

Highlandtown Community Association

Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2015

Present: Brain Sweeney (President) has sign-up sheet for list of attendees/members/board members on file

Next meeting: October 19, 2015, 7:00pm, Salem UMC, 3405 Gough St

Agenda Items

- 1) **Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**-(Brian Sweeney)
- 2) **Treasury Report** – (Agnes Arnold) will be posting online
 - a) **Recap of Conkling St Garden:** \$27,000 of initial grant dollars have been spent (of total \$75,000 grant), HCA is dispersing remaining funds for grant, separate bank account for garden.
 - b) Insurance for \$500 approved
- 3) **Minutes Review**- Derek Miller (Minutes posted on <http://highlandtown.com/hca-meeting-info/>)
**Derek will be re-assigning secretary duties to another board member for Oct-Dec.*
- 4) **President's Report** (Brian Sweeney)
 - a) Hausner's Building Update:
 - i) Community survey showed community to be mostly supportive of apartment project
 - ii) HCA wrote a letter of support for the developer, will be drafting an MOU as the process continues
 - iii) Developer has been open and communicative every step of the way and willing to work with the community
 - b) Pompeii project: Work has begun on the project with a desire to be done sometime next year
 - c) City-watch Camera Registration Program:
 - i) Residents and businesses can register their cameras with police (contact Brian Sweeney for more information at bwsweeney451@yahoo.com)
 - ii) Brian encourages residents to install a system and register with the city
 - iii) Mark Parker mentioned that he may have a contact with a local businessman to have a group rate through the association for camera systems
- 5) **New Business/Announcements**
 - a) **Publick Library** (new restaurant going in at corner of Eastern and Highland)
 - i) Owner of Alewife plans to open new restaurant late this year or early next year
 - ii) The 85 seat restaurant will feature craft beer and gastropub fare
 - iii) In negotiations with M&T Bank for use of parking lot across the street
 - iv) MOU is executed with owner (and invested Baltimore resident), he will be applying for liquor license, with no infractions on current license at Alewife
 - b) **Buy into Baltimore Event** THIS Saturday at Poly Highschool (9am-1pm)
 - i) Grant dollars available for homebuyers
 - ii) Will have neighborhood table at event
 - c) **Board Member Elections coming up in January**

- i) President, Treasurer, And four board members (Sean, Keith, Lou, and Kevin) are up for re-election
- ii) It is an open nomination process, so feel free to nominate!
- d) **Y:Art Gallery Opening** on October 10th from 9am-1pm (remember, we are an arts district!)
- e) **Little Italy Arts Festival (Madonnari 2015)** October 1-4th. Go to <http://www.littleitalymadonnari.com> for more info
- f) **Basement Bar Tour**
- g) **Blockenstein/Art Cart Derby**
 - i) Will be combined events in the spring, the Saturday after Memorial Day
 - ii) There is now a need for Blockenstein registration help next year. If interested , contact Agnes Arnold at AArnold@easternsavingsbank.com
 - iii) Contact Brian Sweeney about volunteering for Art Cart Derby (Mike Dorsey will help)
- 6) **Mark Parker** (Patterson Park Liaison/Pastor-Breath of God Lutheran)
 - a) Home and Garden Tour: Spetember 26th from 11am-4pm, will meet at Bistro Rx
 - b) Master Plan Meeting for Patterson Park will be on October 20th at 7pm
 - c) Lantern Parade October 24th. Festival begins 3:30pm, parade begins at 7pm
 - d) Mentoring program at Breath of God on Mondays from 5-6:30pm for 3rd-5th grade students
 - e) Ocktoberfest Hombrew Competition and German Fare Fundraiser for Pre-school: October 11 1pm-6pm Tickets are \$25
- 7) Tench Tilgman: building of new playground on October 24th 7:45am-3pm
- 8) Basement Car Tour on Nov. 7th
 - a) If any are interested in hosting this year, contact Millie at millicenthoffman311@gmail.com
- 9) Other Issues/Announcements
 - a) Resident brought up need for traffic study on Pratt St, east of Conkling due to speeding and accidents. HCa supports need for study and will combine it with other comprehensive efforts in the neighborhood. There was discussion as to possible solutions, all of which have pros and cons (speed bumps, one-way streets, bump-outs, etc.)
 - b) Conkling St Garden Update (Mike Dorsey)
 - i) Raised over \$300 with Orioles fundraiser
 - ii) Plans for a follow-up event with Clementine
 - iii) Funds were approved for up to \$2500 to purchase signs, sheds, and other needed items
 - iv) Can be found on Facebook, just search "Conkling St Garden"
 - c) Planting Day on October 3rd at Highlandtown #237 (Greg-Community School Coordinator)
- 10) Police/Safety Update-Officer Beal
 - a) Increased problem with street robberies (approx. 7-8 month), encourage residents to pay more attention to surroundings than cell-phones/devices
 - b) Drug intititives

- i) 50 drug related arrests this summer in Highlandtown
- ii) If residents see any activity, call 911 and give the most complete description possible
- c) Officers are not getting out to “walk the beat” and tend to stay in vehicles (though this is being worked on via training. Man power is a big problem
- d) One resident raised concern about the actual size of police force, stating that it is the third highest per capita in the country.

11) Guest Speakers

- a) Councilman Jim Kraft (1st District)
 - i) Rezoning (Transform/Rewrite Baltimore Initiative)
 - (1) Council now voting on over 900 amendments to zoning code
 - (2) There will be 4 map hearings in October
 - (a) Thursday, October 8th, 6:00 PM
at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
1400 W. Cold Spring Ln., Baltimore, MD 21209
 - (b) Tuesday, October 13th, 6:00 PM
at Morgan State University/Murphy Fine Arts Center
2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
 - (c) Thursday, October 15th, 6:00 PM
at Digital Harbor High School
1100 Covington Street, Baltimore, MD 21230
 - (d) Wednesday, October 21st, 6:00 PM at
At the Southeast Anchor Library
3601 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224
 - (3) To see new map, go to zoning website
<http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/Zoning%20Code%20ReWrite/Zoning%20Code%20Landing%20Page.html> and It will take you to the bill, 12-0152, and then go to attachment “1st Reader - Maps.pdf”.
Look for Map 8C – Patterson Park, Baltimore Highlands, Highlandtown, Canton (east end), Hampstead Hill, Brewers Hill, Greektown (west end)
 - (4) Highlandtown is under review to add more residential, specifically along Eastern Ave.
 - ii) Police concerns
 - (1) Currently under 190 officers for Southeast
 - (2) 4 10 hour shifts will not change until union contract is changed
 - (3) Commisionaer Davis is being confirmed at Batts’ replacement (this was objected to by a resident, who asked about Davis’ involvement in kidnapping conspiracy in past, Kraft will look into it, but expressed support of Davis.)
 - iii) Need for funding for OrchKids program at Highlandtown #215, 25-30k defecit for program

iv) Traffic concerns

(1) There is a need for a comprehensive study to address traffic issues

(2) We need to get fewer cars on the road and increase density

b) Councilman Brandon Scott (2nd District)

i) If there are any questions, contact Rachel Timmins: Community Aide

ii) Introduced legislation to give tax credits to residents who maintain vacants next to them in response to 311 calls. This will need to be taken to Annapolis for approval first

iii) Also pushing for municipal ID card program for young people to track data for Rrec centers, library, MTA, Youthworks and other common city services. Other cities have instituted this program with success.

iv) Grading system for health inspection for restaurants passed, now restaurants have to have signs posted explaining why they are closed due to violations

v) Meeting is to be held on Sept 28th about sex workers/trafficking along Conkling St. Will be held at City Hall

vi) Senior Center has been renovated at Highlandtown #237 and will be occupied this year.

c) Travis DuCote (board member) offered help with tax and water bill issues to any who need help.

12) **Meeting Ended at 8:40pm**