

## Meeting Minutes

**Presiding Officer:** President Brian Sweeney

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Attendance

Forty-four people in attendance.

We signed up in the spring for a new piece of software which would digitize our record-keeping. That company folded and the app is no longer operational

### Minutes

None today

### Financial Report

Over the summer, we had a number of small expenditures.

Current balance: \$16,127.92.

Biggest expense was paying back DiPasquale's because of money lost on the wine festival. We have about 1/3 of our normal attendance.

### Discussion

**String Lighting for Blocks:** Lots of interest in the area. Some people interested in providing leadership. One target block to get things started might be a helpful way to go. Brian explains a bit of the process involved in getting string lighting going. People interested should be in touch with Brian.

**Homeless Encampment on Eaton Street:** Kirk and Brian have been working with city agencies and contacts. How do we bring resources to the area, support folks? An ongoing process. Quick action does not seem likely.

**Highlandtown Neighborhood Flyers:** Now printed in English, thanks to the Southeast Community Development Corporation.

**Johns Hopkins Bayview:** Sharon Jones is with us. Congratulates us on our receiving one of their community service grants for our Conkling Street Garden.

Mayor's Senior Symposium at Martin's West this week. All people 60 years and older are welcome to come, 8:30-1pm. On Thursday.

Many free seminars are coming up. As well as health screening events.

**Thiru Vignarajah:** Running for mayor of Baltimore. Invites us to an upcoming forum about tax policy here in the city. Wednesday, September 18th, 6:30-8pm, 5722 York

Road.

**Representative from Councilperson McCray (2<sup>nd</sup> district).** Joe introduces himself, invites us to be in touch with him with any needs east of Conkling Street.

**Representative from Councilperson Cohen (1<sup>st</sup> district).** Juan introduces himself, invites us to be in touch with him with any needs west of Conkling Street. Particularly commends 311, especially around issues of dumping and trash (always be in touch with their office after first filing your 311 request and getting your reference number).

**Highlandtown Community on Patrol Walk, Thursdays, 7pm** Meet at the corner of Gough and Conkling in front of the Laughing Pint. Join in the walk! Or show up and share information with the group of walkers for them to check out.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Great Halloween Lantern Parade, October 26:** HCA will have a table to promote our neighborhood. Volunteers needed! Great opportunity to have fun and to also help welcome visitors to our neighborhood.

Creative Alliance would also love lots of volunteer support during the festival and the parade itself. Especially to carry floats in the parade!

**Neighbors Welcoming Neighbors, Friday, September 20th, 5:30-8pm** An event to celebrate the diversity of our neighborhood and to build community among people and families of all kinds of cultural backgrounds. Sponsored by the faith community of Highlandtown. Free food, live music, kids activities, opportunities for conversation and connection.

**Breath of God Youth Mentoring Program, beginning in October, Thursday from 5-6:30pm.** Volunteers needed! Be in touch with Pastor Mark for more information.

**Parade of Nations, September 29, 1-4pm. Starting at Grundy and Haven on Eastern, marching to Linwood & Eastern.** Some impact for car movement on Grundy and Haven. Parade actually starts at 2pm. Arrive at Pulaski Monument by 3:30pm.

**Oktoberfest at Breath of God, to benefit the Highlandtown Preschool,**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm-4pm. Pratt & Clinton Streets.** German beer, German food, Ravens' game, kids activities. Helps to support the scholarship program at the preschool. Cost of \$20 for an adult, \$10 for a youth, free for kids. More information and tickets at [www.BreathOfGodLC.org/HowToHelp/](http://www.BreathOfGodLC.org/HowToHelp/).

**Highlandtown Basement Bar Tour, Saturday, November 9th, in the afternoon.** Currently recruiting for homes for the tour! Be in touch with Sarah at

highlandtownbasementbartour@gmail.com for more information and to sign up as a host.

### **Guest Presenters**

**Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City—Matt Achhammer, Community Liaison.** Presents on the role of the Liquor Board here in Baltimore, the license granting/renewing/protest process, liquor enforcement, problem establishments, and community involvement in the process. If you are calling 311 and/or 911 about certain problematic behavior by license holders, please also be in touch with the board by connecting with Matt at (410) 241-6525.

**Clean Water Action—Jennifer Kunze.** Major effort right now is focused on sewage backups into private homes. More than 5,000 a year. Infrastructure is failing, we're no longer pumping overflow sewage into the harbor, and extreme weather events all combine to significantly increase this problem. There are mechanisms in place for people to file claims for property damages to the city because of this. It is a terribly functioning mechanism (10 out of 4600 or so eligible properties). Right now we have an opportunity to express concern to the Maryland Department of the Environment about how the city is handling this. MDE Listening Session, September 30, 6-8pm, 1800 Washington Boulevard.

**Epstein's Warehouse Update (3905 Bank Street).** Chris Mfume, Dick Manekin. Updates on changes. No longer going to use the Eastern Avenue slice of the property for construction at this moment (about 38 feet wide on Eastern). May just do a pocket part on Eastern Avenue, some public art. Instead of building on that land, increased the height of one part of the building on Bank Street. Still looking at a March construction start. Eighteen months of construction. Approximate studio around \$1300. One bedroom \$1500, hopefully less. October 10th, 2019 city design panel is their next meeting (sometime during the day). You can be in touch with Chris at [chris@cldre.com](mailto:chris@cldre.com).