantially higher than before
- They have several students taking dual enrolment credits
- Some students will be going to Brazil, Finland, and Poland in the spring
- There are students in several career development programs
- If you send in a picture or video of a student not in class, they are committed to addressing the behavior
- People are welcome to come and visit the school and see what goes on inside
- She can be reached at (443) 687 5579, feel free to text or call about concerns or feedback

DHHS Community Updates [Donna Price]:

- School has started back up, they have just over 1,500 students
- Baltimore is bringing in a new superintendent for schools soon
- Over the summer, a student was hit by a car on Cross Street, since then some speed bumps have been integrated
- They have applied for grants to cover new skateboard and bike racks, as well as AV equipment for the auditorium
- They are still providing snacks for the athletic department, and they are still taking donations for the program
- They will be looking for volunteers for their thanksgiving event starting soon

Jesus Our Redeemer [Pastor Michael Lopes]:

- The church has about 40 members, but they are hoping to expand
- They also want to update and revitalize some parts of the building itself
- They are researching grants that could be used to renovate the building
- The mission of the church is largely spiritual
- They also want to pursue more community engagement within the neighborhood

Public Safety [Jen Covino]:

- There have been over 300 crimes in the neighborhood over the past year (homicides, assaults, robberies, etc.)
- BPD has not addressed quality of life crimes in the neighborhood, but many of the cases not addressed expand beyond quality of life issues

- BPD has announced the creation of the Entertainment District Unit, hoping to help cover the space from Federal Hill to Fells Point
- Business has been down around Cross Street with all of the concerns around crime
- The next public safety walk will be later in the evening, and unannounced to BPD
- Proposing rescheduling what time the Safety Committee meets (open to suggestions,) as well as the meeting location (and maybe moving it between local businesses)
- Planning on inviting more speakers for the October meeting

Listening session

- Question about how Federal Hill compares to Fells Point in crime stats (particularly based on the addition of the EDU)
Fells Point has had about twice as many overall crimes to Federal Hill in the past year
- Question about if video surveillance is being monitored in real time, allowing for more immediate response to crimes
There has been discussion about more real time monitoring of City Watch cameras and the like, but BPD is short of resources
- Resident suggests that the police move into the old Salvation Army building, as the presence could help dissuade criminals, as well as changing the name of the entertainment district to something less related to drinking/rowdy behavior
Will mention the location suggestion, but the branding is not something the community has much control over
- Resident raised concern about increased homeless presence, and asks if anything is being done to help the people and get them off the streets into shelters
The mayor's office has a team dedicated to providing service to homeless people, however the people have to be receptive to the help

Liquor License for 902 S Charles St [Kathie Mcleskey]:

- There is a sign on the building saying there is going to be a Liquor Board hearing on October 9th
- The new establishment is going to be an upscale sports bar
- On the 25th of September, the Liquor Board shares more detailed information about upcoming hearings on their website
- Looking to see if anyone else is interested in joining her in looking for more information

Prep (Celine Plachez):

- The school is pre-k through 5th grade

- They are a green school
- Looking for volunteers to help at lunch time (11:00-11:30 for pre-k, and 12:15-12:45 for k)
- Also looking for volunteers to help with organizing new books in the library, and with tutoring students in ELA
- Email celineplachez@yahoo.com with questions

Open Floor/Misc.:

- So What Else, a non-profit funded by the SBGP grant, is helping provide food to Prep and DHHS (among other places,) and they are looking for volunteers, email baltimore@sowhatelse.org
- The board voted to send a letter of support for the redevelopment of the Schofer's building
- There will be a tree planting event on October 25th, more details will be available at the next meeting
- The association applied for a 50k SBGP grant for tree planting, parking lot gates for Prep, lighting for Prep, and the Spring Socials
- The neighborhood DPW liaison has come to emphasize the importance of making 311 requests, as well as keeping track of the number and status for the case. If it doesn't get resolved in a timely manner, forward the requests to her [I wasn't able to get her contact info, but it would make sense to add if somebody did]
- SBGP has two job openings, and they are taking applications

Meeting adjourned at 19:45 by Locchanan Sreeharikesan