

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC)

MEETING MINUTES – April 27, 2015

Councilmember Seth Bernard called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in.

Attending were: Kathy Robinson, Sheila Plummer, Jim Plummer, Allen Hedrick, Louise Elliott, George Reynolds, Siera Wigfield, Frances L. Cook, Tormod Svensson, Lary Bark, James J. Beckwith, Joe Caporale, Joshua Greise, and Barbara Salas. City staff present included: Lee Borrer, David Cox and Terri Hast.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written from the March 2015 meeting by Rev. Svensson and seconded by Louise Elliott. A correction was made to change the name Rogers to Robinson in 8th paragraph – North End. All were in favor.

Joe Caporale's presentation on NAC brand identity was moved to the top of the agenda due to time constraints. Handouts showing three possible brand recommendations were handed out. Lee Borrer said that this brand/logo will help the NAC to be better recognized throughout the community. She asked all to look them over and comment to her in the days following the meeting.

Sierra Wigfield spoke regarding the Allegany County Transit (ACT) and how they serve Cumberland, LaVale, Frostburg and other areas throughout the community. She explained regular hours and special appointment pick-ups that they cover. Cumberland Plaza (Rose's) is the main hub for Cumberland and that ACT honors "flagged stops" on their routes. She handed out rider's guides, and schedules to everyone.

City department reports

Terri Hast made a motion to forgo the City department reports at the NAC meetings, offering that staff would continue to be on hand for questions. This was seconded by Lee Borrer and all were in favor.

Borrer reported on Community Development Block Grant funding areas being assisted and told of the scope of work which included many sidewalk and paving projects. Pooling this funding with other funding projects allows much more to be completed throughout the City and benefits more residents overall.

David Cox reported that the City Code Enforcement officers will be better identified when in the neighborhoods with marked vests and vehicles. A new process of handling high grass and weeds complaints is being implemented. He asks that if anyone sees a City notice on a door that they know is a vacant property, to please contact the City. The Neighborhoods Matters Campaign has not identified streets for this next fiscal year, but the City is hopeful to have them named by July 1. He said they are working with crime strategists to begin in crime pocket areas. Cox publically thanked the neighbors who alerted the City on a vacant home being robbed of all copper piping. This led to some arrests. Borrer suggested the City consider a Citation for these neighbors and Cox asked Councilmember Bernard if he would look into this. The Rental Licensing program will have a few changes this coming fiscal year. The blight removal funding outlook appears to be thinning over the next few years. With funding from the City and the Cumberland Neighborhood Housing Service (CNHS), the City will clean up the area above Baltimore Ave (below Waverly), put up a fence and then transfer the property to CNHS for maintenance.

Neighborhood reports

Chapel Hill's president Allen Hedrick reported that the group will now only meet at 400 Arch Street from this point on. They are reviewing their by-laws and election of officers is scheduled for next month. Borrer asked Allen to coordinate placement of a park bench and plaque to honor Dolores Brooks with the City.

SCBCA reported that Senator George C. Edward will be speaking at the next meeting. This will be the last

meeting until September 2015. The Halloween parade in October is the foremost event on hand and a newsletter will be going out over the summer months.

Decatur Heights announced they are changing their name to East Side Neighborhood Association. The actual boundaries have not yet been determined. The May Fair has been postponed until next year.

North End is undergoing by-law review and changes. Their dumpster day will be the 9th of May.

Old Business

National Night Out planning was discussed and the next meeting will be held on the 19th at 11:00. Councilman Bernard asked Borrer to copy the meeting announcement out to all NAC group.

New Business

Allen Hedrick reported that the Symposium on Crime scheduled for the 28th of April at ACM will be a good forum to show support for local law enforcement. He asked all to try to attend.

Let's Beautify Cumberland! will be held April 30 with the County United Way Day of Caring and Sharing on May 8. Borrer asked all neighborhoods to join in the spirit of these events by forming some groups to pick up trash in their own community. The City has trash bags for projects like this. Go out and get to know your neighbors!

There was no public comment.

A motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 29, 2015.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk