

## Neighborhood Advisory Commission

MEETING MINUTES – July 28, 2014

Councilmember Nicole Wagoner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: George Reynolds, James and Sheila Plummer, Allen Hedrick, Jenn Jeudy, Lousie Elliott, Rev. Tormod Svensson, Frances Cook, Barbara Salas, Dale and Linda Burgess, Rita Schoenadel, and Walter Gostowski, Jr. City staff included Councilwoman Nicole Wagoner, Lee Borrer, Terri Hast and Sgt. Anthony Rungay. The minutes from the June meeting were distributed and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Hedrick and seconded by Jeudy. All were in favor.

### Department Reports:

**Community Development** – Lee Borrer, Community Development Specialist, reported she completed an Environmental Review Policy and Procedure Handbook related to the Block grant program. This will be used to guide city projects and sub-recipient projects. She also coordinated delivery of the HRC diversity sensitivity training program to North End neighborhood group. She continued to assist sub-recipients related to federal guidelines and collected data in support of same. She developed a CDBG activity involving the YMCA, Salvation Army, and the Public Housing Authority that would serve at-risk youth within housing developments. Borrer continued to work with remediation issues concerning various slower moving activities. Community Development assisted the DDC in the downtown parklet work and their budget. The DDC was awarded a \$24,000 grant from MD Heritage Authority for programming at Canal Place and downtown.

Borrer also read June's report for Dave Cox, Building and Zoning Officer by saying that 84 visits were made for complaints related to nuisance and property maintenance. 30 cases were closed and 7 District court cases were handled by Buck Taylor along with 131 phone calls dealing with nuisance and property maintenance. Starting in mid-July the Neighborhoods Matter Program will revisit the Goethe Street area, then the Central Business District and Viaduct areas. Demolition efforts involved 5 properties throughout Baltimore Ave., Goethe and Baker Streets. The Friends Aware project continues to progress and Planet Fitness is near completion and the Love's Travel Center project on the East of Cumberland is moving forward.

**Cumberland Police Department's (CPD)** Sgt. Rungay reported that there were 3,417 calls for service from June 16 through July 28. 311 arrests have been made with 2,905 cases being closed or suspended. There were 89 motor vehicles crashes, 13 DWIs, 119 Assaults, 7 Firearms, 37 Breaking and Entering, 142 Thefts, and 64 CDS arrests. This is up from this time last year by about 200 calls with 3,229 call total. Councilwoman Wagoner asked about gangs and Sgt. Rungay said they are growing in numbers. They are performing beat-in initiations that the police are aware of and want us to know that the CPD is ahead of the game on this. He wanted to make us aware that people are currently videotaping officers while in service and placing these on 'You Tube' for public view. Special assignments know this is problem. Teenagers and adults are now out all through the night causing problems through 5 to 6 in the morning when it used to be the night would calm down around 2 a.m. Sgt. Rungay asked that folks keep lights on outside, lock your doors and cars, and become a crime watcher by noticing what is going on your area and report suspicious activity. The DDACTS program has been very successful. Each night for 30 minutes one area is focused by performing warrant checks, writing tickets, backing all officers up with immediate attention, etc. President Obama's directive for all police in the country to have the same working vocabulary when out in the field, has begun with FBI training. Rungay said that in 20 years this was the best training he has received and will help all forces to assist others in time of need. Two new officers are at the Academy, a former Marine and former Correctional Officer. Borrer asked about CPD and school presence. It was noted that 2 full time officers work from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. when school is in session in the various locations. Svensson asked if Arch Street was a focus area and wondered if some kind of training or awareness could be giving to the congregation. Wagoner said this could also become a recruitment idea for the NAC and Chapel Hill East. Hast said that several gentlemen want to start a crime watch for South End and wondered if those with knowledge would let her know after the meeting. A question was raised if the State prisons were bringing in this additional crime to the area. Rungay and Wagoner said that although much is related, the economy and the recession have a lot to do with the change. Rungay said that the Cumberland Police work well with the state prison staff.

**Fire, Street and Engineering** reports are available online as are all City Department reports [www.ci.cumberland.md.us / Government / Boards and Commissions / Neighborhood Advisory Commission.](http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/Government/BoardsandCommissions/NeighborhoodAdvisoryCommission)

[http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/new\\_site/index.php/contents/view/94](http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/new_site/index.php/contents/view/94)

### Neighborhood reports:

**Chapel Hill West Neighborhood Association, Inc.** representative Allen Hedrick reported he missed the last meeting due to an injury but they did hold their Dumpster day and filled 4 dumpsters full of trash. They took 980 lbs. of scrap metal to the recycling yard with money received for the metal, lunch and drinks were bought for the helpers, gas bought for truck going around neighborhood to collect trash .

**Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association** representative Francis Cook said they have decided to hold a picnic this year and next year they will plan a block party. Mr. Adams with Adams Family Funeral Home agreed to let them use his lot. This group meets again the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of September.

**Wills/North End Crime Watch** representative Louise Elliott reported some members had attended Diversity Training. They also held a dumpster day and filled 4.5 dumpsters. They received money from scrap metal turned in and will get that to Lee..

**South Cumberland Business and Civic Association** (representing Virginia Ave, Johnson Heights, Rolling Mill, and Walsh/Humbird) did not meet in June nor will in July and August so there was nothing to report. Hast reported the next meeting is potentially scheduled for Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Borror explained that dumpster invoices were not made to her attention as needed and therefore caused problems with getting them paid. Some changes will have to be made before 'Dumpster Days' happened again. Lee explained that in January the Betterment Application process goes out. Supplies such as trash bags, and lights for Smith Park are some examples of eligible activities. Hedrick from Chapel Hill worried that if the City chooses the time/place or works with the Neighborhoods Matter Campaign it might delay this event because of not be a current targeted area. Borror assured everyone that a new process would be forthcoming.

These neighborhoods were NOT REPRESENTED: Center City (downtown Cumberland), Eastside/Willowbrook, Haystack/Dingle, Mapleside, McNamee/Shriver, and Westside.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **New Business**

Councilmember Wagoner told all to read over the handout of the charge given to the NAC by M&CC and make suggestions at the next meeting on how we as a group can work toward this. Cook said that some residents are not aware they can come to this meeting. Hedrick suggested going door to door as Chapel Hill East and West did. Wagoner suggested taking the information to various organization such as LBCI, Rotary, etc. She noted that without a cause or charge we will not get results. We need to recruit business and citizens to do something together such as fighting crime in the neighborhood. If you are aware of any new businesses or any business for that matter – ask them to become involved.

#### **Public Comment:**

A Wills/Decatur Heights neighbor questioned if the City could have a curfew for teenagers and children under a certain age to prevent some of the vandalism and theft crimes going on in the neighborhood. (breaking flower pots, tearing up flowers, taking flags, etc.) the seniors and many adults are afraid sit on their own porch for fear of confronting someone. Wagoner and Rumgay said they would check on this and that it's never been discussed before. Wagoner suggested we recruit more members to help us strengthen our voice with issues like this. She said one way is to ask folks to consider involvement with NAC while attending sporting events this year. We need to get the younger people involved.

A Chapel Hill/Virginia Ave. neighbor said one way they are getting to know their neighbors is at an event at St. Johns on Saturday, August 8 from 11-2 with music, food, free bibles and more.

A Wills/Decatur Heights neighbor said he has been bullied, called names, threatened, and harassed by neighbors with a dog that continuously barks all hours of the night when he is trying to sleep. Other neighbors don't want to get involved so they say nothing. Since he has complained he has had nothing but trouble in the 500 block of Henderson Avenue. Police and Animal Control have been called many times. Sgt. Rumgay asked him to keep calling and that he would be happy to follow-up with him this week.

A motion was made by Allen Hedrick to adjourn and seconded by Louise Elliott. Wagoner reminded all to sign in before leaving. The meeting ended at 6:35 p.m. with the next meeting to be held Monday, August 25, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk