



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
October 17, 2006
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Chance called meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Introductions all around.

September minutes distributed via email and available on the website.

Treasurers report: \$35,000 in the bank. We still owe \$19,000 to Homestead Gardens. We are awaiting a check from the city for \$10,000.

Taste Buds final not yet in but we believe we raised over \$47,000!!! Thanks to all involved in making this event a great success. Special thanks to Pam for taking on this immense task.

Historic Downtown Residents Association -- separate from Ward One -- from Main Street to USNA -- they have a block watch covering 20 blocks -- homeowners association comprised of historic home owners. As of yesterday they are a 501(c)(3). They are beautifying the residential area. Tricia addressed concerns over the graffiti that is cropping up around town. She asks for everyone's support in fighting this. If you see new graffiti, please alert her and she will stay on top of removal. If you would like to include a coupon in their welcome packet please connect with Tricia. If you would like to learn more about all she's doing, please call her at 410-268-7070 or email her at triciah@erols.com. *Mission statement:* To be responsible stewards of these historic treasures where we live, to pursue safety and quality of life for continued residential viability, and to pursue common projects to maintain and enhance the beauty of the area consistent with its historic character.

Holiday proposal from Homestead runs roughly \$12,000. Lamppost with rope and lights, wreaths, planters will be covered throughout the downtown area -- Maryland Avenue, Main Street, West Street, City Dock, etc. We will not decorate the tree at St. Anne's this year. It's extremely expensive (over \$3500). Last year Homestead found the tree was not in good condition.



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Midnight Madness I & II: December 7th and 14th... Let Judy know if you have any connection to children's choirs, school choirs, scout troops. There will be gift wrap available, locations TBD. If you are doing something special at your business, let me know we want to make sure I don't send 40 scouts over to carol while you have a string quartet playing! George asked for confirmation on free parking at City garages. We await more details on a "free transit zone" which may be set up by the time of the events.

Brochure is underway...stay tuned. Special thanks to Jason and Bobbi for their efforts to pull this off. All 5 associations are included.

Chuck Weikel has long volunteered to help find solutions to the parking issues. He has been hired by the City on a part time basis to continue these efforts. This is a great thing. Chuck has put in countless hours on the cause.

Bryan Miller of the Ward One Residents Association: He hopes to grow a closer relationship between the two groups. Topics to discuss: festivals, rooftop dining, traffic, the skyline. He wants to reach out to similar cities (Charleston, etc.) to discuss ramifications v. the benefits. He'd like to have someone from ABA attend their meetings and vice versa on a regular basis. Chance suggests we swap board seats.

Mike Miron introduced Hollis who has been organizing the "Let's Talk" program. More than 1000 hours of dialogue has transpired on topics generated through the Business survey taken earlier this year, there are numerous shared concerns between residents and business owners. Thirty-five people are on the comprehensive planning committee. Mike believes this may be the time to revisit the start of a BID in Annapolis. For more info, Google "business improvement district" and you will find out what they're doing in DC, New York, Boston.

Maryland Maritime Heritage Festival is owned by the Chamber of Commerce. Andy from Bank Annapolis and board member of MMHF and Brendan Curley addressed the group. The event showcases small groups that need community exposure, i.e., Box of Rain, maritime trade groups. Events include Build a Boat, Watermen's competition. The goal is to grow the event to make it an incredible community program that can stand on its own apart from the Volvo Ocean Race. Event is May 4-6, 2007. If you have ideas or questions please feel free to reach out to them.