

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

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

*MEETING MINUTES – July 27, 2015*

Councilman Seth Bernard called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: Councilman Seth Bernard and Allen Hedrick – co-chairs, George Reynolds, Louise Elliott, George Franklin and Barbara Salas. City staff present: Police Chief Charles Hinnant, Lee Borrer and Terri Hast.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written from the June 29, 2015 meeting. All were in favor.

### **City Department updates**

Lee Borrer provided handouts. One was City garbage pickup information which had been requested at the previous meeting and the other provided information on the Bridges Group's 'Getting Ahead' program regarding the resources which assist in getting folks out of poverty through college education. All were informed that due to the City's 5 Year Plan and the 2015 Annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the City will receive \$730,000 in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding.

Chief Hinnant reported that in the last week over 40 cars were broken into with items small enough to put into a pocket being stolen. Every car was left unlocked and unattended and most of the thefts occurred in west and south Cumberland. He asked all to lock their cars, windows and doors in helping to prevent crime. Theft is considered a serious crime and drives up the crime statistic numbers. He also noted that no calls came in over this past weekend. Sixty-six students attended the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Camp which was a success. Cumberland's first National Night Out will be held on August 4, 5:00 p.m. in front of the Salvation Army on Somerville Ave. This is a time for neighbors to 'take back' their community, come out to join with over 16,000 neighborhoods nationwide. Mayor and City Council will be present for the opening ceremony along with the State and County Law Enforcement officials.

### **Neighborhood reports**

Allen Hedrick reported for Chapel Hill saying that Darrell Lee Powell, a code enforcement officer for the City spoke at their last meeting on property maintenance, nuisance complaints, and the Neighborhood Matters program. All of the groups concerns were answered.

South Cumberland Business and Civic Association (SCBCA) is in full planning mode for the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Parade. Marsha Thomas will again be leading the charge and answering any question regarding the parade. The annual newsletter will go out at the end of August and the next meeting will be held on September 8 at the Cumberland Outdoor Club.

Lee Borrer reported that Jen Jeudy and Josh Greise are working on producing a packet to give out to anyone wanting to start a neighborhood organization. We have six neighborhoods needing organized. She is hoping to do so with Mapleside.

North End Crime Watch is working to organize a public relations committee to work on growing their organization along with arranging guest speakers for meetings.

### **Old Business**

Nextdoor [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) is an organization that all city residents will be learning about. Terri Hast is working with this program to get all City neighborhood maps loaded and individual groups will be able to make their own boundaries and post community news. More will come on this.

### **New Business**

Terri Hast handed out a work sheet listing all the charges that the Mayor and City Council had put forth to the NAC in February 2014. She asked all to take this home, share with others, and think about each charge and come up with ideas amongst each of the neighborhood groups specific to their neighborhoods. Some quick ideas were thrown out such as partnering with churches and businesses in your neighborhood, arranging sitters for parents to attend meetings, identifying potholes in your streets, promote an empty building to families for home ownership or possibly a business, create a community center or a youth program, put ADA ramps throughout the neighborhood, fund a block party or picnic, hold an assembly at a nearby school, create some programs you'd like to see funded, etc. In January why not consider applying for CDBG funding with a planned program. We need to do more! An example was given of a program used in Salt Lake City, Utah to fill empty homes and apartments with the homeless. Here is the link to that program as promised...

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/02/housing-first-solution-to-homelessness-utah> .

### **Public Comment**

Co-chair Councilman Seth Bernard asked if there were other public comments before we adjourned and someone spoke up regarding 'real time' issues in the Henderson Avenue/Pear Street area. He tried to get some neighbors together to mediate an issue but couldn't and said it's heartbreaking to watch the destruction of his lifelong neighborhood. Perhaps a stronger program on enforcement is needed and we could help to create it. It was noted that the City has roughly 8000 rental units and 45 – 55% of all residents rent where they live within the City.

A question was asked on the timeline for the North End Dumpster Day notice and was answered with "too much notice brings too much trash not related to the specific neighborhood". Two programs mentioned for possible help of removing individual trash were Camp Hope or possibly NAILS.

A motioned was made to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday, August 31, 2015.

Respectively submitted,  
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk