

HCA meeting notes - March 18, 2024

In attendance: BJ, Kirk, Sharon, Frisone, John Eddy, Sean, Keith, Anne, Katherine

Opening remarks:

- Welcome! This is BJ's first meeting as President!
- BJ introduces board:
 - Kirk Wiggins, VP
 - Sharon Reynolds, Treasurer
 - Katherine Klosek, Secretary
 - John Eddy, webmaster and Blockenstein lead
 - Nick Frisone, social media
 - Brian Sweeney, past President
 - Sean Arnold, Sergeant at Arms
 - Keith and Sarah, Basement Bar Tour

Secretary report:

- Meeting minutes available on highlandtown.com
- Feb. minutes [linked here](#)

Treasurer report:

- HCA holds \$18,500 of our own money (outside of grants). Neighbors can use this money for small grants for lighting, block parties

Upcoming events:

- Adult Easter Egg Hunt (BJ)
 - March 30
 - Conkling St. garden – day before Easter, tickets for sale at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/highlandtowns-3rd-adult-easter-egg-hunt-tickets-851085418397>
- Highlandtown Wine Festival (Domenico Dipasquale)
 - This year's event is April 28, 1-6, 3700 block of Claremont.
 - Tickets will \$25 for 5 free glasses of wine. Tix will be on sale online, at Rust N Shine, Rooftop Hot, Ovenbird, and Dipasquales.
 - You can also buy tix for \$30 at the gate using Eventbrite, cash, or Venmo
 - Sweet Leda will be playing! They are an award winning band and will be a huge draw
 - This event started as a wine competition among the Italian community in Highlandtown
- Blockenstein
 - June 1, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Monster yard sale!
 - 75 sellers, cool stuff for cheap!

- Anything that doesn't sell is donated to benefit veterans!
- A community cookout follows the yard sale
- Email addresses are on Highlandtown.com

New neighbors introduce themselves – welcome!

Announcements:

- SoutheastCDC supports neighborhood revitalization, support businesses and artists through Highlandtown Main Street & Arts District
 - First Friday Artwalk coming up April 5, May 3, June 7, Aug 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6
 - FREE Crown studio tours + happy hour/snacks – April 6 and April 21, 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
 - If you're planning to start a new business in the neighborhood, please contact Amanda Smit-Peters (asmit@southeastcdc.org)
- Councilman Cohen's office
 - Questions about tax letters? Contact the office (zeke.cohen@baltimorecity.gov)
- Safety meeting
 - New liaison: Sarg. Eric Johnson
 - Police Department holds monthly meetings that are open to the public
 - If you have questions or issues, contact HCASafety21224@gmail.com
- Safety walks (previously COP walks)
 - HCA used to hold these weekly, then moved to monthly – lost attendance
 - These walks identified lots of issues with dumping
 - Brian will talk to Sarg. Johnson about maybe bringing these walks back, meeting participants indicated they'd be interested
- 2024 season starting for Conkling Street garden! (Erin)
 - Conkling between Lombard & Baltimore
 - 30 raised beds, sizes are 3 x 12 or 4 x 5
 - Rent is \$20 per season which gives access to water, open space for picnics/etc.
 - Questions? Want to rent a space? Email: conklingstreetgarden@gmail.com
- Department of Public Works (DPW) – district 1 representative
 - 311 is important – download the app
 - Make your complaint for issues like sinkholes, complaints, dumping, etc., track your SR number, and send it to haydee.batista@baltimorecity.gov, 443-721-0028 (cell), 410-545-6541 (office)
 - Recycling is every week now! Same pickup schedule for businesses as residences

From the floor:

- District 2 city council candidate forum, April 18, 7-8:30 p.m.
 - Hope City Church – 3930 Fleet Street
 - Liam Davis, Joe Koehler, Mark Parker
 - Jayne Miller

- Larry Miller
 - President of Highlandtown Business District
 - ljwmasterbarber@yahoo.com
- Thanks Ovenbird for hosting!