

Minutes
January 12, 2011; 7:30 pm

Introduction: Meeting was called to order at **7:34 pm**

Committee Reports and Announcements

Treasurer's Report: have \$5,300 in general account

Land Use Committee – *none*

Social Committee – *none*

Crime Committee

Traffic/ Parking Committee: Southeast street parking committee. Powerpoint presentation of southeast study for ways to increase parking; ways to use permit parking; changing restrictions; greening; bike lanes; bus routes; looking at more streets for angle parking; City has decided to look at all wide one-way streets to apply for angle parking per vote of residents instead of petition. Last block of Bank Street might go angled. City is looking at all triangle areas for beautification and traffic calming.

Question: Stop sign at Bank and Washington? City looking at it. Paddles don't work. Speeding cars. Victor has spoken to traffic engineer. Looking at widening viewing clearance at that intersection or other methods to control speed.

Comment about Hopkins shuttle; people park on Baltimore and other streets to get on the shuttle, but are still using up area parking. Comment by Alana: emails at Hopkins asking employees not to park in abutting residential areas. Question to Officer Rodriguez: City can't control this issue. Force has been reduced, so can't do anything. Only one radar gun. Few parking control personnel available. Other comments about ticketing on state and city level— which areas pays money to what coffer. Request for speed cameras; but slow. Victor pushed to get crossing paddles. Hearing about parking fines. Victor only one who testified. Adopted 15-minute buffer for tickets.

Question about notification: newsletter and email? Newsletter is time-sensitive and cannot respond to last-minute news. Use email and Facebook for current notices.

Motion: Want 1700 Bank to be angled parking. Seconded the motion. Vote: all in favor except one.

Garden Club: butterfly garden; fliers for SE anchor library seminar for container gardens

Any other reports or announcements

2011 Assessments - Marek Tarasiewicz: How to fight your assessment.

Handout of sales of houses in Fells Prospect in last year. Many houses will be assessed by City next year. But can fight assessment between cycles. Many assessments are still on 2006 levels. Average house in our area is over-assessed about 40K per year. Should fight the incorrect assessments. Some properties are using more of city services but paying

much less in taxes. Can request a mid-cycle review for assessment. Send everything by certified mail. Handout has web address where you can see sales for last year. Can be complicated by homestead tax credit. Laws can be unclear. Some discussion about meaning of homestead tax credits. Importance of filing appeal. Very time sensitive. Most properties are being over-assessed, but pay attention to homestead tax credit. Comment: Baltimore Sun real estate wonk is asking for comments on assessment.

Comment: James Kraft is urging residents to fight assessments. Senator Della is also encouraging action.

Can fight current assessment by due date. Can fight mid-term ones each year by certified mail.

Other business: Fought expansion of PAL drug treatment center near Broadway. Legal negotiations for memorandum of agreement that will go to zoning. Larger coalition of Fells Point communities is trying to regulate expansion. Move further programs to other areas of the city. Influxes of vagrants have affected businesses including Hispanic ones.

Concerns about garages and curb cuts. Association is working on this. Identifying sites that are in violation of creating false garage curb/no parking spaces.

Rewriting of zoning laws in progress. Need to be active in this process. Please go to hearings. Question about current changes? Ans.: New book of information to be considered. Most input from businesses and contractors. Very few recommendations from residents.

Old Business

Alley Gating Projects: All gates will be up by the end of the month. Two-year process. Fells Prospect takes ownership of these alleyways. To get access, must apply to get key.

Three alleys will be completed.

Zip Car – Update: Request to find an alternative to taking up parking spaces and for contributing to community organization. Did not respond to request. So Fells Prospect will not support Zipcars in the neighborhood. Other areas are not supporting Zipcars. Suggested taking bus stops on Broadway. Didn't want to do this. Communities are offering spots, but Zipcars is not negotiating.

May be certain area across from Talay Tai that wants to remove itself from Chap designation. Newer townhomes want to withdraw. Fells Prospect is abstaining from voting or support. Could create issue of other groups withdrawing from Chap. Comment: Mary Beth is on preservation board; explained function of Chap. Fells Point has its own preservation society and is very strong.

April 10 – next bus trip- Atlantic City – \$27 per person. Hilton is destination.

Bus trip October 23 to St. Michaels, MD.

Clean Currents energy challenge: 15 households in 2010 signed up. Association earned \$250 to spend on greening. Used money to purchase recycling bins as raffle prizes.

New Business

Time to renew membership for 2011.

Recycle bins: 15 winners.

Presentations:

Brooke Lierman – Red Line Station Area Advisory Committee: For every Red Line station planned, there is an advisory committee to inform everyone about plans, appearance, service, etc. Catchment area for Fell Prospect stops: will run underground until Canton, and underground in Harbor East. Want input for orientation for stations, design, how to represent Fells Point, etc. Want it to be compatible for bike lanes and provide space for bike parking at stations. Waiting for federal funding, then state will kick in. Could start building in 2016 and be operational in 2020. Will allow bicycles and be very quiet. Not like light rail today.

Steven Robinson - Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods-no show

Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.