

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC)

MEETING MINUTES – February 23, 2015

Allen Hedrick called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Councilmember Seth Bernard was introduced to all as the new Chair, replacing Nicole Alt-Myers. Attending were: Lee Borrer, Lt. Brian Lepley, Jenn Jeudy, Allen Hedrick, Councilmember Seth Bernard, Ed Madariaga, Frances Cook, Josh Greise, Jim and Sheila Plummer, Louise Elliott, Rev. Tormod Svensson, Tom Delawder, Katie Gattens and Tammy Fraley.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 2014 meeting by Rev. Svensson and seconded by Lt. Lepley. All were in favor. There was no meeting in December due to the holidays and bad weather prevented the January meeting.

City Department Reports

Full City Department reports are available online on the NAC page.

Borrer reported that Friday was the application deadline for Community Development Grant (CDBG) funding. She noted that funding requests are greater than available funds. A staff committee will review the applications and make recommendation to Mayor and City Council.

Lt. Lepley reported on Cumberland Police Department activities. There have been 1685 calls for service in the last 28 days with 190 arrests being made. 371 traffic stops produced 59 citations and 6 DWIs. The retirement of Lt. Steve Schellhaus and Lt. David Biser this month has created some changes regarding job duties in the department. 3 new officers are on the street and 3 are currently in the academy. The Citizens Police Academy which is open to all city residents begins on Wednesday and runs through April 15th.

Neighborhood reports

Chapel Hill reported they met earlier this past month to prepare their CDBG funding application. The newly elected Secretary is Rev. Tormod Svensson.

Decatur Heights member Francis Cook reported that Street Fair planning has begun and they are looking for input on how to provide electricity to the vendors. The hill at Waverly Terrace down to Baltimore Ave has created an eyesore to the neighborhood with trash tires and such being dumped on the hill from above. A good bit of trash has developed in the rear of Davidson Street as well.

Hast with the South Cumberland Business and Civic Association (SCBCA) reported there were 42 members present at the last meeting and upcoming speakers should include Salvation Army, HRDC and Senator Edwards. The Scholarship committee would like to let the public know to contact Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University for local scholarships offered by the organization.

North End Crime Watch member Elliott said that the organization is currently undergoing an overhaul.

Old Business

An organizational meeting for Cumberland's National Night Out event will be held tomorrow at 10:00 in the City Engineering Conference Room and all were invited to participate. The date set for National Night Out is August 4, 2015 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army and in street area in front of the building. The City would like to see representation from each of the neighborhood groups at this event and hopes that everyone will promote it.

New Business

Hedrick and Hast presented an idea for the NAC to promote through mailings and media coverage, and by taking on a neighborhood each month to develop a new and/or stronger neighborhood organizations. A motion was made by Delawder to set up a committee and begin with the month of April of this year. Jeudy has agreed

to chair a committee and five others have agreed to help. The committee will meet in the Community Development conference room on Thursday, March 5th. Cook seconded and all were in favor.

Public Comment

Greise questioned and Borrer reminded all that each group decides for themselves how they will be organized. The name of group, boundaries, and goals are all up to the neighborhoods themselves. Toolkits were provided earlier this year to neighborhood representatives.

Svensson said a group is looking to begin a Community Food Garden and they have support from several partners including Western Maryland Health Systems. Gattens asked him to speak to her regarding Let's Beautify Cumberland! after tonight's meeting to possibly become a project for her group.

The misuse of City recycling containers was recognized and City staff was asked to check on what can be done about this and report back at the next meeting. Councilmember Bernard reminded all that the Mayor requested we communicate to neighbors not following proper procedure.

Gattens announced that Let's Beautify Cumberland! Committee is looking for projects for this year and would appreciate nominations. She also publically recognized Sunshine Cleaners for washing 85 flags from last year's event. Blue Ribbon Awards will be presented this year to those who keep yards/gardens above and beyond expectation. The Shade Tree Commission is planning an Arbor Day event downtown for April 30. She also mentioned that the Green Street 'Reimagining' meeting was well attended.

Cook motioned to adjourn, and the meeting ended promptly at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday, March 30, 2015.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk