

CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MD

Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC)

MEETING MINUTES – June 27, 2016

Chairman Allen Hedrick called the meeting to order at 5:05. Hedrick thanked the Board of Education for use of the school cafeteria, reminded all to sign in, and asked all to take one of each of the handouts provided.

Attendance included: Chairman Allen Hedrick, Louse Stangler, Patrick Stangler, Duane Boyd, Tara Hartsock, Jeff McFarland, Tammy Fraley, Chris Fraley, Mary Jo Wolters, Ben Wolters, Mike McKay, Commission member Jenn Judy, and Terri Hast.

Hedrick gave a summary of the NAC was given saying that the NAC would like see a functioning neighborhood association in each of the 11 neighborhoods of the City as designated in the City's Comp Plan and although available on the website a few copies of the Westside portion were available. Know that newly forming groups can choose whatever boundaries they want to manage. The current groups are listed in the NAC brochure.

Approval of the April minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Our next neighborhood visit and work session meeting will be the Walsh/Humbird neighborhood.

Old business

A utility network for neighbors to use to connect to others in your own neighborhood is www.nextdoor.com and a brief summary was given by Hast.

New business

Hedrick explained the NAC wants to reach out to City residents and get involvement from everyone for the betterment of the community. Westside neighborhood was chosen for this focus neighborhood at the April meeting and hopefully some attendees tonight will step up to take the lead.

Judy reviewed the Neighborhood Toolkit she and Josh Greise developed to help associations organize. The NAC is not an overseer of these groups but available for guidance and connections to many local resources. A list of City contacts was provided to help direct residents to the proper departments when needed to report something or to contact someone for discussion.

Westside Neighborhood Concerns

Hartsock, Patient Service Manager with Aramark at Western Maryland Health Systems, spoke on the Community Garden projects and how many partners have come together to complete these gardens. - Fairmont and Sperry Terraces along with Williams Street. Fraley commented on the West Side Elementary School garden begun by the students and harvested during the summer to share with the church down street. Next year activities are hoped for each grade through the MD Extension - 4H.

The vision to develop this "Re-Imagining Greene Street" plan was to create a safe and accessible corridor that acts as a catalysts for economic development and invokes pride and ownership for the City. A copy of this plan was passed around and is accessible online through the City's website. A suggestion was made to consider asking some of the key stakeholders listed in this plan to the first Westside neighborhood meeting to talk about this plan.

Hedrick asked if any Westside residents had particular issues to discuss or some ideas or action items. Mentioned was the dangerous speed of vehicles traveling Kelly Road from the Sheriff's Dept., various trucks, and dump trucks. One neighbor spoke with Mayor Grim and a County fleet supervisor on getting speed bumps installed. A Friends Aware bus was almost hit once. Hedrick wondered if a speed limit sign needed to go down there. Officer Fraley was going to check into this.

Drugs activity on Greene and Washington Streets is so out of hand that drugs are being sold while kids are on the playground watching. Officer Fraley reported that the CPD is aware of this. Hedrick mentioned how some associations have a police liaison attend their neighborhood meetings occasionally. Spangler said she make calls but since there's no follow up she trusts the City is following proper protocol. She was encouraged to keep calling or emailing with any license numbers, time of activity, and any information that can be collected. Jeudy said sometimes staff may be building a case for a real conviction so you won't see instant results.

Hedrick asked if anyone was willing to step up and take the lead to form a new Westside Association and said the lead could be temporary until more interest is raised. Jeudy said this is the opportunity to take your neighborhood back. Hedrick said the association boundaries can be reduced or expanded from the neighborhood map provided. Meeting locations can be a restaurant, a library, a school, a church, etc. Suggestions were made: to get the word out through the schools in August or September, Boy Scouts are a possible helping hand to distribute fliers, high schools could assist regarding community service, and the post office walk sequence mailing. The City would be willing to copy up to 500 fliers for the first meeting. No one stepped forward but the Stanglers agreed to work on finding someone to lead.

Mary Beth Wolters gave an update for the Washington Street Association saying they meet once per month with 13-15 people in attendance and twice per year they hold get together for all residents, unless a special need arises. They put fliers in doors and post on Facebook to promote. If residents see that you are active, they show up. School handouts, local media (Radio PSAs, and Newspaper) and the NAC can all help to promote neighborhood events.

The next NAC meeting will be July 25 held at City Hall and will be a work session meeting for Walsh/Humbird outreach. The public is welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Hast

cc: Margie Woodring, City Clerk