

# SBNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

09/09/14

## 1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 7/8/14 meeting were reviewed and approved with the stipulation that language be added stating that the General Membership had previously voted to oppose the proposed Circulator stop on Charles Street south of Fort Avenue.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

<u>FUND</u>	<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>CURRENT MONTH</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$2,844.87	\$2,712.42	\$132.45
TREE FUND	\$97.00	\$97.00	\$0.00
TEEN COUNCIL FUND 2010	\$371.89	\$371.89	\$0.00
HEATH STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN	\$2,238.23	\$2,238.23	\$0.00
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,551.99</b>	<b>\$5,419.54</b>	<b>\$132.45</b>

## 3. Teen Council

Jake Simpson described the Teen Council Program. It is a terrific program that involves meeting and hanging out with middle and high school students and going on local field trips. Meetings are held at the Ella Bailey Recreation Center. The students need someone to talk to and to take them on cultural trips in and around Baltimore. Adia Hoag is resigning from her position on the Council. Please volunteer to help and talk to Jake (Pastor Jacob) or Adia about how to get involved.

## 4. Police Relations Committee

Jack Baker introduced Officer Dena Roney. Office Butterbean is on vacation

Officer Roney discussed recent crimes that have occurred, including 1 stolen auto, 1 burglary, 1 murder and 4 larcenies. The Police Department does have a person of interest for the stabbing incident. Crime Stop has increased the reward - please call the Major with any information. Bike larceny is up - criminals are walking them out of backyards. Please lock them up with a U LOCK which locks the bike using the frame. Criminals are using bolt cutters. Our area is getting hit very hard. If you see kids riding 2 to a bike, please call it in. The criminals ride together and work together.

Jack Baker expressed thanks for participation in the peninsula-wide stoop night. SBNA was well represented. The Major was pleased and glad to see people getting to know their neighbors. Kevin Lynch said we will do it again if we are all interested.

Kevin also mentioned that the Police Department has formed a new Casino Mini District within a 3 block radius of the casino. They are not pulling officers from Southern District to staff the Mini-District. Kevin

asked if anyone at the meeting has had any problems related to the Casino which has now been open for 2 weeks. No one voiced any issues.

Officer Ebert from the Auxiliary Unit to the BPD stated that they are out actively patrolling our neighborhood especially at nights and on weekends and are watching Heath Street. They are actively recruiting for the Auxiliary Unit if anyone is interested. They have 1 officer in the area at night and sometimes up to 4 or 5 officers in the area on game nights.

## **5. Casino and LDC Update**

Amy Mutch, our LDC Representative, discussed the opening of the Casino and how we can use the Casino funds to enhance the community. Some complaints were registered by SBNA residents, being honking of taxis looking for riders and loss of parking on streets near the post office. Residents need to continue to report any problems. We are very impacted. Councilman Ed Reisinger has stated that SBNA and Pigtown need to be given priority with Casino funds since we are closer and the most impacted. We need the City's Complete Street Study to be done. Amy is on the steering committee. If any questions, please email Amy or Dennis Plouff.

The Mayor has the final say on the use of Casino funds. \$3 million from the Casino funds were recently used to replace a steam line at the Casino site. That steam line impacts the hospital and other downtown establishments. The mayor had decided to skim that \$3 million off the top - LDC never had the opportunity to vote.

Morgan reiterated that we want the Complete Street Study completed. It will provide recommendations for which streets can accommodate angled parking, alleviation of street congestion, resolving traffic issues on street coming in and out of the neighborhood, and pedestrian safety.

## **6. Water Main Replacement Project Update**

Avon Holland, City of Baltimore Office of Engineering and 2 members of the contractor, Chris Bilak and Randy Van Dyke provided an update of the current construction activities.

Randy Van Dyke related the following information:

- Temporary above ground water lines have been installed. In some areas new mains were installed in a different location than existing mains, eliminating the requirement for temporary above ground lines.
- Steel plates will remain a little longer. Those on Charles St. will be removed next Friday. Samples of water in the new mains have been taken and are being tested - that process takes at least a week. Once approved, the trench will be backfilled and paved.
- Patapsco Street had all existing galvanized piping which takes longer.
- Hanover Street is not part of this water main project. The water main project consists of Charles St., Winder St., Patapsco St., Heath St., Barnet St from Light to Hanover, and Olive St.
- They need to be done by the winter because pipes freeze.
- New lines will last for 100 years.

Avon related that street repaving will take place after water lines are completed, but paving will not necessarily be curb to curb due to budget restrictions. Only lanes that have been trenched for pipe work will be repaved. Patapsco, Barney, Heath need to be reevaluated for extent of paving.

Randy also discussed towing practices. They sometimes call 311 to move cars that are in the way of construction work - they are trying to work around cars that are parked illegally. They hit a car, so now they need to have them moved from 8 am to 4pm. The foreman had called at 8:30am to relocate that car.

Portable toilets will be locked since vagrants are using them for drug activity.

Olive Street is concrete which will be replaced joint to joint.

Maria Bhatti is the DPW community liaison for construction.

Randy stated they are trying to find a place for contractor parking and staging of equipment. The vacant lot at Light and Ostend has been used before but it is not owned by the City.

## **7. Liquor Advisory Committee**

Mike Murphy and Adia Hoag

- Mother's wants to move Live Entertainment from upstairs to downstairs. A motion was made and unanimously passed for approval as long as the windows are kept closed and number of instruments are reduced from 5 to 3.
- Delia Foley's and Banditos want to do a license swap. A motion was made for approval and unanimously passed.
- Rowan Tree has applied for Live Entertainment. A motion was made for approval and unanimously passed.

## **8. Design Review Committee**

Morgan discussed the plan to mount SoBo banners on light poles within the neighborhood to help brand the neighborhood. Cost will be \$150 each and they will be placed together along a block. We need sponsors to help with the funding.

Green Door Properties met with SBNA at a special meeting 7/30/14 at BlueGrass to present their preliminary plans for 42 row houses at 1800 S. Hanover. The preliminary plans were well received.

The owner of the vacant lot at Light and Ostend refuses to do anything to improve it. The vacant building next to the lot is owned by a doctor in DC. Report any issues with these properties to 311. A motion was made and passed to write a letter to the City regarding the vacant lot.

## **9. Clean and Green Committee**

Morgan stated we will pick a day for a dumpster for a Community Clean up day in October. Liam McCusker will spearhead this issue. This is also ideal tree planting time.

## **10. Hanover Street Median**

Amy Mutch discussed the Hanover St. median project. It will preclude double parking along the 1700 and 1800 blocks, but a loading zone could be added in that area. Residents need to petition to have a loading zone on their block. The 1700 block doesn't have a rear alley for taxis or deliveries. The City's legal department can draft a petition. 70% of homeowners on those blocks will have to sign the petition.

Other discussions took place regarding the future median. The purpose of the resulting narrower lanes is to curtail truck traffic and slow down traffic. Some residents have expressed great anxiety crossing Hanover Street, cars have been totaled due to speeding cars on Hanover and our City Councilman was rear ended by a speeding car. Rumble stripes are too noisy for consideration. Some residents in the 1700 and 1800 blocks oppose the median and are protesting it.

Current plans have been reviewed and approved by the Police and Fire Departments and the City Engineering Department.

A motion was made and passed to write letter to DOT requesting the loading zones.