



CAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 10, 2018 – 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Executive Committee Members Present: Chuck McFadden, Tom Puglisi, Michelle Barnes

Executive Committee Members Absent: Judd Vickers, Mary Ellen Jesien

Board Members Present: Dave Thatcher

Chuck McFadden opened the meeting at 6:30 pm

- 1. Purpose of January 20, 2018 Meeting.** (a) Conduct Board member elections; (b) set objectives for CY2018; (c) discussion collection of membership fees; (d) summarize accomplishments.
- 2. Board Election.** Per Bylaws Article IV, Section 3, election of Board requires majority vote of members present (no quorum requirement). No nominations were received other than those identified by the Nominating Committee (J. Vickers, T. Puglisi, S. Smith, G. Boss), so paper ballots will not be needed. Absentee votes have been solicited and will be accepted by the Secretary per the Bylaws. Nominees will be asked to introduce themselves prior to the vote, which may be conducted individually or en masse.
- 3. Objectives for CY2018.**
 - a. Code enforcement. The City Manager is conducting a review with a report due to the City Council in prior to her retirement. CAN should stress the importance of and advocate for meaningful code enforcement.
 - b. Expand membership beyond Ward 1 and invite participation by all City Council Commissioners. Michelle Barnes will lead the initiative, including meeting individually with each Commissioner. Targeted social events will also be held. Michelle recently met with the Mayor Jackson-Stanley and Ward 3 City Council Commissioner Foster. It was suggested that CAN (i) develop new mechanisms for connecting with people who do not have internet access, including radio messages and newspaper articles; (ii) invite City Commissioners to hold community forums to solicit input from their constituents; and (iii) solicit CAN Newsletter contributions from all 5 Commissioners. In CAN's recent activity distributing door hangers, it was noted that CAN's membership dues may be unrealistic for many Cambridge residents (see item #4 below). People wondered why dues were required and how paying dues to CAN would make their lives better. CAN should begin active discussions with community representatives, including holding regular meetings with African American community leaders, to identify and address needs and goals for each area of the city.
 - c. Explore ways to encourage home ownership. CAN needs to work with the City to identify and/or develop, and then implement, concrete programs to encourage home ownership. The current lien process for abandoned properties is not effective in fostering home ownership. Perhaps CAN could

encourage the City to develop programs, modeled on successful programs in other places, that would get vacant properties into the hands of new owners at very low cost, provided that the homes are fixed up, maintained, and not sold for a specified period of time. CAN might also assist prospective owners directly by serving as an intermediary for such programs.

- d. Recruit a Neighborhood Development Social Events Director. Rather than trying to organize small "blocks" it was suggested that CAN needs to focus on organizing larger areas (such as at the ward level) and sponsoring social events in all areas of the city, hosted by persons who actually live in each area. The Social Events Director could also organize workgroups to assist neighborhood residents in making concrete improvements in selected areas, with direction from community leaders. For example, the basketball courts in Ward 3 are not used because they are not lined and the baskets do not have nets. The Social Events Director would work closely with the Membership Director in orchestrating such events.

4. Membership Dues. Explore voluntary contributions in lieu of strict dues requirement to encourage expanded membership. Under a voluntary contribution model, CAN membership would be defined by an expressed interest in joining CAN and providing one's email address.

5. Accomplishments.

- a. Established bylaws and elected Board of Directors
- b. Incorporated as a non-profit
- c. Created bimonthly newsletter
- d. Completed survey of the new trash system and presented the findings to the City Manager
- e. Conducted code enforcement activities
 - i. Stopped Maryland Avenue house expansion
 - ii. Stopped Choptank Avenue house conversion
 - iii. Identified rental units in the City
 - iv. Followed HPC and Zoning meetings and reported back to members
- f. Organized mass turnout for City Council meeting to protest changes to the City Manager position
- g. Held 4 neighborhood social events
- h. Organized and/or participated in several clean-up events, including the fishing pier, Great Marsh Park, and several street clean-ups
- i. Assisted neighbors
 - i. Cleaned and painted a porch
 - ii. Cleared an old garage from a residential property and paid for dumping the remains
 - iii. Power-washed a porch and bought a power washer for general use
 - iv. Represented (pro bono) a distressed couple in court and got their fine reduced and timeline extended
- j. Created door hangers and post cards
- k. Canvassed several neighborhoods
- l. Created a website
- m. Developed an e-mail distribution list with over 500 individuals

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.