

Highlandtown Community Association

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2016

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

Next meeting: March 21, 2016, 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 1/18/16 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. Stella’s Development
 - The HCA Board will be meeting with the property developer on March 2nd and will report out afterwards.
 - Current plan is to put in 5 apartments. There doesn’t appear to be a plan to add parking -- HCA Board will push for a plan to address parking.
 - d. Odd Fellows Development
 - Development started 5-6 weeks ago.
 - Building on Highland near Bank St. Will be 4 apartments.
 - Plan to put more apartments on adjoining property in the future.
 - e. Liquor Board
 - There is a public meeting with the Liquor Board -- part of a series of meetings to introduce new commissioner and staff members to communities.
 - The meeting is at the public safety training center on Northern Pkwy.
 - Good opportunity to question the liquor board.
 - f. Presentation: Baltimore Good Neighbor’s Coalition
 - Formed to work on public health and safety issues
 - Initial focus on liquor board/alcohol outlet regulation
 - Trying to create another avenue for residents to resolve issues with alcohol outlets by using zoning in addition to the liquor board.

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- Requires an ordinance be passed to create the outlet
- Dedicated law enforcement (police officers) who would be checking regularly in on alcohol outlet
- Not all outlets are bad, many are fantastic. But when there are bad actors, the current system doesn't actually
- Every outlet will have to pay a fee that comes to less than a dollar a day.
- Councilman Mosby is introducing the legislation on Feb. 20th
- Effort is complementary to the Transform Baltimore initiative.
- Question: What is the scope of the regulation?
 1. Performance standards are requirements -- good neighbor like policies.
 - a. Every outlet in the City would have to adhere to them.
 - b. Existing retailers would be educated during the first year so they are well informed prior to any citations. Grandfathered in.
 - c. Advisory Board made up of community members, non profits. Advisory board could enhance the fee.
 - d. If existing establishments violate code, they'd not longer be grandfathered in.
 - e. New establishments would have performance standards and get conditional use zoning
 - f. Mayor appoints board members
 - g. Sanctions:
 - i. Based on severity of issues, period of time they persist. Are they working with officer/advisory board.
 - ii. Public hearings & input
 - h. These ordinances have been passed throughout the country in places where the liquor board doesn't fulfill the role of regulating alcohol.
 - i. BGNC anticipates liquor board being upset.
 - j. This is about land use -- not liquor boards.
 - k. Will the conditional use address alcohol outlets too close to schools?
 - i. Buffer zones around schools, parks etc. are in legislation
 - ii. Issues with density of alcohol outlets
 2. Multiple triggers that cause the loss of the grandfathered status.
 3. Application process shouldn't be prohibitive for small businesses.
 4. Opponents: the alcohol industry in general
 5. Public Nuisance Prevention (PNP) Officers.
 - a. Ideal: sworn officers with police department, but it's a state agency. Mayor can request an MOU, police commissioner must agree.
 - b. Dedicated officers
 - c. 2 officers doing 30 inspections a month.
 - i. Issue criminal, civil, zoning citations

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- g. Presentation: CAPSOC -- Creating a Profound Sense of Community
 - organization that works to collaborate with other community organizations to solve common issues in Baltimore communities.
 - Town hall discussion on Wednesday March 2nd.
 - Topics include the culture of violence in Baltimore. Want to do a better job of leveraging technology to increase community engagement and real time communication.
- h. Blue Water Baltimore
 - Deep Blue project launching in 5 target communities, including Highlandtown.
 - Community gleaning, greening & beautification
 - Capital improvement fund from the City
- i. 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
- j. 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. Events – Update from Mark ParkerWwwwww
 - Southeast Anchor Library MTA listening session 7pm Thursday.
 - Candidates Forum on Thursday at St. Elizabeth’s Church, 7-9p. Tickets are limited -- very few left. Will also be streaming online or available for viewing later.
- b. Conkling Street Garden
 - Build day was rescheduled due to snow. Was rescheduled to Saturday 27th. 10a-4p. Lunch will be served. We’ll be building shed. Demonstrating row covers. Building a compost bed. If you want a garden plot for the spring, you should see Erin Kirley. 12x3’ plot for \$20 for the year. Includes water access. \$5 key deposit. Many glorious events all the time.

VI. DPW Trash Can Program

- Pilot in neighborhoods that capture the characteristics of Baltimore overall found:
 1. Results: cleaner allies. Helped with code enforcement. 311 requests on dirty allies went down. Cans are fitted to go on the back of the truck. Eliminates injuries of DPW workers.
- “Southeast Outrage” has modified the program 3-4 times.
- Cans will be coming out starting at the end of the month. Expanding out from the pilot areas.

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Will take 5-6 months.

1. First a door tag giving notice the can will be coming within 10 days.
 - Cans have a chip in them to say the home address of the can.
 - Old can can be used for recycling.
 - You are allowed to deny the new can. But once you sign the refusal form you will have to purchase your own can if you change your mind.
 - Go to BaltimoreCity.gov DPW, tab will show real time progress of distributing the cans. Housing code enforcement will be following along to do citations to ensure you've got your lid on your can.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12PM