

MEETING MINUTES
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
06/07/2011

1. Teen Council Report – Marie Sennett

Since Marie is stepping down from chairperson of the Teen Council and is actively searching for volunteers to replace her, she wanted to explain how the Teen Council works and what the volunteer responsibilities are.

The Council meets every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center. Volunteers need not attend every meeting and can volunteer for selected meetings to assist with selected issues. A coordinator of all the volunteers is also needed.

Volunteers assist the member teens with all types of life issues and give them skills for life, such as job training, safe sex discussions, college entry requirements, arts & crafts and many others. A popular annual program is Teen CSI wherein the teens interact with the States Attorney Office, the Office of the Public Defender and the City Police to play out a simulated crime, from investigating the crime scene all the way through to the trial.

Next year's projects are already planned out, including a program to rid the neighborhood of constant nuisance trash.

There are 25 teens that participate most of the time. Of those, a core group of 12 normally attends every meeting. Two of the teens attended this General Meeting to explain what the Council has meant to them. Kristin explained that the Council was responsible for getting her life back on the right path. Megan said the Council has been a great learning experience for her and it definitely needs to be kept going since there are not many other activities to productively occupy the neighborhood teens.

Marie emphasized that the Teen Council has dramatically changed the teen's lives. The teens have far exceeded her expectations. Her involvement in the Council has been one of the most rewarding experiences she has ever had.

2. Treasurer's Report – Matt Eskridge

Account Balances:

General Fund = \$3,211.66

Heath Street Garden Fund	= \$3,220.46
Light Street Garden Fund	= \$2,512.13
Sitting Park Fund	= \$ 18.30
Teen Council Fund	= \$3,006.34
Tree Fund	= \$ 97.00
Total	= \$12,065.89

The water service for the Light Street Garden will be paid in the future by City Farms and will be coordinated by the Clean and Green Committee.

The P.O. Box comes up for renewal at the end of July. We should receive a notice and invoice in July.

All invoices received to date have been paid.

3. Social Committee Report – Christie Blake

Attendance at SBNA socials has been very light and needs to improve. The next social is 6/28 at Delia Foleys. There will be free appetizers and drink specials – so please attend and socialize with your neighbors!

Since the new family addition will arrive in 2 months, Christie is looking for a volunteer to take over as chair of the Social Committee.

4. Bill Romani related his efforts to work with other neighborhood associations and the Federal Hill Hospitality Association to start a common ground discussion to resolve the adverse affects on residents caused by the regular alcohol “frenzy” issues. The bar owners spend \$6,000 per month for added security within the bar perimeter area, but at 2:00 AM, bar patrons are encouraged to disperse and leave the perimeter, resulting in large boisterous groups passing through the residential areas.

There is minimal enforcement of the Public Nuisance Laws, which can result in fines of \$500 to \$750. Those issued a citation can opt for public service instead. An arrest warrant can be issued for those that don’t show up for the hearing.

Attendees commented that police need more manpower, otherwise our complaints will fall on deaf ears. It was also mentioned that drunk driving and parking enforcement should be part of the overall discussions.

In response to a question as to why we don’t just go straight to Commissioner Bealefeld, Bill mentioned that his group is contacting the individual just below the Commissioner who is in charge of enforcement, as well as working with the Southern District.

It was unanimously voted that SBNA will strongly support Bill in his efforts to work out a resolution with all stakeholders to alleviate these issues.

5. Parking Report – Cynthia Griffin

A parking survey will be issued to residents to obtain opinions on numerous pertinent topics. The survey can be found and filled out at <http://westfederalhill.com>. It will also be issued in the next Newsletter. It needs to be returned to Cynthia by 7/15/11. Surveys were also passed out to meeting attendees. The survey results will be issued to SBNA.

She reminded us that there are 1100 households in Area 30 and that 2000 parking stickers have been issued.

Current talking points among the city-wide parking liaisons are:

- Need for better enforcement and improvements to registration procedures – use of new technologies to accomplish that.
- Options to raise more money to help the RPP address parking issues - Increase permit/visitor pass fees, tiered pricing (charge more for additional permits after the first or second permit), increase cost of tickets/violations.
- Decrease the number of permits allowed per household (with consideration for hardships).

Frank Murphy at the City approved the street width of the 100 W. Fort Ave. block for angled parking. That block of Fort Ave would become one-way. A petition from the residents on that block is needed to formally initiate the process.

6. Design Review – Justin Wilde and Stephan Lawrence

Julie Tice, the architect for the proposed project at 127 W. Fort, presented revised plans in response to neighborhood comments voiced at a past meeting with neighbors immediate to the project area.

By rights, the owner could build one large 6-story building on the site or could build 7 buildings of 2 units each which would be a condominium situation. The owner is not interested in either of those scenarios and continues to propose 10 single family units.

In response to recent neighbor concerns, the height of the buildings fronting on Fort Ave. has been reduced to 3-stories. A 5-foot building separation from the existing house on the south side of the site has also been provided. A height variance is no longer required from the Zoning Board. Two other variances are still required for % Lot Occupancy and Rear Yard setback.

Julie asked that SBNA rescind its letter of opposition that was sent to the Zoning Board. A vote was taken in opposition to rescinding the letter on the grounds that the members at this meeting did not know the position of residents immediate to the project on the revised plans. SBNA represents those residents and first needs to hear their current opinions on the revised plans.

The Zoning Board hearing is scheduled for 6/21/11

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Plouff
SBNA Secretary