

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

Neighborhood Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES – April 28, 2014

In Nicole Wagoner's absence, David Kauffman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: Terri Hast, George Reynolds, Barbara Salas, Mary Rhodes, Rita Schoenadel, Pastor Tormond Svensson, Mark Fisher, Lt. Brian Lepley, Joshua Greise, Tammy Fraley, Allen Hedrick, Jerry Wilson, Louise Elliott, Jenn Jeudy, Lee Borrer and Councilman Dave Kauffman.

The minutes from the March meeting were waived until the June meeting.

Department Reports:

Community Development – Lee Borrer, Community Development Specialist, reported that the 2nd public hearing to present Community Development Block Grant funding recommendations to M&CC took place on April 8. She requested \$1,000 for each neighborhood group. Funds generally would be used for supplies, training, new books, summer entertainment, etc. Borrer reported for David Cox, Building and Zoning Officer. Staff has been working with Love's Travel Center to complete storm water management for their site. A March 2014 report was written and is available to anyone who is interested.

Cumberland Police Department's (CPD) Lt. Brian Lepley reported that with the Safe Street Program CPD served 33 arrest warrants. Last year's number 52% of this. Crime is down 28% from last year. In April there have been 1185 calls and 257 arrests made. When asked about Rolling Mill neighborhood he replied that there were no arrests in April. They did have a call to Elder Street for shots fired in the air and the local girl missing was found with friend. Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) hot spot maps discussed last month are in production. CPD received a \$5,000 grant from CSX they used to purchase flashlights. The rally promoted in front of the court house this past weekend could have turned into a bad situation but everything went well and CPD will be even more prepared should something like this happen again. He asked that all continue to call the police and continue to express concerns. He had spoken to the Board of Education after the last NAC meeting and they do have students who can assist neighborhood groups - they are required to earn 200 hours of community service. He asked that folks see him after the meeting for the contact information.

Fire, Street and Engineering reports were not available.

Neighborhood reports:

Chapel Hill West Neighborhood Association, Inc. representative Allen Hedrick reported meeting changing to the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 to enable folks to be able to attend other neighborhood meetings. Chapel Hill East neighborhood wants to grow and expand upon Chapel Hill West. Hedrick says they will be handing out 1000 fliers throughout the neighborhood. There will be a Fun Fair on August 23 along with a dedication and presentation. A dumpster day will be held July 25 & 26 and they will be ordering an extra dumpster this year since 3 was not enough previously. Borrer reminded Hedrick to use any company they want, but to be sure to give her a copy of an estimate and invoice.

North End Crime Watch announced their Dumpster day for May 17th. Fliers attached to the City's door hangers on trash information will be ready soon. Borrer asks they also contact her before the date with information. She reminded all that if any money is taken in by any group from a CDBG activity, they must report the money and the use of funds. Hast said groups should consider partnering with other groups on dumpster days with folks like Goodwill for clothing, the County for tires, metal and other recyclable entities, etc.

South Cumberland Business and Civic Association reported Barb Buehl, Director of Tourism spoke at their last meeting about tourism in the County, her farm and a new business venture opening soon in Downtown Cumberland. DelFest will be bringing about 40,000 into the area this Memorial Day weekend. SCBCA has begun planning for the 65th annual Halloween Parade.

Old Business

Let's Beautify Cumberland! and County United Way's upcoming Day of Caring and Sharing is Friday, May 9.

New Business

If any group needs an American flag, Woodmen of the World will supply them free of charge.

Lee Borrer said that HRC (Human Relations Commission) along with Fair Housing will be offering training for groups located in Betterment Areas, and she asks that each group ask their members if they'd like to attend. They'd like to have @10 per meeting. The training that Borrer attended proved to be an eye opener.

Councilman Kauffman reminded the groups to always consider partnering with other organizations when planning events and have these groups come to your meetings for outreach. For instance CNHS and HRC could talk about their home ownership assistance programs.

Public Comment:

George Reynolds from North End commented on the poor manners of some rental neighbors concerning litter, unsafe behavior, etc. Solutions suggested were to talk with the neighbors first, call the police, call City code officers, and make a list of all you want to address. The City understands that renters have little investment in the neighborhoods, but perhaps these are the folks to reach out to for membership in your group.

Pastor Svensson brought up the community garden plan that he is working on. Kauffman reminded all not to give up on these projects that you hope will transform your community. You might not get the quick response you hope for and the good change may take longer that you'd like but over time, change will happen. Be sure to include all neighbors, knock on all doors so all feel included when you decide on projects. Borrer mentioned talking to Melanie Michael who began the garden in the Rolling Mill neighborhood, she believes is still actively planted.

Josh Greise owner the Strawberry Dog announced their opening at 43 Virginia Ave in January of this year. They sell affordable American made pet products and perform grooming services. They will hold a Rabies Clinic on Sunday June 1st at 11am. Vaccinations will be given on a first come first serve basis (Except for those who already preregistered) at a cost of \$10 each. Parking will be available at the Scarpelli Funeral Home. The clinic is open to anyone from Maryland and West Virginia.

A question was raised as to whether the City cared which company was used for dumpster days and Borrer replied that groups can contract with whomever they want. It does not need to be who the City uses for curb pick up. Councilman Kauffman took the opportunity to mention a new sanitation company won the bid for next fiscal year City trash pick-up and that they will be doing curbside recycling along with regular services beginning July 1. It is sad that 12 employees will be hurt by the current company's change in service, but we must realize the City has a responsibility to spend the taxpayers money wisely and 'trash' is the biggest complaint received in City Hall. Hast told folks there is a display set up in the main lobby at City Hall showing what is and isn't recyclable and what the containers will look like. Borrer suggested we invite Raquel Ketterman, City environmental specialist, to talk about this.

Allen Hedrick reminded the group that St. John's Fun Fair will be August 9, from 11 until 2 with music and door prizes and the next Chapel Hill meeting will be held at St John's in order to try to expand with the Chapel Hill West group.

Jeady reminded us that the Facebook 'Neighborhood Advisory Commission, Cumberland MD' page is up and running. She asks that we 'like' the page and post occasionally.

Fisher said the tree planning was successful at Braddock Middle School and commended Raquel Ketterman for her efforts.

A motion was made by Lt. Brian Lepley to adjourn and seconded by Jenn Jeady. Councilman Kauffman reminded all to sign in before leaving. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m. with the next meeting to be held Monday, June 30, at 5:30 p.m. May's meeting was cancelled due to the Memorial Day Holiday and closure of City Hall.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk