

SBNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

05/12/2015

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 04/14/15 General Membership Meeting were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- Kevin Lynch reported that 15 people participated in the recent Mayor's Spring Cleanup. Thanks to all!
- SBNA received \$100 from Federal Hill Main Street as our share for running the money wheel at the Spring Block Party.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>FUND</u>	<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>CURRENT MONTH</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
PETTY CASH	\$100.00	\$120.00	\$20.00
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$3,680.10	\$3,680.10	\$0.00
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
BALANCE	\$6,487.22	\$6,507.22	\$20.00

- A check has been written for \$142 for two shirts for the Auxiliary Police Force, but that check has not yet cleared the bank.
- The Heath Street Community Garden has requested approximately \$1000 for repairs to the fence and for new hose sprayers. That money will come out of their current fund.

4. NAME CHANGE

We are moving forward with the legal process to officially change our name from the South Baltimore Improvement Committee to the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association.

5. COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- BALTIMORE CROWDFIBER

Ben Harless, Vice-President of the Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association, and Phillip Spevak who heads up the Baltimore Broadband Campaign, explained their efforts to improve internet connectivity service in the City of Baltimore. Our poor fiber optic infrastructure

discourages new businesses from entering the City and most residents are dissatisfied with the current service they receive. Since there is no clear articulation from our Government on this issue, the Campaign is attempting to attract other internet providers by showing them that it is economical to provide better and faster service within the City.

Crowdfiber.com is being used to obtain crowd funding.

They would like us all to visit their website, baltimorebroadband.org, by the end of June to learn more about the Campaign and to fill out the survey which will help the Campaign to gauge where there is user dissatisfaction in the city. They would also like individuals to join the Campaign by donating \$10. The Campaign is using the 67 areas Community Statistical Areas (CSA) that the Baltimore Indicator Neighborhood Alliance has established to divide the city into neighborhoods. The goal is to have 20% of homeowners and 5% of renters in each CSA join the Campaign. Those CSA's that do meet the goal will become micro-pilot areas which will help attract new providers. Note that SBNA lies within two different CSA's.

- STATE DELEGATE PETE HAMMEN

Pete provided updates on three separate issues – community redevelopment, improved drug treatment and promotion of tourism in the city.

Regarding community development, he has helped create the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative, a non-profit that works with private developers to redevelop neighborhoods. Four areas have been funded so far, Historic Dundalk, the area east of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Central Baltimore Partnership above Penn Station, and Reservoir Hill. The program is in its 4th year and a dozen other areas are targeted for inclusion in the program.

Regarding improved drug treatment, \$3.6 million has been allocated for a new stabilization centers in Baltimore. The site is yet to be determined. Individuals arrested for drunkenness or drug use can choose to enter the stabilization center where they will receive counseling from social workers in addition to medical treatment. Follow up treatment can last several months.

Regarding the promotion of tourism, we have been missing out on potential tourism because boats longer than 80 feet have been required to hire a bay pilot to guide the boat up the Bay into the City. That expense has discouraged large boats from coming to Baltimore. The restriction has been loosened to now require boats longer than 200 feet to hire a bay pilot.

Pete can be reached at his office phone, 410-631-7900 and his cell phone, 443-970-6284.

- STATE DELEGATE BROOKE LIERMAN

Brooke passed out copies of her End of Session Report. The budget is balanced. She has been appointed to the Appropriations Committee.

The Governor's budget cut \$144 million from education, including \$35 million from Baltimore City. The Appropriations Committee was able to restore the \$144 million to the budget. It is now the Governor's responsibility to spend the restored \$144 million on education, it can't be spent on anything else.

Brooke has introduced a bill to create a Board of Planning and Oversight to take over and improve the Maryland Transit Authority in the interest of improving transportation in the City.

The bill will not get passed this year, but she has been appointed to a workgroup to work with the MTA to give them a chance to improve their operations over the next 9 months.

Brooke is organizing the first annual neighborhood Picnic in the Park on May 31 in Patterson Park. All are welcome – please come!

6. HANOVER STREET MEDIAN

The paving will be completed this week. The next step is to install the landscaping. Richard Snyder, a resident on Hanover St., has surveyed his neighbors in the 1700 and 1800 blocks of Hanover. The results showed that 60% to 70% of those surveyed wanted landscaping in the median.

Councilman Eric Costello stated that DOT has committed to installing landscaping by the end of next week. DOT is bearing the cost of installing that landscaping. He presented the design drawings for that landscaping. The neighborhood will be required to execute an MOU with the City. DOT manages the median, not Parks and Recreation. Eric has a template MOU for us to review. The City will require that the maintenance work, including pest control, in the median be by a landscape company, not neighborhood residents.

7. UTILITY WORK UPDATE

Councilman Eric Costello provided an update on utility construction in the neighborhood. He was promised a meeting with DPW, DOT, BGE and their contractors four weeks ago to get an update on all construction. That meeting has yet to happen largely due to the recent civil disruption in the city. Now that things have settled down he is pushing to have that meeting to get specifics on the schedules for completion of all construction. He is hopeful that all disrupted street will be resurfaced.

8. POLICE RELATIONS COMMITTEE – KEVIN LYNCH

- Several neighborhood businesses were damaged/looted during the recent riots – Firestone, CVS, B'more Betty (which is relocating to Harbor East)
- Officer Butterbean is retiring the end of June.
- An individual was arrested a second time within 2 weeks for stealing packages off of front stoops. Again, be on the lookout for packages left on neighbor's stoops. Take them in for safe keeping.
- If you have surveillance footage of any crimes, you can get it to Kevin and he will forward to the police.

9. CLEAN & GREEN COMMITTEE

The Chairperson position is open – please volunteer!

10. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – BILL COVENEY

- The next issue of the Newsletter will be in June or early July. We need volunteers to distribute the Newsletter – please contact Lisa at socialmedia@mysobo.org to help out.
- The Website content will be refreshed and will be synched with Face Book. We're looking at advertising on the Face Book page as a possible revenue stream.

- Mike Murphy mentioned we are looking into possible South Baltimore T-shirt sales and producing a neighborhood photo calendar as other possible sources of fund raising.

11. LIQUOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ADIA HOAG

- C&R Pub's expansion is still pending and will meet with the LAC in 2 weeks.
- Langerman's is applying for a liquor license transfer of ownership and will meet with the LAC in 2 weeks.
- We are working with Bookmakers on an MOU for Live Entertainment.
- The Local Fry is buying a liquor license from the sushi restaurant on Light Street. They will present their plans at the next General membership meeting.
- Regarding the current Crossbar issues, the BLLC agrees that our current MOU is attached to the license.

12. BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT – DENNIS PLOUFF

The Committee has a final draft of the proposed revisions to the Bylaws which will be reviewed at the next Board meeting. We have also obtained comments on the revisions from Kelly Pfeifer of the Community Law Center. The draft will be presented to the General membership at the June meeting for review and input. The vote of the General Membership for approval is scheduled for the July meeting.

13. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL – GARRETT SCHICHE

Garrett reported that there was no general meeting this month. There was however a meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee of which Garrett is a member. The funding targets are being revised and some Tier 2 budget items are now lacking funding, such as the Complete Streets Study which will now be completed in phases over two years. This information is all available for review on the LDC website.

SBNA continues to investigate ways to use the \$50,000 allocation we have received from the LDC. We are currently considering an artwork gateway structure at the entrance to the neighborhood in the new median in Hanover Street north of Wells Street. We are pursuing additional funding for the gateway via the PNC Grant Program. We will be soliciting resident input for the gateway via surveys sent out to residents by email, so please make sure we have your correct email address. Use the link on our website to get us any updated addresses.

14. NEW BUSINESS

- Eric Costello introduced Anna Mud with Neighborhood Services in the Mayor's office and will be attending our meetings as much as possible.
- Mike Murphy made a motion to allocate \$250 toward the purchase of two bicycles for the Auxiliary Police Force for patrolling the entire peninsula. We will attempt to obtain other funds from other groups on the peninsula to reach the estimated cost of over \$1300. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

15. CLOSING COMMENTS – MIKE MURPHY

Our website is <http://mysobo.org>. On the top of the site on the right side there is a place to sign up for our email distribution list. If you did not receive an email notice for tonight's meeting, you are not on the distribution list. Please enter your information to receive email notices from SBNA.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be June 9, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Plouff
SBNA Secretary