

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

## **Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC)**

*MEETING MINUTES – November 24, 2014*

Mayor Brian Grim called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: Frances Cook, George Reynolds, Louise Elliott, Rev. Tormod Svensson, Sally Robinette, Sam Robinette, Barbara Salas, Lee Borrer, Capt. Greg Leake, Joshua Greise, Jerry and Mary Wilson, Terri Hast and Kristen Kehrwald.

The minutes from the October meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sam Robinette and seconded by Lee Borrer. All were in favor.

An organizational meeting for Cumberland's National Night Out event will be held December 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Development Conference Room. All are invited to attend.

### **City Department Reports**

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

A meeting to begin organizing Cumberland's National Night Out event will be held December 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Development Conference Room. All neighborhood groups are invited to attend. The 2014 Community Needs Surveys are due in to Lee Borrer but you can still take the survey online. The application process for Community Development Block Grant funding for low to moderate income residents begins in January. Borrer passed out a sheet with important dates relating to this and asked that all questions come through her.

Capt. Leake reported that Chapel Hill and Rolling Mill neighborhoods are hoping to revamp their crime watch groups. Lieutenants will be attending each neighborhood meeting for more responsiveness to concerns of the residents. Lt. Lepley will be attending the SCBCA and Neighborhood Advisory Commission meetings, Lt. Schellhouse the Rolling Mill and Chapel Hill meetings, Lt. Reed the Decatur Heights meeting, and Lt. Ternent will attend the North End meeting. They are tasked with gathering information from these neighborhoods and then distributing it to the proper entities for action. They will also be able to help with coordinating street closures, block parties, etc. through grant funding in partnership with the Health Department. A review of the report given to Mayor and City Council was given. Leake reported that the police department has a position open for a qualified person. An explanation of how traffic stops, arrests, and court process was made and mention of the fact that Cumberland officers do spend a good bit of time in court. The Cumberland Police Department (CPD) has met all 52 standards of procedures on a nationwide comparison and are very proud of that accomplishment.

Kristen Kehrwald, Program Coordinator from Jane's Place, Inc. gave a talk "Starting the Conversation". Jane's Place is Allegany County's Child Advocacy Center dedicated to reducing the trauma that child victims of abuse experience and aid in preventing future child victimization. Their team is one of four non-profits in Maryland offering this service, which is made up of multiple agencies including medical teams, interns, AmeriCorps volunteers, etc. They offer assistance in a team approach, free of charge to victimized children ages up to 17. This process allows the child to tell their story without the trauma of retelling it over and over to several entities. CDBG funding has been a great assistance to this program. The children need our help. 1300 children in our county were victims last year, with 74% of those Cumberland residents. That is 1 of every 10 children in our City! 90% of these cases involve abuse from someone they know. This abuse can cause health problems, PTSD, anxiety, depression, suicide, promiscuity, drug abuse, low life expectancy and more. Kehrwald asked us to use our eyes and ears to be aware of the signs of abuse and learn how to react to these children. Handouts were provided.

### **Neighborhood reports**

Chapel Hill reported conversation on remaining as one group due to size rather than creating another. Borrer told them it wouldn't affect CDBG funding should they apply. Their next meeting will be held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., St. John's on Arch Street.

Decatur Heights met November 17 and have set a date as May 30, 2015 for their block party and have begun the planning. Their next meeting will be held in February, and a correction was made on the agenda.

North End Crime Watch group will hold their vote for new officers in January.

SCBCA reported they handed out the community Needs Survey and gave a short narrative on the project.

**Old Business**

Borrer reminded all to turn in the Community Needs Survey and that additional information will follow regarding the National Night Out event in August.

**New Business**

No comments

**Public Comment**

Mayor Grim reminded all about the tree lighting ceremony to be held on Friday evening. FrancisCook reported that the CPD arrived quickly on both occasions of their home break ins. Capt. Leake reminded all to lock doors and to add deadbolts if you don't already have one, and; to call the police immediately if you think your home has been entered. Leake wanted us to know that the CPD are able to track crime and are putting resources where they need to be.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m. with the next meeting to be held Monday, January 29, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk