Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026

Date: **September 15, 2026**
Location: Light Street Presbyterian

Minutes produced from Zoom automatic transcript with edits by Carly Dennis, social@federalhillbaltimore.org.

Meeting called to order at 18:30 by Tim Heath
June Meeting Minutes adopted

Tim: Good evening, everyone. Welcome back! Summer break's over. Of course, towards the end of our last session that ended in June, we had our annual elections. There was the thing with Jen moving out of the neighborhood, which created a little mix-up at the end, but for those who I haven't had a chance to meet yet, I'm Tim, the new president.

Very accessible, so happy to chat with anybody, either after the meeting tonight, or in the coming days. Please just reach out to me anytime (president@federalhillbaltimore.org), and we can schedule some time to catch up, but I'm very excited to be leading the Neighborhood Association for the next year, and we've got a lot of great stuff to catch up on tonight, and so we'll kind of dive right back into it.

Of course, a little bit of housekeeping before we get started. We've got some great speakers tonight who've requested to be here to talk about a few things. To the benefit of everybody who's tuning in on Zoom, I would just ask that anybody who's here present, if you have a question for one of the speakers, please come up to the microphone so that the persons online can hear you as well.

With that said, we're gonna call the meeting to order. And, of course, first order of business, the meeting minutes from our last general meeting in June were posted in the agenda. Is there a motion to accept the minutes? Second Seconded. Without any objection, we will consider those minutes into the official record. With that, we're gonna jump right into it, with **Jeff here, from South Baltimore Gateway Partnership**.

Jeff: Hello. I'm your neighbor, but I am also, an employee at the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, and for those of you who don't know, The Gateway Partnership gets a chunk of the casino revenue to help the 17 neighborhoods within one mile of the casino.

And this neighborhood, my neighborhood, Federal Hill, knows many ways to access the money and leadership of the Gateway Partnership, but just in case you didn't know, we do distribute

money for grants into the 70 neighborhoods within one mile of the casino. With that being said, I'd like to talk about an event that we are doing for the first time with our partners, Southwest Sports and Fitness Association. It is going to be a 5K at the beautiful Middle Branch Park. Who here has been to the Middle Branch Park? I'm getting, like, 50%. So, those of you who have been there know that it has spectacular views of the other harbor, which is, I guess, the middle branch, which is our less developed harbor, but it is a beautiful place, and one of the things the Gateway Partnership is doing is trying to activate the middle branch side, and eventually, we are gonna start doing improvements, including improving the trails, which are not in super great shape in particular parts. But we're starting, We have 30% designs. We're actually, we're close to 60% design finished, near the MedStar Hospital. But with that being said, I would encourage everyone to come, tell your friends, neighbors, to attend. It's September 26th. If you plan on doing the Baltimore Running Festival, it's a good warm-up activity. It'll be, I'm sure it's gonna be a beautiful day. So please come on out, and also, please help, share. So, next to the… is that coffee table? I have added, a couple of these, if you, like, have, like, a coffee stand in your work, or church, or whatever, please feel free to take any of these and put them in the place to help note, or if you just want to take one that's little, we've got a bunch of those as well. So, really, kids under 12 are free. It is a multi-terrain course, so I would, caution that if you're looking for a flat, smooth surface the entire way. Maybe just come cheer everybody else on. We are also looking for volunteers. This is on Baltimore City Trails, and there's a few bumps, and we could really use people being like, watch your step there? That would be really helpful. So thank you, love to have, have people, we're, we're very excited, we're a little nervous, it's our first First 5K. So with that being said, I'm gonna switch gears to something, completely different. We are,

helping create the Baltimore Black Sox Sculpture Project, so the Black Sox were…I'm not an expert on it, but were…professional baseball players that are African American, but have largely, been forgotten to the general public, and we are helping to create a park on the middle branch, and we're going to create sculpture… not we are doing, but we're nominating individuals to create sculptures that reflect the history of the Baltimore Black Sox, and the deadline is September 30th, but if you know an artist that would like to, essentially apply for this project, there are flyers in the back, same place, by the coffee stand. So, you know, call out your artists, and, take advantage of this opportunity to have a lot… like, if they get this done, it's… this sculpture will be there for the next 100 years, 200 years, in that location. It's a special opportunity.

And the last thing, well, it's a series of couple things, is… The South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, one of our missions is to help the nonprofit organizations in our district gain professionalism and capacity, so we help sponsor a bunch of different workshops, and I'm just gonna briefly list them, but we have a flyer in the same place, for these. But if you are at a nonprofit organization, or affiliated with one, or know one that could use some capacity building, here's what's being offered. On October 8th, individual giving getting started. On October 29, individual giving retaining donors. November 19th, membership programs and monthly giving.

And December 3rd, panel discussion, fundraising in a small shop. So, if anybody is interested in any or all of those, or know people who might be. Those flyers are on the back table. With that being said, I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Tim: Thank you, Jeff. South Baltimore Gateway Partnership continues to be a huge partner for us, and so we're deeply grateful for all, the grants they've funded in our neighborhood.

You know, they were the sponsors for our Spring Socials last year. They've done a lot with us in terms of tree planting and beautification projects, a lot around the schools and improving the exteriors there. So thank you for everything that South Baltimore Gateway Partnership does, and this community and the others.

And, yeah, I will put in a plug for Reimagine Middle Branch Project as a whole, as well, if anybody hasn't read up on that. It's really incredible. It is a very beautiful part of the city. I run through it weekly. I'm really excited to see how it comes to fruition.

Especially that Black Sox memorial, which is gonna be actually on the site where their former stadium was, so it's gonna be a baseball stadium-shaped park. Where these sculptures will go, so also really cool.

With that, we're gonna move on to our next speaker. We've got **Ethan here from Baltimore City Department of Transportation to talk about the Greenway Trail Network project.**

Ethan: Hi, everyone. Thank you for having me today. My name's Ethan McLeod, I'm a Planner, too, with Baltimore City DOT. I manage a number of projects, for the Department of Transportation, many of them multimodal, some of them intersections, a lot of them, grant-funded. This one I'm here to talk about today, I'm curious.

Has anyone here heard of the Greenway Trail Network Middle Branch to Inner Harbor project? It dates… dates back many years, I started with DOT in 2024, and one of my first assignments was bringing this back from its conceptual stage when it was ideated upon back in 2018.

So I'm very excited to share that we are bringing this back as part of a broader push. I'm gonna talk a little bit about the Greenway Trail Network. that, Baltimore City DOT is, planning citywide, the idea being to to connect, the green spaces of our city and our region within the city limits. There's a broader, multi-county, Patapsco Regional Greenway Trail plan. It's very interesting. Think of it all as part of a region-wide effort to create safe places for people to travel without needing the use of a car to experience the many joys of being outside and enjoying the green spaces, the waterways, the recreational amenities of the Baltimore region. So, we have been working for the past couple years to really reignite the push

Here in the city, to create a 70-plus mile trail system, that brings neighborhoods together, can encourage economic development. We've seen this happening in cities across the country. And this isn't a situation, I would say, where Baltimore has to be different. It's more…

We can have these same wonderful opportunities to connect our city better, the same way other cities have succeeded in doing so.

This project, would run from the Casino and Entertainment District close to where the Gwinns Falls Trail, connects, actually at the edge of the middle branch area that was just being discussed. It would run up Sharp Street. I'll show you the existing conditions of each roadway, I'm sure you're very familiar.

What I'm presenting to you tonight is an overview of the project. We have not prepared designs. We are here to engage and collect feedback from you all about what you'd like to see as part of this connective tissue for a trail system and a bike network and a multimodal lane network that connects our city.

So, this project in particular is about two-thirds of a mile long total. It's got some very interesting segmentation. You may be familiar with the redo of Solo Gibbs Park that is underway. It's being designed and constructed fairly soon. That's a rec and parks project, but we are working closely with them.

This is what's going to connect a neighborhood such as this with that area down there. Catering to many families. Our project goal is to create these new multimodal connections.

With protected on-street infrastructure. We do have two major entertainment and tourism destinations. You all have the benefit of living in a neighborhood that many people want to come and see.

which is always… it always brings its own challenges and its, its own gifts. This is part of a broader effort, you'll keep hearing me ring this bell, of connecting the places people want to be. So to that end, we also aim to promote connectivity between, the green spaces I was just discussing, such as Solo Gibbs Park.

Rashfield, very exciting new development down at the foot of the harbor, and Federal Hill Park.

So this is… this is a bit of a walkthrough, if you'll… you'll follow along with me. These are the existing conditions of the alignment. It starts a little further back over at Stockholm, and you'll actually notice that as part of the, Topgolf development, there is a new separated trail that has been built.

Along the curbside there. So this is extending some of the work that's already gone in to improve the, pedestrian and multimodal infrastructure of the area.

So here we approach the area along 395, looking north, and arrive at Solo Gibbs Park entrance.

We are very excited about the opportunities for placemaking, turning this entrance to Solo Gibbs Park into something that represents more than the end of a dead-end street, something that's well-activated, caters well to the many… to Ravens games, and…you know, baseball, sports happening at Solo Gibbs,

As we move along, so yes, I did just hop. We get to the other side of Solo Gibbs Park, on Henrietta Street. And we are here aiming to implement some type of protected infrastructure along Henrietta Street, heading east. And then it will turn along this, this segment of Leadinhall, this very post-industrial block that I've been discussing with a few of you tonight, and in hopes of making better use of some of this very wide street to accommodate users of all modes. Not simply the drivers, but catering to the families that love to use and ride this… use this area and ride here.

This is obviously one of our trickier blocks, and we're excited to engage with you all and figure out what we can do with Little Montgomery, as it's affectionately and semi-officially known. This very narrow block of Montgomery Street at the intersection with Leadin Hall, this is the view looking east.

These are grabbed from Google Street View. I apologize if anyone says, hey, that sign isn't there anymore, it's just, they might be a couple years dated.

And then we arrive at probably the most exciting, area of this alignment that we'd like to transform to better cater to neighborhood and family uses, which is this multi-lane one-way on Montgomery Street. This is looking east, I'm sure you all know it well.

There are currently 2 parking lanes on each side, as well as 3 travel lanes, all traveling east towards Light Street.

And from there, we arrive at the intersection of Montgomery and Light Streets. Again, these are just the existing conditions shown right outside here.

And the end goal of this project, if you think about it geographically, at least as I've been discussing it, is connecting to the off-street path over at, Key Highway, and at the foot of the many wonderful recreational amenities and tourism destinations of the Inner Harbor.

This will approach the intersection of Light and Key Highway, and make for a, a connection. Oh, some of my clip art isn't working, that's really interesting. Well, This is the project timeline. As I

mentioned, this project dates back almost a decade, to the concept phase in 2018. The preliminary design for this was completed in 2019. There was a very long pause. Some of which is obscured, by the failed clip art of this slide. But, let me just summarize it quickly, that there was about a half decade of this project not being properly managed or overseen. We have a federal TAP grant that we've been… we are now dying to spend down, and working with you all on how to best design this infrastructure. And currently.

I think this is blocking it, but we are in the 0-30% design phase. We're bringing this back, bringing some new life into these designs, and carrying out our community engagement over the next year or so, in hopes of bringing this project to construction, in 2027, 2028.

Rough timeline, and again, obscured here is the project completion target of 2028.

What you see at bottom left, by the way, is another view of the citywide Greenway Trail Network. To give you an idea, this is connective to other segments that are being planned throughout the city. Man. No luck today with the formatting.

We have a design consultant, WRA, under contract right now, working to update these plans, and we are coming out, to communities. This will be one of three, community association meetings I'll be visiting in the next month or so, just to re-familiarize our

our, neighbors with the project and introduce it, and invite you all to engage with us on what you'd like to see or not see with such infrastructure. If you're curious about… I heard the mention of a 60% design milestone. Sometimes we throw around these

these percentage-based milestones as planners and engineers. Basically, 30% means preliminary, 60% means we're most of the way there, 100% means it's about construction ready.

So, that work will involve refining the 2019 concepts into something that's more workable for today's environment. It's been about a decade, so… And working with you all to provide updates, collect feedback, and…

I cannot stress this enough, completing the 30-100% stage with community input.

Pictured here is just an overview, a bird's eye, of how this alignment works. Within the last year or so. just a summary of what we've done at Wright. I do invite you to

check out our Streets of Baltimore page. We have all of our… many of our projects have their own dedicated webpages, and you can learn a lot of this information. You can share it around, at this link at Wright.

So we created the project website in the spring. We have been briefing elected officials. We'll probably keep doing it again, because time passes quickly. And we are appearing at, community association meetings, and we do plan to conduct more public outreach through the winter.

The community engagement aspects, this can involve doing a walk audit of the corridor, sending out mailers so that not just you all find folks, but your neighbors and everyone else who is in… who lives in

works and enjoys the area nearby is aware of the project. We'll be conducting pop-ups, and we will be notifying you after collecting feedback about our selection of a concept that we'd like to proceed with through design.

Same thing with milestones at 60 and 90, 100%.

Finally, this is my contact info, as well as my, supervisor at the, DOT Planning Division. (Ethan McLeod, City Planner II, Planning Division, City of Baltimore, Department of Transportation, Office: 443-835-7904, Cell: 667-205-0907, ethan.mcleod@baltimorecity.gov, 417 E. Fayette St., 5th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202)

those who have been lucky enough to meet Monet, our community liaison, she is transitioning to a different role, but she will happily, forward your notes to me and whoever else needs them. And then we do have, the Department of Planning engaged with us as well.

Take a picture of this slide if you want. I also have cards that I'm passing out. Because I would love to hear from you. Thank you. How am I doing on time? I think… For the folks online, I think it is.

Q&A with Ethan-

Attendee asking question 1: Well, first of all, thank you so much for coming and giving us this presentation. I have a question about parking. Is removing some of the community's parking part of this, the plan?

Ethan: I think we will take all effort that we can to not remove parking. Like, for example, I can say pretty confidently on that section of Montgomery, approaching Light Street, we plan to retain parking. Okay. The idea is traffic common, but there will be discussions about parking and how to minimize removal as best as we can. Yeah, that is… it's tough, because parking in these neighborhoods down here… Oh, I know it. …is really challenging. I remember

driving around for 45 minutes looking for a place to park, and so every single parking space is precious. My in-laws live up the street, I'm very familiar. Yeah, so… Yeah. I am not here with the mission of taking your parking, I am here to work with you all, in hopes of minimizing any

removal that we can while creating a safe network for folks.
Attendee asking question 1: Great, thank you so much.
Ethan: You're welcome.

Attendee asking question 2: about the pathway, are we basically talking about bike lanes? Or is it… Bikes, scooters, kateboards, walkers…Yeah, if you… Everybody?

Ethan: If you heard me throw around the phrase multimodal, it's because we've…

We're about a decade out from when these were just bike lanes. I mean, we've got, as you noted, scooters, we've got people who need strollers, who need access for mobility devices.

You can see it in our projects in West Baltimore. I mean, folks in wheelchairs, these are designed for everyone. What we do envision is… also, we are doing away with our use, our primary reliance on flex posts, everyone's favorite piece of infrastructure. So we're installing concrete pill separators, which you might have seen

In some areas north in the city, I think Mount Royal Avenue has a poured concrete separator that you may have seen.

But yes, we are looking at cycle tracks, where they fit, as well as other interventions if there's no space.

Attendee asking question 2: Oh, I have one suggestion, and that is…To have some sort of part of your program where you can kind of

nicely and firmly tell people how to use these things. Sure. You know, because it's like, even walking around Federal Hill now, and I hear a scooter coming behind me, it's like, which way do I go? You know, or will I be killed, or run over, or whatever. And it's sort of, you know, I see other kids on a…whatever they're on, going down the wrong side of the street, or in the middle of the street, it's like…

Ethan: Yeah, I think we all need a little more community knowledge of what would keep us all safe, and keep us all happy. When I speak about protected infrastructure, it's an important distinction. You guys don't have any of that in Federal Hill right now. You have painted bike lanes on Light Street, that place…

the riders directly alongside traffic, people will go up the wrong way because it doesn't necessarily invite them into a protected area. So, you're absolutely right, the education is critical, as is creating the infrastructure.

Attendee asking question 2: Thank you.

Ethan: You're welcome.

Attendee asking question 3: Thank you for the information. I live in Otterbein, so I appreciate the courtesy to be able to speak, but you mentioned Montgomery, which I think is in Otterbein.

Ethan: the street that it would go down. I want to know the CHAP districts right in my head, I know there's a cutoff, but yes. So, it would go down…

Attendee asking question 3: you would take away your… the conversation's about takeaway parking on part of Montgomery. And then would the bike lane go on to Leidenhall, and then back on to Henrietta? Are you…

Ethan: first of all, I don't think we're having a conversation about taking away parking, necessarily.
Attendee asking question 3: I thought you said it was up… it was being discussed, or you would… it was something… That it was being discussed.
Ethan: Any project like this, we're going to aim to calm traffic. So, for example, Montgomery, you've got 3 one-way travel lanes. That's not going to remove parking if we eliminate a travel lane.

Attendee asking question 3: Okay, so what's the path of the bike? It goes down Montgomery, because I got a little confused. Sure.

Ethan: I'm gonna go back to this slide, so here, if you follow along, you'll see Sharp Street at the, at the juncture with Stockholm. It will approach solo… I can't… Okay, so… You can come look on with me if you'd like.

This is Sharp Street, approaching Solo Gibbs Park. Right, right. Reckon Parks is redoing the off-street paths in Solo Gibbs Park, and, you know, there's this crossing at Hamburg. But then, yes, you have Henrietta, Leadin Hall, Montgomery. So you're thinking of it coming down Henrietta, on the, it would be the southern side of the street. Of Henrietta? Of Henrietta. Okay. Yes.

Attendee asking question 3: Thank you. So my other question is, we're being… we live on Sharp Street, and they're talking about a protected bike as an option, a protected bike lane there.
Ethan: Yeah, my colleague May's project, yes.
Attendee asking question 3: Right, that is a different project. It is. And they are looking at removing parking on that one. That is already… parking alternatives, or removing parking. So now you're… so I just want to make sure I understand what's descending on this area. So you're talking about possibly a protected bike lane, removing parking all up from Conway to Henrietta. And then a bike lane.

Ethan: That's right.

Attendee asking question 3: A Conway to Heath? No, I'm just mapping in my head as you go. And then a bike lane, a street behind it.

Ethan: I… yeah, if you're talking about Sharp Street, it's where it meets Solo Gibbs, and then it bends to Henrietta, yes. But they're talking about also a project from Conway to…

Attendee asking question 3: Henrietta. Yes, to connect with the, and it's two different bike… is it two different bike projects?
Ethan: Multimodal lane projects, yes.
Attendee asking question 3: Two different multi-lane projects. Multimodal, okay, what is it? Multimodal? I want to make sure I get it right. So, two different multimodal projects. One on Sharp, which you're not speaking about, and then you're talking about this one. Yes. Okay, I just want to make clear that there's a lot of bike projects that could have a potential about someone raised parking, and so… and I…

Ethan: Just wanted to make sure you understand there's two different projects. Without speaking too much to Sharp, I can say, looking at the geometry of Henrietta Street, it's a pretty wide street, and we're gonna do whatever we can to not eliminate parking, and hopefully right-size it so that people aren't flying down that street the way they tend to, approaching your residential area. On Henrietta. On Henrietta.

You're like the raise hand function right now for me.

Attendee asking question 4: Hi, I'll try and keep it kind of short, but I'm really excited about this project, someone that bikes around, and also I happen to

commute to work through Canvas Station, every day, and so I happen to be walking along these areas as well, and Montgomery is treated like a highway, and I hope that this kind of project could actually help calm that traffic.

And I… when I first moved here, I found it was very sad that Fed Hill seems to be the place where bike connections go to die, when you have Maryland Avenue Cycle Lane that goes all the way uptown, downtown, and then stops right before Sharp Street. It would be great to see, I know that you're not talking about this project, but I would love, myself, Sharp Street.

being, Otterbein and Federal kind of welcoming that connection from the rest of the city. And then this project, I love that it would connect the Middle Branch, trail that goes, over to the park that we were just talking about, and connect, help connect that to the, Inner Harbor.

bike lane trail. So I really think that, like, these two projects do a lot to help connect Fed Hill to the rest of the city in the way that it's currently not. Thank you.

Ethan: Thank you.

Attendee asking question 5: I was going through my neighborhood, which is the Otterby neighborhood, last week, and they were doing a survey on Sharp Street concerning the bike lane. Now, the gentleman who was there, he was setting up the cameras and such, he was doing a survey of it. Are they definitely going ahead with a bike lane there, or what's your position on that, or do you know?

Ethan: Hmm. I wish I was the project manager on the Sharp… I'm sorry, I can't… I wish I was the project manager on the Sharp Street project, but I'm not. My colleague, Mae, are you in touch with her? Has she given you her contact info?

Attendee asking question 5: I'm a resident, and we have limited parking space as it is. Yes. And I'm wondering if they're doing a survey as to see just what the bike traffic is there, and that area, of course, of Sharp Street is kind of wide, and we're limited on my parking space, too.

Ethan: What can I… I just want to offer you information. What's your question for me? You don't have anything on that.

Attendee asking question 5: You don't have any information on that matter.

Ethan: That's my colleague Mae Hanslick's project, yeah. But I have cards if you want to email me.

Online questions: So, 3 questions.

Are there any cons in your view?

Ethan: No one's ever asked me that. I was assigned this project in 2024. I think the city has been allocated federal resources to design infrastructure with the backing of State, federal resources, that is meant to make it safer for people to get around.

That would be my goal with this project. I would say a con with this project is not wanting to disrupt quality of life in any communities, and we will strike the most perfect balance that we can, to balance those interests.

Thank you.

We're good to have…

It is…

So this is utility work that's happening?

If we had our…

For others, I think we'd want to align them so we don't have two projects happening in sequence.

So…

That'll depend on timing, but that's a great point to raise. It would be nice not to have multiple infrastructure projects tearing up Montgomery. I mean, I say the words tearing up, I don't really think this is nearly as disruptive a project in scope. When you talk about the infrastructure that goes into a cycle track.

Sorry, if you're writing a response, I'm saying a lot of words.

Beautiful.

Mmm.

That's the… oh, the question was whether I know anything in my capacity at DOT about the Light Street and Pratt Street, reworking. next to Harbor Place, and I've been asked this 3 times tonight. I would love to, because it's the most pivotal intersection in Baltimore. I do not, but that one's a bit, longer in the works than what we're talking about here.

Tim: Thank you, Ethan, again. I would say a key point of what was discussed there was this is a first step of engagement.

And so, we're not making any final decisions tonight, and I think it's, great that DOT is,

Proactively reached out to us to participate in our meetings and share what they're working on, and so I'll share these slides with anyone who wants them, just email me, at president@federalhillbaltimore.org

the email address, and then this whole deck can go to you so you have this contact information, but, I know there are community members who've reached out to me very recently about the Light and Pratt, and so I'll be working with DOT to see if we can, line up a speaker for a future meeting just to speak to that specific topic.

That said, we're going to pause real fast before we get to Donna and **Sergeant Rivera from Baltimore City Police Departmen**t's here tonight, if anybody has any, questions for them.

Sergeant Rivera: We're gonna have a lot, in comparison to the same period last year. Also, Wiz is gonna give you some stats.

BCPD officer: Yes, I got it. Hello. You got it. My name's Elf Thruis with the Baltimore City Police Department, joined by Sergeant Rivera of the Neighborhood Coordination Office of the Southern District. So I'm gonna go year-to-date stats, comparing, same time last year as this year. Unfortunately, last year was a really good year. So…

For aggravated assaults, this year there was 26, last year there was 19, so an aggravated assault is if you get hit with an object or if you're severely injured.

Robberies. Last year, there was only 6 in this neighborhood. This year, there's 12.

Burglaries. There were 7 last year in this neighborhood, this year there's 5, so they're down.

Auto thefts, Last year, there was 16, this year there's only 5.

Larcenies, which is like package theft. Unfortunately, that was up. Last year, there was 38. This year, there was 66. We do have some active warrants for some people that have been stealing packages.

Shoplifting. Last year, there was 5 reported. This time last year. This year there's only 2, so that's down.

And then largely from autos, last year there was only 4, this year there's 19, unfortunately.

And then largely for motor vehicle parts and accessories, there's an extension of a tag or something like that, part of a car. Last year, there was only 2, and this year, there was… there was 5.

Sergeant Rivera: So, like he said, in reference to the package thief, we have two, warrant out there for two people, One of them is a male, one of them is a female. You've probably seen her, the female in the neighborhood, she's probably about…6 to 7, 6 to 7, and she has a walker. She goes for Brown's ticket bag at this little house. So, so we have a, also, it's, african-American male.About this high, about 5, 5'4", 5'5".We also have a one for a surfaces.

Reference to the juvenile disturbance at Lighting Cross, we're actually working really hard. We already warned the juveniles about smoking weed. We're not going to allow that anymore.

It's either gonna be citation or arrest. So you're gonna see us out there every day from, like, 2.30 to…About 3.45 until the last bus comes. Cherry Hill, we're gonna make sure that that corner is clear, because it was getting completely out of hand, so…

Our major wants to enforce it, and we're working, in conjunction with Principal Jackson from our digital Any of the… Light and Cross. Light Street and Cross, yes. At the market, yes.

Yeah, it was, yeah, it's almost a fight, almost breaking out almost every day. We gotta put an end to it, because it's…

Attendee asking question 1: So, you guys are amazing, and I love to see your presence in, on Charles Light Cross. I live next to Charles Street, next to The Walker, and, it has been very difficult.

Very difficult because I walk with my kids at 8pm, and I see people outside, drinking.

And, saying the F word, to me.

In front of my kids, and this isn't safe. This is not why I bought my house here, and I don't want my kids to see that.

But I also don't understand, with everything happening at the Walker, that you guys are still, you know, on Charles, by Cross Street, and not by Harrieta Street.

Because I feel like you guys need to expand there. There's been a lot of issues, there's been, shooting on my street, because they don't know how to aim. Nobody died, but it was 6 shots at, 2 AM, so…

I just, I just want to say, we love to see you guys. Could you just, you know, expend a little more so we can feel safer?

earlier, because unfortunately, stuff are happening, during the week time, at 8 p.m.

Sergeant Rivera: Okay. Well, we'll make notes, and I'm also gonna talk to the lieutenant from the, Entertainment District Unit. We're gonna let him know, try to expand to that street, and I know there's…

It's still a lot of work to do. I know we have the entertainment district unit out there. They are instructed to enforce any type of violation that they witness.

But, you know, sometimes some of these guys, the majority of them are new guys, so they're just starting, and they need the guidance. But I will communicate it to the, lieutenant. But, like I said, there's a lot of work to do, but we're working on it. Yes. Right.

Attendee asking question 2: I also live around that area, Henrietta and Charles, so I think Celine, addressed that issue. But I… we have another issue in our building. Our garage entrance on Wheeling is, like, the perfect place to live, if you want to live outdoors.

And we have a guy there who's been there about two and a half years. Sometimes he goes away, but he comes back. Okay.I'm on the board of directors of that… of the building, and we've been trying to, like, let's talk to them, let's do this, let's do that. What should we be doing to be… to make it more of a permanent solution?

Sergeant Rivera: Call me. I'm gonna give you my email. Send me an email, and I promise you I will deal with it directly.

Attendee asking question 2: Right, we've put up no loitering signs, he's tampering with our cameras, he's doing this, he's doing that, it's too much.
Sergeant Rivera: Sometimes you just only take a conversation with them.But send me an email, with all that information. I promise you, we'll go there personally, and, and we'll have a conversation with them.
Attendee asking question 2: Well, I'd like to have him get into a program or something. I think, you know, he'll come right back.
Sergeant Rivera: There's programs out there in the city, so we, I mean, I'll get him… if he's, if that's what he needs. We try to get them to help. And a lot of people, they refuse to help, but I mean, we're gonna try our best. If he refuses to, if he violates any law, we're gonna have to enforce it. So, if you guys want to write down my email, feel free to shoot me an email with that information. I'll be more than happy to. I have all kinds of information I can give you.

Attendee asking question 2:I can tell people in the building, they've been trying to figure… we've all been trying to figure out what to do. Yeah, just… It's a very weird thing, it's like, people want to help him. Right. Some people come out and give him some clothes, or give him some food. Other people want to run over his legs, because he stretched his legs right across the garage entrance, so it's like… it's a mixed bag.

Sergeant Rivera: If you guys want to meet with me one day, during the week, I'll be more than happy to come out and talk to you guys, and see what's going on, and probably talk to them, but yeah, shoot me an email at,

I'll be more than glad to stop by. Alright, alright, if we have the time. Yep, I can write it down for you, before I leave.Hmm? Bye.

Attendee asking question 3: Thank you guys for coming out. Noticeably, on Cross Street, there is a…

accumulation of young folks, often black kids from Digital High School, who come to smoke some weed and, you know, hang out until they catch the bus. Has this been communicated to Digital High School and their representatives first? before citations and arrests are made? Yeah?
Sergeant Rivera: Yeah. Actually, the principal actually comes out every day. She's… she's the one… I think she's… she was the first one to say, I'm not gonna tolerate it anymore. She's coming down here every day. She's walking down from Digital Harbor.

And then, not only that, we have what is called Safe Passage. Safe Passage, I don't know if you guys have seen the guys with the orange jacket, the orange vest. They are some kind of mediation, and they talk to the juveniles, they try to, like, you know, engage with them.And try to avoid any or prevent any situation. of any disturbance, nature of, disturbance. So…

We're gonna be working on it. I mean, I've seen the change, like, the last 3 days. I've been sending everybody home, I don't want anybody to be hanging out. If you're not waiting for the bus, you gotta leave.

Smoking weed, we're not gonna… we're not going to allow that anymore. We're not. If you are under 18 and you're doing it, you're gonna be subject to a citation or arrest.

Attendee asking question 3: Perfect, yeah, as long as the warning has been given, I'm fine.
Sergeant Rivera: Yeah, yeah, yeah, we warn them. Actually, if we gotta warn somebody, our policy, by policy, we gotta do it on a body-worn camera, then it's a warning. We actually created some flyers with that information that they should know, because a lot of them, you tell them, and they say, oh, I didn't know it was illegal.

No, so now we're telling you. You know, we're actually warning you now. Yes. Good. Thank you, guys. Have a good night. All right, take care. Yep.

Tim: All right, and we've got **Donna, our school liaison for Digital Harbor.**

Donna: Okay, school has started, as we all know, and just to give you some facts about Digital Harbor, there are 1,400 students, approximately, 190 staff. Okay. There are approximately 1,400 students, 190 staff. And last year, the, the breakdown of the student population was that they're 40% Latino, but I'm not sure if this year…Oh, there. I'm not sure if there's still 40% because of …The hours are 7.30am, which is terrible for teenagers, to 2.20 in the afternoon.

In August…We… August 19th, we had the teacher lunch. And we had… it was really a wonderful success. We had great volunteers, there's a group of them up there, including Zach, and, somebody from, Bill Ferguson's office. And we had tremendous amount of food, and that's Mavis Jackson in the bottom right of the slide. And you can see our volunteers there. We have a group of volunteers here, a group of them that came. We had wonderful donors.

We had great donors, and it was, we had tons of food, and there was a lot left over, so the teachers could really enjoy it. And this year, they had it before the students were at school, so all the teachers could come.

We will do another one in May during Teacher Appreciation Week. So, I'll be asking for volunteers for that.

The athletic game schedule for, digital… I'm gonna be posting that on FHNA website, Facebook page, every week. And if you want to go to the games, they're fun. They are at the gym, or at Cherry Hill, or at Latrobe, and they're fun to go to. And Zach has been working, Zach Blanchard has been working on the football field, and he is, it's been, resurfaced at some point, at one end of it, so they're hoping to have games there next year.

I'll be starting up the snacks for the athletic department again soon, and I assign you a week during the school year to bring snacks in to the students, because they come to school so early in the afternoon, they have their athletics, and they're starving.

So we really try to get snacks in for them. And if you would like to, do that, please let me know. I'll be reaching out to people who have done it in the past, as it's a wonderful treat for the students. And I will try to give volunteers from Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association for that, also. Because, as Stella Martinez, who is the president of Federal Hill South was one of the volunteers at the teacher, breakfast-lunch, and I'm working with Estelle Young, who's on the board of Federal Hill South, and she's helping me with some of the projects there.

And Estelle and I met with Gregory Hudson, who is the career counselor at Digital, last week, and he's looking for opportunities for the students to shadow or to hear about, what people have done, how they've made up their mind as to, what career they chose, so I'll be asking people if they'd want to.

come into the school to speak, and Gregory has a clothes bank for the students also, so that they have some nice clothes to go for interviews or college, you know, for college trips or something. And they have a lot of clothes now, and we need more clothes racks, if anybody has any clothes racks, and we need an iron. If anybody has an extra iron around the house, we could use that.

We also got a group of communications volunteers to work with the Student Government Association at, Digital, and they are working with the, AP teacher for writing, and they're gonna be working with the student government association so they can write some columns and paragraphs for the Peninsula Post. And Steve Cole is… is working with them, so that's really nice.

And I'll be asking for volunteers who work at the Thanksgiving and the holiday lunches, as I've done before, and they're… that's really fun to do that. We serve the students, and we will need donations of desserts for that. So, anyway, that's what's going on, some of the things that are going on at Digital these days. (contact for volunteering: dprice4270@gmail.com

Tim: Thank you, Donna. And we've got **Celine to talk on behalf of Federal Hill Prep.**

Celine: Hi, everybody. So today I wanted to talk about PrEP and the,

the need that we have at PrEP for volunteers, so we need volunteers for the library. We were very fortunate to receive a grant. We have lots of books. Unfortunately, we don't have enough hands to put those books on the shelves. So we are working as hard as we can, but it's just too many books.

So, if you have, some love for books and would like to help.

We would be more than happy to have you. We also need volunteers for lunch, tutors, if you enjoy gardening, we need help there as well. And if you happen to have skills and would like to share them. Maybe you enjoy a chess club.We would, love to talk to you if you would like to bring a chess club, to the school. Or, I don't know, a dance, or yoga, or, you know, we're trying to bring, you know, after-school program, to our students.

We have not a lot of people attending tonight, but I can look at this room, and I can see 3 volunteers that we had last year at PrEP. We had June as a tutor, thank you so much. We had, Carly that was helping with the library and the lunch, thank you. And we have Susan that was helping with the lunch. So, you can also talk to them, and ask them about their experience, and then you can talk to me if you have any questions, and if you want to volunteer.

For the lunch, it's super easy. We just need you for an hour, and it doesn't have to be every day, it could be just on Monday. But we need help for the pre-K and the K students, because they just don't know how to open their lunch. And we don't have enough heads to help them.

The next thing we are doing is, coats. So, I have been doing that for several years, and I have learned, that we need to do it earlier than we used to do, because it's getting colder.Before the end of October, so my goal is to be able to collect coats, so… We're trying to move away from, you know, getting the money from you, and me going to buy those coats. I would prefer, and that's what we're looking for this year, that you adopt a coat. to keep a kid warm this winter. So basically, if you would like to buy a coat for a student, just…come to me, I will give you the size, and everything you need to know. We just ask if you decide to buy several coats, we just ask that they don't look alike. Because we don't want the kids to be labeled if they're all looking the same

with the same coat. So, but I can give you all that information. So, you know, I just need 30 coats, so I hope you guys can help me make it happen.

And I don't know… Should I go? Should I? Okay.

So, that was for PrEP.

We're gonna do a bingo night. This is not a bingo night at prep, this is a bingo night that is going to happen here, at the church. We're gonna do it downstairs.

We're gonna do it on October 9th, which is a Friday, at 6pm.

I… and we'll have some food and drinks for sale as well. And I've been, working hard to get gift cards from local vendors. So, I got a $50 gift cards at Angeli's Pizza. I got a $50 gift card at Liv's Tavern. I got a $50 gift card at the florist on Light. I got yoga sessions, so I am working hard to have enough gift, for you guys to come and enjoy. And so, what I want to say is that…Come to the bingo with friends, and I can assure you, you're gonna have a blast. And if you win, and you say bingo, you go home with a price that you pick. So you're not gonna go home with those yoga sessions if you don't like yoga. But you could go home with the pizza.

So, just so you know. So, let me know if you have any questions for that as well.I'm… let me put it… Here. Can you see it?I'll give it to you, I'll give it to you.

The next thing we did was to apply for a mini-grant with the Chesapeake Bay Trust. And we were fortunate to get that, grant funded. And so, I wanted you, I wanted to invite you all to come and help us, because we are overachievers, instead of planting 15 trees, we're gonna plant 30, because we work hard. And so, with that said, when I put 30 trees on the grid, you know, I was hoping you guys could help.

So this is happening on November 7th. From 9 to 12, I need to share that even if it's raining, it is still happening. So, we will cancel it only if there is a tornado.

So, there's a QR code. I want to give a shout-out to Carly for making that super cute flyer. We, have flyers right there, so if you guys would like to grab some, talk to your neighbors, we need your help.

I also need to share that I got a lot of, email from people back in June asking me to share the map. And I wasn't able to do that, so I apologize, but here are the trees that we're gonna be planting. Those are native trees, native Maryland trees, and so this is where they're gonna be, planted. So right now, we have been doing a lot of work. It's been doing a lot of work, you know, getting, those tree peats ready for, the trees, so…This is gonna be, on the streets, and then we

have the same for the park, and Nigel has been working hard with, Tree Baltimore also to identify the trees that we're gonna plant there.

And this is it. Thank you. (Contact for volunteering: celineplachez@yahoo.com)

Tim: Thank you, Celine. Going back to the bingo night that Celine talked about, as she mentioned, that is a joint fundraiser between us at Federal Hill Neighborhood Association and our hosts here at Light Street Presbyterian.

And so, you know, this is an activity, and there'll be more that follow that, we're using as a means to continue to be able to use this space, and all the audio-video equipment, and have these nice meetings that we have. So, please come out and support, both organizations mutually, so that we can keep this partnership going.

And it's gonna be fun, so that's reason enough on its own to show up.

Before we move on to this, I will say, just kind of recapping the meeting, I think our vocabulary word for the night was multimodal?

But I would say the most repeated word tonight was volunteer. And so, as a new president, the thing that I would encourage most of all of our residents is try to make an active, pursuit of being present in the neighborhood. There's a lot of opportunities to participate.

There's a lot of easy things that you can pop in and out of without long-term commitment. Please seek these things out. You'll be surprised just by how impactful they are. It might seem inconsequential at just an hour of your time, but they really go a long way, so…

With that said, there are two more events I'll just mention briefly, that are coming up very soon. There's the…

I always forget the acronym, but the, the church, the Catholic Community of South Baltimore, I believe, is the proper term. Yeah, CCSB, Catholic Community of South Baltimore. They're having their annual Oktoberfest on Cross Street. Or sorry, East West Street, in front of the church, in front of Holy Cross. That's gonna be on September 26th. I think it's roughly from 11 to 3, fact-check me on our events page.

Roughly the exact same time, Outpost, the neighborhood restaurant on Cross and Riverside, is gonna be doing a small block party celebrating 10 years in our neighborhood. And so, I think they actually overlap, so if you're really into Saturday morning block parties, September 26th is your day.

With that said, we will be having an upcoming vote at our October General Meeting, and so I wanted to present it tonight. I will apologize. Fortunately, one of the residents in the neighborhood reached out to me and corrected me on some of the language. What was sent out in the email wasn't necessarily specific, but, in support of Federal Hill Prep, the faculty reached out to us, as a board and as an organization to try and help support them, and so, at Federal Hill Prep, they do have the side parking lot, which accommodates,

basically 36 faculty members. Daily average faculty size there is closer to 50.

And so, what happens is that roughly 12 number of cars that don't fit in the parking lot, park just elsewhere in the neighborhood, primarily on the street there on William.

But what ends up happening is that is 2-hour parking, and I know as residents, we feel like parking is never enforced, and so, probably not a big deal, it's during the day, but, that's not true. And those teachers have unfortunately seen firsthand that they've gotten tickets.

And so, what actually happens right now, I was there to witness it, is the teachers have to leave their classrooms and head out and move their cars every two hours. Oftentimes, they'll take the keys.

From fellow teachers and go out and move a handful of cars while they watch each other's classrooms. So, really just a distraction, for the faculty and teachers there who should be engaging with their students throughout the day and locked in on that. And so…

The request was, and it passed the board, our board meeting last week, and so we're gonna present it out to the general body for a vote in October. But it's a motion to formally request the parking authority to provide 12 Area 9 limited access parking passes.

For use by Federal Hill Prep teachers and faculty, valid on school days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. So, limited access, this is not a new thing. There's other, instances of this across the city, where schools or churches, get these limited access passes, and so…

If anybody would like to talk about it tonight, I'm happy to answer any questions or clarifications. Otherwise, always reach out to me, and then we'll bring it to vote, at our October meeting. And I've already initiated, conversations with Parking Authority, just to confirm the exact specificity of what's listed here, and that way we'll have

Final guidance on them going into the vote, knowing exactly how it's gonna be played out.

With that said, we've got a little bit of time for just any…Questions or anything anybody wants to bring up tonight? Anything online?

All right. I didn't think we were gonna do it. We ended on the minute, so good job, everybody. Thanks to those who attended, both in person and online, and looking forward to seeing everybody out in the community and engaging with you at some of these fun upcoming events. Good night.

Motion to adjourn 7:30, motion carried.

Next meeting: October 20, 2026

Minutes produced from Zoom automatic transcript with edits by Carly Dennis, social@federalhillbaltimore.org