

South Baltimore Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Delia Foley's

Commencement

Officer Reports were pushed later in the agenda to prioritize invited Banditos owner and guest, Sean White, who attended the meeting to address any questions or concerns neighbors might have regarding the business's recent expansion and renovation (101 closed on Feb. 14th and the space has since become additional space for Banditos customers).

Sean White, Banditos – Banditos brand is expanding to locations outside of MD and they're reimagining their business model to increase the number of dining patrons. Sean is hoping to open again for lunch on the weekdays by May 5th. He clarified that there will always be a night scene to cater to and weekends will continue to have DJs and live music. In addition to the expanded dining space, the back patio will also be going through renovations with plans to start construction by May with a projected turnover time of 6 weeks.

Sean has been an engaged and supportive business owner within SBNA's footprint, most recently providing feedback on the revision of the MOU and was one of the first to sign. He was asked about Banditos' potential involvement in the April 22nd clean up event and he expressed his willingness to support SBNA's efforts, deferring to his Director of Marketing who was also in attendance.

Executive Board Membership - Updates

Sam Cogen resigned as President of SBNA due to conflicts related to his elected role as Sheriff. Motions to elect Evan Pelecky (Vice President) to President, Tara McNulty (Secretary) to Vice President and Jennifer Eastman (Board Member) to Secretary were made. Members voted and there were no objections.

There are now two (2) Officers-At-Large positions open. Leadership of and participation in committees is also desired. Justin Lane, Board Member, offered to lead up the development committee. A list of committees can be shared. Discussion was also held around engaging more in volunteering activities with nonprofits within SBNA's footprint (ex. Baltimore Station).

Treasurer's Report

\$5151.09 in account, \$3400 of it from SBGP for tree pit expansion and planting; \$607.29 Heath St Garden. We recently received an additional \$400 for neighborhood beautification efforts from our joint fundraiser with Riverside Neighborhood Assoc. at Little Havana's last year.

We need to reference meeting minutes on how those funds are to be spent and revote if we deem another use more pressing.

Irish Stroll with Joonbug, Tara McNulty

The FedHill bar crawl held on March 11th was held without incident partly because of the low-ticket sales. Under 400 were sold for an event that was anticipated to draw 2500 people. This event highlighted problems in the permitting process for events. The permit that was issued for the event had erroneous information in it and shouldn't have been approved.

Follow up: meet with Costello to address this issue.

Delia Foley's Block Party

The Charles St. block between Fort and Clement will be closed from 5am Friday through Saturday at midnight. SBNA will have a table from 11-2 on Saturday. Jen and Megan will staff the table, selling memberships and raising money to replace the "E" of the South Baltimore gateway sign at the intersection of Wells and Hanover Sts.

MOU Renewals, Evan Pelecky

Every bar within the SBNA footprint has been contacted and provided a copy of the MOU. Liquor license renewals are due by the end of April. SBNA's course of action will be to send a letter to the liquor board laying out all the establishments within the SBNA footprint and their status of the MOUs, documenting which establishments have been supportive and are in good standing with SBNA and which have not signed. This letter will be drafted and able to be reviewed by April's meeting.

Earth Day Clean Up, Justin Lane

Details are being worked out, but it's being scheduled for April 22 and will coincide with parking permit pickup and the mayor's clean up, 9am-1pm. SBNA will be distributing materials and supplies and offering drink tickets for participants. Contact Justin if you'd like to volunteer.

Cleaning and Greening Committee, Megan Spindler

Tree planting – SBNA has a signed contract with Tree Baltimore to open up/expand 10 tree pits. SBNA received the funding in advance from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (SBGP) to cover the cost. We are hoping it can coincide with our Earth Day event, but it's not guaranteed.

Communications Committee, Megan Spindler

Megan submitted another SBGP grant to have a professional redesign our website. She also included in the budget funds to take professional photos of the area.

Evan reminded the group that the grant is cyclical and that SBGP has funding that's available for cleaning and greening efforts that are open year-round.

A Board member has historically served on the SBGP board. We are looking for interested people.

Residential Permit Parking (RPP), Mike Murphy

There will be two community pickup events for this year's parking passes – April 11th from 7-9pm at Delia's (to coincide with April General Membership mtg) and April 22nd from 11-1 at Ace Hardware (to coincide with Mayor's Clean up event). We will hold a brief meeting on the 11th from 7-7:30 and then pick up will occur from 7:30-9:30pm; Mike is going to work on a sign up list.

Thanks to the advocacy efforts of several neighbors, the 1900 block of Light St. will be getting its own permitting region.

Government/311 Committee, Jen Eastman

Councilman Costello's chief of staff brought to the attention of SBNA leadership that a resident was having a problem with a neighbor stowing their trash and recycling bins on their property. SBNA does not wish to get involved in issues with neighbors and doesn't want to be responsible for enforcement. Another of Costello's staff was in attendance and will follow up.

The temporary crosswalk at Hanover St. near Wells St to circumvent the construction of Alta FedHill is unsafe and lacks curb cuts for people who use walkers or wheelchairs. Jen put in a 311 request to have it evaluated and forwarded it to Costello's office for follow up.

A campaign to raise money for SBNA to fix the missing "E" on the South Baltimore gateway sign at Hanover and Wells Sts. was launched. We received a quote from the initial contractor for \$650 though some members believe this can be fixed at a lower cost.

Secretary's Report

November, January and February meeting minutes were approved.

Public Safety Grant through Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Update, Adam Onderdonk (provided via email in advance of meeting)

Grant status

- For award amounts above \$50,000: Currently, 75% of our total award amount is being processed for payment. We will be required to make a request for payment for the remaining 25% within the next 6 months. DHCD is working with their Finance department to set up payment accounts for our award. Once established they will process the 75% payment. We should receive the initial payment no later than April 24. If we already have an EFT account with the state then our payment will be by electronic fund transfer, if not we will receive a check mailed from the Comptroller's office to the address on our W9 at time of the application.
- BPD's Deputy Chief of Staff and his staff are hosting a virtual meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 EST to share a comprehensive community safety plan for all of the neighborhood associations that have been awarded safety grants. I will be calling into this meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- Still planning to meet with MAG Partners to discuss their jurisdictional boundaries on Hanover Street and our mutual security plans. Our initial meeting was postponed so we are trying to get it rescheduled.

Other Efforts

- Working to get SBNA access to a service called Dataminr. Dataminr is a company that pulls together open-source information, verifies the content, and publishes alerts. These alerts are typically quicker and more accurate than any news agency. It requires a paid subscription except for military members. We can post the link to our website to get urgent news to our neighborhood. We would need to pull together a list of military personnel in the neighborhood (need their .mils email accounts as well as their Guard/Reserve/Active Duty unit).
- Cameras have been installed at entrances and exits of the peninsula including 14 video license plate cameras and another 30 hi-resolution cameras

Follow up: ask Adam to show us what it is and what it can do

Evan shared that our bylaws are up for renewal. He will conduct an initial review prior to soliciting suggestions from members.

The monthly SBNA HH is tomorrow at Cross St Cocktails, 6-8pm, 20% off your check. Tara will reach out to Sean for HH to be held at Banditos in April.

Announcement of next meeting

The next executive board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00pm

The next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.