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Fells Prospect, Inc. P.O. Box 38291, Baltimore MD 21231

Agenda  
408 S Chester St, Holy Rosary Church  
July 14, 2010; 7:30 pm

Introduction: Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Victor Corbin, President

Update on Beans & Bread: Hearing: decided that have to go back to original plans. CHAP board discussion: All put on hold until court cast is settled. Going back to court on Sept. 27. Had much support from local politicians, especially Jack Young. Delegates McHale, Hammond, and G. Della attended and testified on behalf of the community.

Thanks given for support of city council president for support with Beans & Bread.

No meeting in August; no newsletter.

Upper Fells Point: Neighboring association. Work day at Gen. Wolfe Academy. July 25. 9 to 4. Mainly painting. Come for as much time as you can spare. Will meet students, staff, etc.

Cristo Rey: Update about construction: Replacing sidewalks on Chester and Eastern. Each street will take about a week.

Meeting now turned over to Alana Ridge, Vice President

Michelle Wirtzberger: Now working for Jack Young as director of community of affairs; no longer at community law center. In law center, she fought for rights of communities in disputes with bars. Now there are increased fines for public drunkenness and drinking in public places. Open container rule: fine as long as you are on your property: steps, deck, etc. If you are on sidewalk, you are on public property and may be in violation. Her new boss is here tonight: Jack Young.

#### Committee Reports and Announcements

*(Due to the number of speakers, we will not have committee reports. Announcements will be made; then we will start with our speakers.)*

- Raffle for \$25 at Arcos Restaurant (\$1.00 per chance)
- <sup>a</sup> Guest: Upper Fells Point Improvement Assoc – Suzanne Bailey
- No August meeting

#### Old Business

Chubbies – Transfer of Ownership  
Community has Hired CLC to take our case

New Business: N/A  
Presentations

**City Council President Jack Young.** Has been on council for 14 years. Used to represent a part of this area around Boston Street. He was a community activist himself, so wants to advocate for communities. Parking personnel: He stole Kaitlin from Jim Kraft's office. Budget: Cuts affect quality of life. Contention: container tax; compromise on 2 cents. Found ways to keep all services in place. Bulk trash, helicopters, firehouse, etc. still in place. Community bill just signed to give police tools to stop criminal behavior. Is sensitive to desire for no more homeless shelters in area. He will oppose CHAP going any further until court case. Wants to hear from us. If you call, you will get a response. Question: Parking within crosswalk, will get citation, but if put trash out illegally, takes days to get citation. What can be done? A: Call Young's office, will get response. Eric Booker is contact; citation will be issued.

Q: Appreciate commitment to police and fire. Budget problems: how to deal with them: raise taxes or cut services? A: In state, lobbyists have to pay; in city, don't. Don't want to see increase in property taxes; looking at more efficient way to do things. Trying to do more coordination within services.

Ways to charge for city clerical services for permits, research, etc.

One cause of deficit was loss of state funding; need to change regulations about foreclosure: no fees paid.

Construction is on the rise. People moving back into east Baltimore. Need to shorten the tax breaks for developers.

Wants to retain city control of water system.

Q: From media rep. Will you support dog park in Patterson Park? Could raise revenue? A: He will check with Kraft on that.

Q: More cars parking in Patterson Park. How control? Megin from Kraft's office. Working for park rangers; working to give tickets.

People should be responsible for trash in front of their houses. Homeowners are responsible for what is in front of house.

Q: How many houses are vacant in city? How many owned by city? A: Don't know.

Q: How long will city wait? These are sources of revenue. A: Has suggested that those houses be released to developers, but action must be taken within a time frame. Has upped registration fee for taking over vacant houses. Maybe revisit dollar houses. Must convince housing commissioner to go along. Q: If nothing happens, taxes are low; if renovate, taxes are raised. How fix? A: Was killed in Annapolis. Trying to solve problems, but are sometimes blocked.

Q: Traffic coming into the city and out in the evening. Commuter tax? A: Won't work because more people work in areas other than city. State would be opposed. He would like to see user tax for all who works in city. It would affect everyone, not just commuters.

**Gregg Bernstein** – Running for office, Baltimore City state's attorney

Has never run for office. Gave background. Has lived almost entire life in Baltimore. Was assistant US attorney for city. Currently partner in DC firm, but practices in its Baltimore office. Has spent entire professional life in criminal law. Decided to run for state's attorney. Baltimore has lowest conviction rate of any Maryland city. Over 80% of domestic violence cases have no action. War Room was designed to act on violent offenders who have history of convictions and track their violations. Conviction rate has been about 30%. Crime rate is going down; this is work of police dept. But conviction rate has stayed low. State's attorney has been in office for 15 years. Has been in opposition to police.

Issues of intimidation, testimony, etc., but action still rests with state's attorney. He wants to change a policy that no longer works. Need to prosecute our most violent offenders first. That is job of state's attorney. This is most pressing issue for city. He wants to work with the police department, not against it.

Our current state's attorney has not been in a courtroom in 15 years. He plans to be in court.

If you can work with police and set target, can pinpoint way to stop specific problems.

Comment: How address prostitution issue in neighborhood and city? One of police department's main problems. Arrest prostitutes or go after johns. How to deal with this?

Q: How to handle caseload of violent offenders when 80% of domestic cases are dismissed?

A: Need to be prepared. No automatic postponements. Both sides need to be ready to go. Need to force case to go to trial. Need to expedite process and cut delays. Also, have plans to use apprentice associates in court.

**Jason Filippou** – Running for office, Delegate 46<sup>th</sup> District: Not present

**Melissa Techentin** – Running for office, Delegate 46<sup>th</sup> District

How many grew up in SE Baltimore? Not many. Asked Bernstein to stay. She grew up in this area. She is local; is focused; ready to fight. Moved because she could not afford to send kids to parochial school in Baltimore. Moved back to Dundalk; found crime, noise, drug traffic, etc. there. Went to SE Police District Public Relations Council. Has been an activist at these meetings. Was told that nothing could be done about the problems. Still fought for solutions. She sees working with police department as a reward. Prostitutes and truck problems are still here, but are making progress.

Not in support of Red Line on Boston St. She is a member of Md. Commission for Women. Platform: Support law enforcement and community. Police need more tools, and need more officers. Red Line: need Acela train for north/south corridor parallel to I95. She is opposed to surface Red Line.

Sees problem with way suspects are processed. Use barcode affixed to person and processed rather than taking officer off street until processing is completed.

School system: Problems with system. City gives 3% for schools; state gives 97%. Wants to foster training that can be moved to trade areas, marketable skills. Also need to reinstate arts.

Transportation dollars should be spent on repairing streets.

Q: How about side streets: speed bumps? A: can request bumps

Q: Support bottle tax to clean up streets? A: Yes, but not beverage tax.

Q: If charter schools are not doing any better than public schools, why support more charter school?

A: Feedback from colleague. Need standards that excel. If charter schools can do it, and public schools, too, that would be good.

Linda Walker: 2000 Fleet Street. Property was Gallery ID8. New partnership to develop it into a café. No liquor license. Vote taken: In favor.

Notice: About trash cans. Is city regulation; not Victor's. Cannot leave your trashcan in front of your house beyond pickup day.

September meeting: more people running for office will attend. We are not endorsing any candidate; is public service.

New meeting with community law: Chubbies wants to transfer liquor license. Please email Major of Police Department if see violations. Want to oppose transfer.

Adjourn at 8:45 pm.