

MEETING MINUTES
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

05/03/2011

1. Police/Community Relations

Officer Butterbean began the meeting by reporting on the status of crime in our area. An armed robbery occurred recently at Sam's grocery store at Randall and S. Charles. Three home burglaries occurred in the last 28 days in our area. Auto larceny has increased.

He reminded us again that it is unwise to place empty boxes out for recycling pick-up that indicate major purchases that have been made – TV boxes etc. Break the boxes down and conceal them.

A general discussion took place regarding excessive drinking and unruliness by bar patrons. Officer Butterbean suggested that the situation would be improved if bars would simply cut off serving drinks to customers that are obviously intoxicated. The bars need to take on more responsibility.

Residents have the ability to challenge liquor license renewals and therefore have more power than the police to affect change.

Fire occupancies are posted at the front doors of bars and restaurants. The police can enforce occupancy codes and shut down establishments.

All liquor license violations that are written up by the police are reviewed by the Liquor Board.

In response to a question, he related that citations can be issued by the police to anyone breaking the law. He thought the citation fine amounts to \$150. The individual will be sent to Central Booking if he/she doesn't have an ID, exhibits physical misbehavior or has a criminal record. Citation fees enter the City General Fund, not the police budget. Police cannot be a revenue generator.

Sgt. Kowalczyk related that the Hospitality Association contracts with the City to pay overtime to 3 additional officers and 1 additional supervisor for deployment to the Cross Street area on Friday and Saturday nights until 3:00 AM. The other regular 4 officers are still available to patrol the residential neighborhoods. Starting at 1:30 on Friday and Saturday

nights, the extra officers focus on helping bar patrons leave the area instead of entering the residential neighborhoods.

2. Design Review

The proposed project at 127 W. Fort Ave. and its three zoning variance requests were discussed. Stephan Lawrence, a member of the SBNA Design Review Committee, related that residents in the vicinity of the project have organized to oppose the zoning variances. 112 signatures in opposition have been obtained and the residents will attend the Zoning Board hearing on May 10.

It was voted unanimously that SBNA will send a letter of opposition to the Zoning Board.

3. Parking Report

Debbie Alt reported that SBNA has agreed to terms with the West Federal Hill Neighborhood Association and that Cynthia Griffin of that Association will continue as the Area 30 Parking Representative. Debbie will continue as the Area 42 Parking Representative.

Area 30 residents can become members of the West Federal Hill Association, but cannot be SBNA members concurrently.

Cynthia reported that the following are open work orders with the Transportation Department and/or the Parking Authority:

- a. Parking signs at 36 to 50 E. Fort (Recently installed)
- b. Parking signs at 41 to 45 E. Fort (Have not been installed yet)
- c. Parking signs at 5 to 17 E. Fort (Need to be replaced)
- d. "No stopping" signs on the 1600 block of Patapsco. (Need to be replaced)
- e. An application has been submitted for a handicap parking space in the 1400 block of S. Charles.

Parking enforcement will be active until 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 5, during the Jazz and Blues Festival.

Some transportation improvements that affect our neighborhood were announced in the Middle Branch Transportation Plan meeting held in April at the Christ Lutheran Church:

- a. Installation of traffic circle at Key Highway and Light St.
- b. Repair of on-ramp from northbound Hanover to southbound I-95. (Currently under repair and closed)

- c. New Red White and Blue Circulator loop to Ft. McHenry – this circulator loop will connect with the Ostend Street Purple Line stop. More info will be provided when available.

Other conceptual proposals featured in the in the Middle Branch Transportation Plan include:

- a. Hanover/Ostend intersection – northbound and eastbound left turn lanes (conceptual stage)
- b. Hanover and Fort intersection – northbound and southbound left turn lanes (conceptual stage)

Other items of interest – when purchasing a new car, remove the parking decal off the windshield of the old car. Even if it is shredded, it can be exchanged for a new decal for a new car. Also, Four (4) one-day party passes per residence are available on non-stadium event days. All party passes must be for the same day and are not available for consecutive days.

4. Newsletter Report

Per Postal Service regulations, the Newsletter cannot be placed in mail boxes. Mailing the Newsletter every month is not affordable. The next Newsletter may be mailed while alternative methods of delivery are investigated.

5. Teen Council Report – Marie Sennett

Marie is unable to continue as Teen Council Chair. The Teen Council will terminate unless a new Chair or Co-Chairs step forward. Marie is willing to spend the summer working with new volunteers in a training and orientation capacity. Please contact her at TeenCouncil@mysobo.org to find out more about this rewarding opportunity.

6. Liquor License Advisory Report – Melanie Ambridge

SBNA continues to monitor expansion plans of Taverna Corvino and Mothers.

7. Treasurer Report – Matt Eskridge

Federal and State tax forms have been submitted.

8. Other Business

Mugsy's on Light Street recently had its storage cooler broken into. Beer valued at \$3,000 was stolen and sold on the street in the nearby neighborhood. Please contact the police if you have any information that will assist in apprehending those responsible.

State Delegate Luke Clippinger was in attendance as was his assistant, Amy Hartman. If you need to contact them, their contact information is 410-841-3303, Luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us and ahartman13@gmail.com, cell phone 301-789-5981.

Respectively Submitted,

Dennis Plouff
Secretary

DRAFT