Highlandtown Community Association

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2016

Present: Brian Sweeney has attendance sheet

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag (Brian Sweeney)
2. Treasury Report – To conserve time there was no review of the HCA’s financial accounts (posted on<http://highlandtown.com/hca-meeting-info/>)
3. Minutes Review – To conserve time there was no review of the previous meeting’s minutes (posted on [http://highlandtown.com/hca-­‐](http://highlandtown.com/hca-)meeting-­‐info/)
4. Welcoming new residents!
5. President’s Report (Brian Sweeney)
   1. Live Baltimore Home Buyer’s Event 5/14
      1. Highlandtown was featured in the neighborhood tours!
      2. HCA tabled at the resource fair
   2. Project Sapphire -- Sex worker and police promoting health in risking environments
      1. Starting Phase 2, they’ll have a van with a logo, working on the Conkling Street corridor
   3. Sneaky Feet -- sneaker store on Eastern Ave.
      1. Property under new ownership
      2. Property made up of four parcels including a garage.
      3. Proposal to tear down the garage and replace it with new row homes with garages. Facing Bolden.
      4. Sneaky Feet will remain as is.
   4. Haussner’s Update
      1. Demolition due to start this month; be on the lookout!
   5. Blockenstein
      1. June 4thth
      2. Mega yard sale/block party
      3. Corner of East and Bank between Ellswood
      4. Shut down for 24 hours from 6p June 3 to June 4
      5. Cookout at noon
      6. Still tables open for the sale
      7. Several events in the immediate area that day. Beware of getting shut in!
   6. Art Cart Derby
      1. Scaled down this year due to all the many events taking place simultaneously
      2. Alley behind Creative Alliance
      3. Focus more on decorating the carts than winning the race
   7. Cop Walk
      1. Every Thursday at 7pm, meet at the corner of Gough and Conkling in front of Laughing Pint
      2. Walk with police officer, ID problems in the neighborhood -- mostly vacant houses but occasionally active criminal activity.
      3. If you’re aware of problems on your block that police should be attending to, this is a good way to point out issues to police.
6. Announcements
   1. Sharon Jones from Bayview
      1. Blood Drive June 14-16 at Bayview
         1. Need for blood higher in summers
      2. Handouts on back table
      3. Upcoming seminars on serving as a caregiver
      4. Community Health Forum on Monday June 6th focused on aging
   2. Samantha King -- Blue Water Baltimore
      1. Rain barrel workshop at Loading Dock -- specifically for Highlandtown residents. May 21st at 10am
         1. Offered in English and Spanish
         2. $20 (deeply discounted)
   3. Question: How did we do at the Wine Festival?
      1. None of the planners are here to give an update.
      2. About 800 people were in attendance -- up from last year.
   4. Mark Parker -- liaison to the SouthEast
      1. Patterson Park Association updates
         1. Proposal to tear down and rebuild the Royal Farms on Highlandtown and Fayette. Would involve tearing down the eye-sore garages along Fayette.
         2. Anticipate developers will be coming to HCA to discuss this soon
   5. How do you stay in touch with HCA?
      1. Facebook
      2. Nextdoor
      3. We’re working on a google group
7. Oddfellows Lodge -- Charm City Builders
   1. 320 S Highland Street
   2. Current phase: 4 units, 2 bedrooms 21/2 bathrooms
   3. Moving into next phase of development
      1. Plan to tear down garages on Gough
      2. Able to have at least 8 if not 10 parking spots
   4. Need a rezoning -- this would have happened under Transform Baltimore but that process was delayed. Project financing does not allow for the delay -- thus they need to get the property re-zoned.
   5. Charm City Builders has requested HCA write a letter of support.
   6. New buildings are 4 stories (phase 1 is 3 stories)
   7. Grey brick veneer on front and sides, vinyl clad windows with grids
   8. Phase 1 has corrugated metal siding of the front facade
   9. HCA requests good exterior lighting, cameras -- registered to the City Watch program.
   10. Phase 2 has been sped up to better fit with financing.
   11. Why does HCA require cameras of developers but not individual households?
       1. Developers need HCA’s support and this is our request. We urge everyone to have cameras and want to facilitate it as much as possible -- but don’t have the leverage to require it of private homeowners
   12. Anticipated price for top floor apartment was $2500, less on each lower floor.
   13. Hoping to complete Phase 1 in July. Hope to start Phase 2 in Fall. Phase 2 expected to last 8-12m
   14. HCA requests that the garages be designed to limit curb cuts/loss of parking spaces
   15. If you object to HCA’s letter of support -- see Brian
8. 46th District Delegates
   1. Del. Pete Hammen
      1. Chairs Health and Government Committee
      2. Baltimore Redevelopment
         1. Del. Hammen brought Speaker Busch to Patterson Park to see the amazing redevelopment. Invited to submit a plan
            1. Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative (BRNI)

Expanded and codified into law! With funding!

Create revolving loan fund

* + - * 1. Also funding demolition
        2. Half million secured for Highlandtown for Baltimore Community Lending pilot -- collaboratively with Charm City Building.

Beginning with a single home to the north of here.

* 1. Del. Brooke Lierman
     1. Handed out end of session report
     2. This was a big year for Baltimore in the legislative session
     3. House and Senate leadership really focused on what Baltimore needed.
        1. Enoch Pratt free library bill -- expands funding so that the libraries are open more often and at standardized times.
     4. On Appropriations Committee -- worked on budget
        1. “Don’t tell me your values; show me your budget.”
        2. 2017 Budget is fiscally responsible. Structurally balanced for the next 5-6 years. Socially responsible
        3. Provides more money to medicaid providers, for treatment of substance abuse and behavioral health, fully funds Chesapeake Bay Fund for the first time ever.
        4. Schools were facing a shortfall because of changes in formula and decrease in population. Appropriations Committee worked with Governor to soften the hit to the budget. Secured additional $10M for Baltimore City schools on the condition that Baltimore City contribute the rest. Now City schools are not facing the huge hit.
        5. Budget narrative -- added reporting requirements for state agencies.
        6. Capital budget -- includes $250l for development across the street from Creative Alliance
        7. Secured increase in annual grant for Baltimore City for Program Open Space from $1.5M to $6M annually
           1. $300,000 from 2018 goes to Patterson Park
     5. Passed bill requiring MTA to have comprehensive planning process -- plan must be updated every 5 years. Create a board with people from City, riders on public systems. Will meet regularly and be staffed by MTA.
  2. Del. Luke Clippinger
     1. On Economic Matters Committee
        1. Workforce Development, Public Utilities, Business Regulation
     2. Passed legislation to create task force to establish adult high schools
        1. Alternative to a GED
        2. High school and wraparound services
     3. Passed legislation to raise the percentage of renewable energy used in the State of Maryland by 2020 from 20% to 25%.
     4. Passed legislation to lower the amount of greenhouse gases.
     5. Passed legislation to enable communities to better access solar panels through.
        1. Community Solar -- a way of bringing a group of people together to collectively purchase a part of a solar array. Helps to lower BGE bill, gets you tax credits, gets you a renewable energy credits.
        2. Lowers costs of solar panels -- anyone who is a BGE customer with a BGE meter is eligible.
        3. There will be information sessions this summer.