

Highlandtown Community Association

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2016

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

Next meeting: February 15, 2015, 7:00PM, Salem UMC, 3405 Gough St

Agenda Items

- I. **Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag (Brian Sweeney)**
- II. **Treasury Report** – To conserve time there was no review of the HCA’s financial accounts (posted on <http://highlandtown.com/hca-meeting-info/>)
- III. **Minutes Review** – To conserve time there was no review of the previous meeting’s minutes (posted on <http://highlandtown.com/hca-meeting-info/>) - Erin Kirley recorded Minutes for the 11/16/15 meeting
- IV. **President’s Report (Brian Sweeney)**
 - a. Brian Sweeney stated that the HCA budget and meeting minutes are posted on the HCA website
 - b. New member welcome
 - c. Highlandtown Yahoo Group
 - The HCA is looking for a way to post/distribute the area crime report – Current options include the Yahoo group page and the HCA website
 - A resident reminded the group that there are occasionally problems giving residents access to the Yahoo Group page, potentially limiting access to the report
 - Another resident suggested starting a google group
 - It was determined that it is possible to import the members of the yahoo group to the new google group; Nater Kane agreed to help facilitate this
 - Brian Sweeney will create a Google group for the HCA
 - d. Haussner’s – developer will attend the next meeting with an update and final renderings and plans
 - Current schedule is: demo scheduled to start in April; construction in May and June; occupancy in July
 - e. Blockenstein and the Art Cart Derby
 - Agnes Arnold and Heather France-Kelly are leading preparation for Blockenstein
 - Millie Hoffman is the lead organizer for the Art Card Derby this year
 - The events will be held together on the first Saturday after Memorial Day (June 4)
 - Volunteers are needed for both events
 - Yard sale tables are free to anyone who would like to have one; organizers are asking anyone who sets up a table distributes ten fliers to friends to encourage shoppers
 - f. Municipal trash can program
 - Will be rolled out in the next 6 months
 - Cans will be provided for houses and any properties with only a few units;
 - The city is also offering smaller 35 gal cans if they are requested (through 311) and the residence qualifies (trash is picked up from front and there is not space for outside

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- storage); the deadline for requesting the smaller can is February 19
- Cans are chipped and assigned to a specific residence and will be brought back to the house if they are found elsewhere
- Next month DPW will attend the meeting to answer questions
- g. Household trash in street trashcans
 - If you see illegal household dumping at public trashcans and are uncomfortable saying something, bring anything you know about it (house number, etc..) to the HCA, they will take it to DPW and they will research and fine if possible
 - Residents should also report it through 311 as illegal dumping and the city will come out to investigate;
 - Brian Sweeney asked if any of the representatives from the City attending the meeting can help add an illegal dumping category to the 311 app; Councilman Stokes agreed to help
- h. HCA membership dues
 - Waived in 2015 but the HCA asked for donations instead – will do this again this year
 - Brian Sweeney reminded the attendees to sign in whenever they attend HCA meetings

V. New Business/Announcements

- a. Security – Update from Nick Kirley
 - Watch vacant properties in the area for anyone breaking in and squatting
 - SE Police Department Community Meeting – regularly held at the SEPD headquarters on the first Monday of the month at 7pm
 - Citizens on Patrol (COP) Walk – regularly held on Thursdays at 7pm the group starts at Gough and Conkling (at The Laughing Pint); look for illegal dumping and vacant home break-ins
 - Brian Sweeney suggested everyone use the 311 app to report issues around the neighborhood; a question was raised about providing a name – it is necessary to order a bulk trash pick-up but it is generally not required to report illegal dumping
- b. Leverton Ave Improvement/Storm Water Management Project
 - HCA received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to install a storm water retention system on Leverton Avenue along with other improvements in the area surrounding the Conkling Street Garden
 - The plan includes 4 main features: Street garden, pollinator meadow, rain garden bolder wall and pedestrian hillside path from Baltimore Street to the Hazlo parking lot
 - The 3600-3800 blocks of Leverton Avenue will be converted to one-way traffic, eastbound, with parallel parking and a sidewalk
 - Barring any major issues with the DPW and DOT, we would like to complete the project by the EOY
- c. Conkling Street Garden (CSG)
 - In addition to leading the work on the Leverton Avenue improvements, the group has partnered with the International Rescue Committee's New Roots Program to bring their gardeners to the CSG space as they have lost their current garden space
 - Build day on January 31st at 10 AM – for shed and other projects
- d. Councilman Scott - represented by Rachel Timmons
 - Sponsored a resolution calling for an override of the Governor's veto of the bill that allows felons to vote as soon as they leave prison rather than waiting to finish parole or probation jail; it was noted that certain felonies do prohibit voting regardless of the

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- felon's status; this bill would increase the number of eligible voters for the city
- e. Breathe of God Lutheran Church (141 S Clinton St) - update on activities from Pastor Mark Parker
 - Ice skating at Mimi Dipietro Ice Rink in Patterson Park on Sunday, January 31st from 3-5pm
 - Ash Wednesday sausage and pancake dinner at 6pm followed by Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm
 - Liquor board members are doing community outreach and will hold a "Town Hall" style meeting with Q&A on Wednesday, January 20th at 7pm at the SE Anchor Library (3601 Eastern Ave)
 - Neighborhood Voices workshop – organized by CASA, Citi Bloc, and Neighborhood Voices committee; Baltimore activists share their work and upcoming projects on Race, Immigration, and Police Violence; No Cost to participate; scheduled for Saturday, March 12th from 10:30-3pm; location TBD
 - Patterson Park Neighborhood Association update – MTA presented on Baltimore Link
 - f. Bayview Medical Center Community Update
 - Bayview has a community library on healthcare; also have flier that provides reliable sites for research
 - Weinberg grant for caregivers – "Call to care"; they provide seminars (over the phone) to help manage stress for caregivers
 - Girl scout workshop Saturday March 19th; for girl scouts and troop leaders – called "it's a girl thing"
 - For any Bayview patients, they offer a patient portal called Mychart; it's a secure site that every patient can use to access their health information and records
 - Bayview is holding a blood drive between Feb 9th – 11th in the Knott conference room

VI. Other

- a. Street and sidewalk cleaning on Conkling from Eastern to Bank (Conkling Plaza) – is there anything that can be done to help with trash pick-up in areas where special attention is need - Rachel Timmons from Councilman Scott's office will investigate and report back at the next meeting
- b. Eichenkranz Restaurant – closed for about a year, no new update

VII. Guest Speakers

- a. Todd Oppenheim – running for Circuit Court Judge – wanted to introduce himself
- b. Baltimore Children's Choir – represented by Patricia Burkemeyer
 - They have been looking for ways to reach out to kids in the SE area through local schools and community associations
 - The group has space on 33rd Street and University Parkway but they meet at Abbott Memorial Church (3426 Bank St) on Thursdays from 4:30-6pm
 - Children participating in the program range in age from K to 10th grade
 - Goal is to engage kids and help them feel they are a part of something
 - Cost to participate - \$400/year but they seek donations from businesses for scholarships; at this point, no children have been turned away; five of the seventeen children are on some sort of scholarship

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VIII. HCA Elections

- a. Agnes Arnold, Sean Arnold, Kevin Bernhard, Travis DuCote, and Brian Sweeney are all at the end of their two-year terms
- b. Slips of paper have been distributed for open nominations – looking for anyone to take on issues that interest them
- c. The HCA needs leaders for efforts related to trash and outreach to the Latino community
- d. Secretary role - Derek is not able to fulfill this role so Robyn has offered to fill his position for the remainder of his term
- e. New Board member nominees: Sarah Wong, David Blair, and Brian Johnson

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35PM