

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

## Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC)

MEETING MINUTES – October 27, 2014

President Nicole Wagoner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign-in. Attending were: Barbara Salas, Louise Elliott, Sam Robinette, Sally Robinette, Joshua Greise. City Staff present included David Cox, Lee Borrer, Terri Hast, Lt. Brian Lepley, and Councilwoman Nicole Wagoner

The minutes from the September meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Borrer and seconded by Elliott. All were in favor.

### City Department Reports

Code Officer David Cox reported that dumpsters will be placed on Boone and Browning Streets next weekend. If any neighborhood information needs passed along, groups may have information attached to the doorhangers being distributed. Borrer added that neighborhood can arrange for dumpsters to be placed anytime but they are usually scheduled in the spring or summer months and noted they are not policed by the City. It's up to those requesting dumpsters to supervise them. Cox added that this neighborhood was chosen because the City had a good many nuisance junk and debris complaints. Cox said that #8 Oldtown Road demolition will be underway again with a new contractor taking over the project. City continues to complete demolition on Baltimore Ave and when weather breaks move on to #249/251 Columbia St, and #216 Knox Street. Cox answered Robinette's question by responding that the Baltimore Avenue paving should be completed any day with plans to finish for the winter shortly after Thanksgiving and referred the two way traffic questions to John DeVault or Kim Root in Engineering, 301-759-6600. Greise asked what was going on with #450-456 Goethe St. He notice windows had been taken out of #405-452. Cox said the City is in process of purchasing the properties and they will be boarded up until titles and liens are cleared. The windows were taken out preemptively. #454 has rehab plans by an investor. The City is also pursuing #79 Arch Street. The City is attempting to get a demolition bid out to have some properties under control during the winter months. Elliott questioned some pine trees she feared coming down in their neighborhood and asked Cox to look into them. Any question can be emailed to [dave.cox@cumberlandmd.gov](mailto:dave.cox@cumberlandmd.gov).

Community Development Specialist Lee Borrer reported that she's been very busy with the 2015-2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) consolidated 5 Year Plan and is working on developing a 5 year needs assessment for the City. She will approach all neighborhoods for input on needs and projects for funding requests which can be done either online or on paper. Lee encouraged everyone to take the needs survey online at [www.ci.cumberland.md.us](http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us) on the front page under 'News' and hard copies are also available and were passed out. She asks they be returned to her, or collected during the neighborhood meetings so she may tally the results. The City needs this information. Diversity Sensitivity Training is still available for groups of 10 or less, so let Borrer know if you have a group interested. A Fair Housing retreat will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites on November 5<sup>th</sup> and is open to all. Discussion on how Fair Housing is working locally, what we can do better, and formulating a 1 year strategy will be the topics. A Housing Needs study RFP will be going out soon. The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for HUD will soon be on the City's website under CDBG. Allegany College of Maryland student, Melanie Abe will be interning with Borrer, December through April, and will assist the NAC with the grassroots of the Neighborhood Night Out campaign and Crime Watch organizing.

Cumberland Police Department (CPD) Lieutenant Brian Lepley reported that with summers end and school in session the CPD have been very busy. He noted some highlights of the report available online. A car with what appeared to be traveling meth lab inside caught fire with one person being EMS air lifted. Swat team efforts in the 500 block of Maryland Ave. are pushing crime out. Jane Frazier Village had been quiet for a while but issues have begun creeping back up. North End's report of painted images in flood control project is being cleaned up. Officers are coming better prepared to neighborhood meetings. Training has begun for Crisis Intervention teams working on Mental health issues and first aid with the Health Department. A K-9 bloodhound named Hunter passed away recently. There was a fire at 402 Grand Ave. resulting in the death of two children. The Halloween Parade went without an incident. CPD is hiring and interviews will begin soon. All are invited to participate in Citizens Academy and applications are available now. This program takes place one night per week for eight weeks. The object is to teach folks what area law enforcement officers face and related resources including field trips, dinner and a certificate awarded at the end. Lt. Reed will be heading this program with help from Lt. Lepley. Some negative activity report by the NAC included drunken behavior, bullying, begging and vandalism around the Union Rescue Mission and Suds, panhandlers at the Circle K on Oldtown Road; cars being stopped by panhandlers at the underpass on Virginia Ave, and issues on Goethe Street. Lt Lepley asks that the NAC and neighborhood groups be the eyes and ears for the police. It's good for residents to get involved in these neighborhood meetings and form a relationship with the CPD. It was stressed to not try to

take dangerous matters into your own hands – call the police 301-777-1600. Greise asked if there were other ways citizens could become more involved. Wagoner told folks to sign up for Nixel from the City's webpage to receive community information to your email or phone. Statistics show that the CPD respond to calls in 2-4 minutes which is the best response in the state. A question was answered that a good piece of information on how to be safe and keep a safe home or business is available in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) brochure which are available from the City. Hast will bring brochures to the next meeting and some are available in the lobby of City Hall.

No other City departments were present.

### **Neighborhood reports**

Greise reported for Decatur Heights that he was elected as Vice President at their last meeting. They are discussing holding a block party in May or June and are looking for suggestions from the NAC. A committee is being established. Wagoner asked them to consider putting photos in the paper of the new officer to raise awareness of their group. Borrer suggested they choose a night to schedule Diversity Training.

North End Crime Watch represented Elliott reported a change to this month's meeting location and date and that they may be combining with Westside to form a larger group. They've nothing to report since the last meeting. After asking, it was suggested to check with the groups by-laws for guidance on officers/elections and that an agenda should be set before the meeting. Wagoner offered to assist this group.

Hast reported that the SCBCA Halloween Parade went very well, and was the largest parade in its 65 year history. Many volunteers worked hard to pull it altogether, such as: division captains, numerous volunteers, mummer judges, shoebox float judges, etc. The group is collecting gifts for the Salvation Army for children for Christmas and any group could do the same by contacting them. 47 members attended the last meeting.

### **Old Business**

Borrer reminded all to be thinking of suggestions for the 5 year plan and be ready in January for discussion. Anyone from each group can be the representative. She also reminded all to take the survey.

More will be coming regarding the National Night Out to be held August of 2015.

### **New Business**

CDBG survey (above)

### **Public Comment**

A clarification was made regarding cars pulling onto the Downtown pedestrian mall. The Downtown Development Commission (DDC) code enforcement men are acting on a directive from the Mayor after safety issues were brought to his attention. Care are not to park on the bricks without prior permits from the DDC.

Greise made a motion to adjourn and Robinette seconded. Wagoner reminded all to sign in before leaving. A reminder that Vice Chair Hedrick will not be attending.

The meeting ended at 6:32 p.m. with the next meeting to be held Monday, November 24, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk