

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

Neighborhood Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES – September 29, 2014

Vice Chair Allen Hedrick called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: Louise Elliott, Allen Hedrick, Frances Cook, Sam Robinette, Sally Robinette, Lt. Brian Lepley, Charles Hinnant, Lance Naylor, Nicole Wagoner, Barbara Salas, Lee Borrer, Pfc. Chris Fraley, Sgt. Jim Hott, Jenn Jeudy, Terri Hast, and Katie Gattens.

The minutes from the July meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Wagoner and seconded by Lepley. All were in favor.

City department reports began with Borrer saying that the Community Development 2013 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) has been submitted to HUD. Staff will begin the 2015-2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated 5 Year Plan. She asks that the neighborhood groups begin discussions about projects for the next 5 years and priorities for limited funding. Projects including clean up, construction, sidewalk report, disability issues, etc. are examples of projects that address the goals of the last 5 year plan. Staff will solicit public input for the goals for this next 5 year plan.

Lt. Lepley reported that from 8/25 – 9/29/2014 there were 3,060 calls for service, 211 arrests made, with 2327 cases being closed or suspended. 323 traffic stops led to 38 arrests which included 5 DWIs. There were 83 motor vehicle crashes. Also occurring were 110 assaults - 30 domestic and 5 on police. Violations included 12 firearm and 60 CDS. 301 disturbances and 29 breaking and entering reports were filed. A partnership with CSX lead to a grant which supplied officers with weapon mounted flashlights, making their job safer and easier. In coordination with the Health Department, officer training is beginning on administering Naloxone to overdoes victims. The police hiring is currently open and 2 officers are currently in the police academy with a transfer from the Frederick Sheriff's office beginning recently. CPD is working with the County Liquor Board concerning issues at a local bar on Mechanic Street with a safety plan in place. A search warrant and arrest was made with a suspect related to gang ties and problems in several areas of town. An arrest was made of suspect in a local stabbing incident with another stabbing still under investigation. An arrest was made of a New York resident related to a breaking and entering and a search warrant lead to four arrests in a large seizure of Crack and Heroin. Chief Hinnant added that working with the liquor board on revoking licenses to establishments with repeat police incidents has led to better witnesses in identifying criminals. The owners are more apt to work with police knowing their livelihood is in jeopardy.

No other departments were present.

Hast reminded those attending, the City reports are located on the NAC webpage, along with the minutes from each meeting. These are the M&CC approved reports also found within the minutes from each M&CC meeting. If anyone wants a hard copy of City Department reports, just let her know in writing or by email.

Hinnant spoke of a neighborhood town watch program that could be held here locally, and proceeded to talk about what is known as National Night Out. He's hoping the NAC would be interested in initiating this program and join with 16,000 communities nationwide that were involved last year. This program will heighten crime awareness and share an anti-crime program with the community. The CPD cannot do it all and this would be a good way to educate the public. Sgt. Hott and Pfc. Fraley have been working with Salvation Army Lt. Dillingham on some possibilities. Sgt. Hott says it's time to take back the street and some good locations would be in the hot spots of the City. He suggested the Salvation Army location for South End, perhaps Braddock Middle School and a location in Downtown Cumberland for planning. It's time to give the power back to the people. Pfc. Fraley suggested dunk tanks, bands and other activities to get children, parent, and all community involvement. The event would need to be managed by an entity and many volunteers would be required. The consensus was the NAC is willing to jump on board.

Wagoner said she believes this is an excellent idea involving the police and entire community. Residents will get to know one another and holding the events in the hot spot areas of the City is a great way to begin. Hast offered the SCBCA meeting forum as an opportunity to speak on National Night Out, CDBG, and other projects. Hedrick asked that we place National Night Out under new business for next month's meeting.

Hedrick with Chapel Hill reported the handed out over 700 flyers and had 22 attend their last meeting in hopes to expand Chapel Hill West to the East side of Virginia Ave. Hedrick introduced Lance Naylor from Johnson Heights/Mapleside who is

interested in beginning a neighborhood group there. Hast gave a neighborhood packet to Naylor at the end of the evening. Chapel Hill meets 4th Tuesday @ 6:30 alternating between Livingstone Church of the Brethren and St. Johns. Rolling Mill residents are invited to attend.

Decatur Heights reported that although the crowd was not large their event in September went well. They would now like to hold a block party or street fair event and are looking for volunteers help to plan an event like this. A new vice president was appointed at their last meeting. Decatur Heights meets the 3rd Monday @ month, 7:00 p.m., Kight Funeral at 305 Decatur Street.

Hast reported that the September meeting for the South Cumberland Business and Civic Association, had 45 attending. Most efforts include the October 22 Halloween Parade and Mummers contest, along with the Shoebox Float contest being held the week earlier. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month with the next meeting being October 14. Find SCBCA on Facebook.

North End reported they held no block party this year and were disappointed in no support from Cumberland Neighborhood Housing Services as in the past. They'd like to see more information from the police department given during their meetings. It was also noted that graffiti which looks like numbers are on the flood project walls from the el Jinnette location up to Deter's Lounge and wondered if this was gang related. Wagoner said it could be related to surveying for a bike trail project that had begun and will check on that. North End Crime Watch group meets the 4th Tuesday of @ month, 6:00 p.m. at 400 North Mechanic Street

Wagoner acknowledged the good job Lt. Biser did with his presentation at last month's NAC meeting.

Hinnant mentioned a program known as the City Police Academy which we begin at the beginning of 2015. 8 weeks of 30 minute classes are held to educate 30-35 folks on City police services and in the past has had a waiting list to participate. It's hopeful that residents learn more about public safety, State police, code enforcement, community services and more. Some classes have gone to the 911 dispatch center, the County jail, airport hanger, district court, and even a garage where a simulated traffic stop in the in dark is experienced. Wagoner asked Hinnant to consider promoting this to the Leadership Allegany! classes each year.

Louise or Frances commented that the police department does an excellent job wanted to publically commend them and also note that all the City's emergency services are excellent.

Wagoner pointed out that Katie Gattens, NAC and Let's Beautify Cumberland! boardmember was present, and thanked her for all her efforts toward these organizations. She also thanked Hast for her efforts with the NAC and Mountain Maryland Trails organization.

A motion was made to adjourn and Wagoner reminded all to sign in before leaving. Vice Chair Hedrick announced he will not be attending November's meeting due to a personal matter.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m. with the next meeting to be held Monday, October 27, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk