

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC)

MEETING MINUTES – March 30, 2015

Terri Hast called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: Kathy Robinson, Sheila Plummer, Jim Plummer, Louie Elliott, Lt. Brian Lepley, Connie Otts, Hermann Engelhardt, Rev. Tormod Svensson, George Franklin, Barbara Salas, Lee Borrer, Jenn Jeudy, Charles Hinnant

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written from the February 2015 meeting by Rev. Svensson and seconded by Lee Borrer. All were in favor.

City Department Reports

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

Lt. Lepley reported on Cumberland Police Department (CPD) activities for the last 30 days. He gave a summary of the personnel and their duties and said that promotional and hiring cycles have begun for the CPD. He thanked the State Police and Allegany County Sheriff's Department for their help with the event crowd in downtown Cumberland this month; and noted that the Citizens Police Academy is in full swing with 20 members participating. He asked that the NAC reach out to the AME Church on organizing as a neighborhood group. The CPD has recently been accredited by CELEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Accreditation). This program improves the delivery of public safety services, by maintaining a body of standards covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives and recognizing professional excellence. Chief Charles Hinnant explained that nationwide fewer than 4% of police departments are accredited and Cumberland passed all 484 standards of compliance. Rev. Svensson asked for additional information regarding the Summer Camp at the Salvation Army for 35-40 Middle School aged children. This week-long program provides knowledge for making smart, healthy and safe decisions to lead a productive life and to spark interest in law enforcement careers. Contact the Salvation Army for details.

Lee Borrer reported on the 2015 proposed CDBG project funding which will be presented to Mayor and City Council on April 7 with public comment accepted through April 21st. Request for \$1.2 million in funds were received for the \$730,042 in available funding. Although individual neighborhood groups may not be on this list, many of the projects will have positive affect in our neighborhoods. She stated that some earlier funding is being reprogrammed to be divided amongst the current recognized neighborhood groups for use towards sidewalks, alleys, blights and infrastructure requests. Lee noted that the Human Relations Commission has changed their meeting day and time with the next meeting on fourth Monday, April 27, at Noon. She reminded us that the National Night Out is scheduled for August 4 in South Cumberland and invited all to attend the planning meeting scheduled for the 31st.

Neighborhood reports

Chapel Hill reported they are merging East and West groups into one and are working on editing the By-Laws.

Hast with the South Cumberland Business and Civic Association (SCBCA) reported HRDC spoke on services at the last meeting and the Salvation Army will speak in April with Senator Edwards giving a State of MD report in May. A new venue was voted on and meetings will now take place at the Cumberland Outdoor Club on the second floor, same time and day of the month.

North End Crime Watch reported they had election of officers and their new president is Kathy Rogers. They will be holding a neighborhood dumpster day on Saturday, May 16. Lee Borrer reminded all that the Neighborhoods matter campaign will provide dumpsters this year and to watch for dates.

A question was asked of Councilman Bernard regarding trash on private property but in public view, with response that the City was working on more strict regulations and that this can be reported to the City's Community Development office as a complaint. Items may also be placed out for City pick-up if arranged for earlier for a small fee.

Old Business

Instead of NAC focusing on each month featuring a neighborhood, Tom Delawder and Jenn Jeudy suggested that the commission set up a meeting in each neighborhood and encourage folks to come, introduce and make all aware of other neighborhood groups and the NAC's function. They would then encourage them to start a group in their community and be given a tool-kit packet. A suggestion was to start with the least active neighborhood and put the process back on them with the NAC helping with advertising. Lee told all that staff has been working on a campaign to brand the NAC so it is a more recognized organization within the City and raising awareness of what the commission's role is in relation with each neighborhood.

New Business

Western Maryland Health Systems and partners are building a Community Garden on Williams Road this spring and expanding into South Cumberland for next year. The 20-30 beds will measure 5X10 each and will run \$10 each with \$5 returned when the key to the garden is returned. Around \$2,000 in-kind donations have been received with the City providing the water for free. It was announced they are also looking for land to plant an orchard with several trees. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact www.wmhs.com.

Public Comment

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A motioned was made to adjourn, and the meeting ended promptly at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 27, 2015.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk