



UPCOMING MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Thursday, September 13, 2018, WHCP Meeting Room, 516 Race Street, 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 10, 2018, WHCP Meeting Room, 516 Race Street 10:00 am

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 10:00 am, Location TBD

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:00 am, Location TBD

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 7:00 pm, Location TBD

Thursday, July 11, 2019, 7:00 pm, Location TBD

Thursday, September 12, 2019, 7:00 pm, Location TBD

Saturday, November 9:00, 10 am, Location TBD

**All CAN Board meetings are open to the public.
Everyone interested in CAN is invited to attend.**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 12, 2018

**WHCP Meeting Room
516 Race St, Cambridge MD**

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Board Members Present: Chuck McFadden (President), Judd Vickers (Vice-President), Tom Puglisi (Secretary), Mary Ellen Jesien (Treasurer), Michelle Barnes (Membership Director), and Greg Boss (constituting a Quorum of the Board under Bylaws Section 11, six of ten members being present)

Board Members Absent: Dave Thatcher, Frank Cooke, Roman Jesien, and Sharon Smith

NOTE: CAN is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of attendee comments.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** CAN President Chuck McFadden opened the meeting at 7:00 pm by welcoming the members of the Board of Directors, and approximately 35 attendees.
- 2. Approval of Minutes.** Chuck McFadden introduced the minutes of CAN's May 10, 2018, Board of Directors Meeting, which were previously distributed via email. It was moved (Chuck McFadden) and seconded (Tom Puglisi) that the Board approve the May 10 minutes as distributed, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote of Board members present.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** CAN Treasurer Mary Ellen Jesien reported that CAN now has a total of \$1,696.96 in its Treasury. There have been no expenses so far this year. The CAN Board is considering ways to use the money to benefit the community. We currently have 75 dues-paying members. The current funds have come primarily from dues payments.
- 4. Short Announcements.** Chuck McFadden made two short announcements:
 - a. CAN-JAM.** CAN will sponsor an end-of-summer picnic on August 26 at Long Wharf Park. We hope to get local musical talent to entertain. Ice cream may be served, shaved iced may be available, and a food truck may be present, if health and permit requirements can be met. Singers, musicians, and additional volunteers are needed.
 - b. Introduction to Tonight's Meeting.** Tonight's meeting focuses on what other non-profits are doing in the City, and how CAN and its members can help. We will have short presentations from FLAG, which is helping feed children who are out of school doing the summer; ShoreRivers, which focuses on environmental issues affecting the Bay; Habitat for Humanity, which is taking on new commitments in the City; and finally, WHCP itself, which will talk about its efforts for reading to the blind, providing weather information, and other community efforts.
- 5. Flag – Cesar Gonzalez.** Cesar Gonzalez is the Pastor of Cambridge Adventist

Church (on Rt. 50) and the organizer of the Church's annual "FLAG" Summer Camp. The Adventist Church provides its local churches with assistance in hosting summer camps, including providing experienced counselors and camp programs. In past years, it was noticed that kids attending the camp here in Cambridge were coming hungry, and FLAG began providing meals to its campers. This year there will be a 6-week camp located at the Cambridge Empowerment Center. About 75 children are attending FLAG camp this year. The program includes meals, field trips, academics, singing, supplies, t-shirts, and a few jobs for people in the community during the camp. Cambridge suffers from a vast inequality. Pastor Gonzalez believes that what is best for the poorest in the community is best for the entire community. In order to change, we need to change on the individual level - kid-to-kid. As an example, Pastor Gonzales cited the EPOCH Center in Hebron, which gives children an "alternate family" to address their needs in an after-school program that helps with homework, sports, and a dinner program that involves cooking, eating, and cleaning up after the meal. EPOCH started with six kids but now serves about fifty kids. FLAG Camp is a first step in building a year round program like that of the EPOCH Center.

- a. **Question:** Is FLAG open to partnering with other churches and community organizations. **Answer:** FLAG is definitely open to such partnerships. We would especially like to solicit volunteer fundraisers, grant writers, and others who can help underwrite and extend our programs. We will also need donations of/for school supplies in the fall. **Question:** Who is eligible? Does the program target troubled kids? **Answer:** Children ages 5-12 are eligible. FLAG does not focus on troubled children, but the program does currently serve two kids with ankle bracelets. For additional information or to donate money, email Chuck McFadden (ragtime31@gmail.com) or text/call Pastor Gonzalez at 301-254-9035.

6. **ShoreRivers – Matt Pluta.** Matt Pluta is the Choptank RiverKeeper for ShoreRivers, which engages in advocacy, education, and watershed restoration to ensure clean water for the Eastern Shore, providing science-based water quality data and sponsoring a number of other environmental programs. He noted that underwater quality is dependent on underwater

grasses, whose growth is being monitored by volunteers for inclusion in a national database. As an example of important projects in Cambridge, ShoreRivers recently installed best management projects (e.g., rain gardens) on ten properties in Cambridge and is currently working with Habitat Choptank to restore a number of vacant lots in the City. ShoreRivers recently released its Annual Report Card of Midshore Rivers, available on its website at <https://www.shorerivers.org/report-cards/>. ShoreRivers has also instituted bacteria monitoring to help communities know when waters are safe for swimming (ear infections, for example, are more prevalent when swimming after heavy rains), and a Swimming Guide (updated weekly on Thursday/Friday) is now available at <https://www.theswimguide.org/>. Matt noted that the Cambridge Open Water Swim (scheduled for on May 11, with 170 registrants) had to be cancelled because bacteria levels in the Choptank were dangerously high. Matt went on to describe the oyster restoration volunteer program that grows oysters throughout the fall and winter, which are then planted in areas free from harvest. All you have to do is rattle the cages twice a month. ShoreRivers is currently partnering with Friends of Blackwater in a 13-week Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Program (see Handout attached).

a. Question: How can we inform visitors when water is unsafe?

Answer: In addition to the Swimming Guide website referenced above, ShoreRivers is working on partnering with the Department of Health to get the word out when waters are unsafe and would also welcome announcements on WHCP. Outreach with City Marina and Yacht Club are also possibilities.

- 7. Sandy Hill Elementary School Reading Program - Cambridge City Council Commissioner Steve Rideout.** The program involves volunteers serving 30 minutes twice a month from 8:30 am to 9:00 am to listen to individual children at Sandy Hill Elementary School read materials assigned by their teachers. Please contact Steve Rideout (swrideout@aol.com) to volunteer.
- 8. Habitat for Humanity – Rhodana Fields.** Habitat for Humanity Choptank provides affordable home building opportunities for people who cannot

qualify for loans. Prospective homeowners must provide 300-500 hours of sweat equity and savings for a down payment to qualify for a zero interest mortgage with payments less than 30% of income. Habitat builds energy efficient, durable houses. However, Habitat Choptank noticed that lots of homeowners in our area are not able to maintain their homes and need maintenance assistance. Habitat Choptank is working with the City of Cambridge to maintain the quality of homes and provide resources and expertise through its neighborhood revitalization programs, which began with weatherization programs. Habitat Choptank has recently worked with the State of Maryland to obtain about one million dollars of funding for redevelopment of the Pine Street Neighborhood in Cambridge. As part of this project, Habitat will provide three new homeowner construction opportunities, three major repair projects, and three historic preservation projects that will become homeowner opportunities. Volunteers are always needed (see Handout attached), and Rhodana pointed out that Habitat Choptank has an active "Women on Tuesday/Wednesday" home maintenance groups.

- a. **Question:** Does Habitat provide assistance to renters? **Answer:** Habitat's emphasis is on home ownership and ownership stabilization.

9. **WHCP (Cambridge Community Radio) – Mike Starling, Director.** Mike noted that support for Cambridge Community Radio started with Chuck McFadden (before CAN existed) and Steve Rideout (before he was a Commissioner). Now in its third year, WHCP recently moved into its new building, which provides both studio space and space for community meetings and Groove City Studio Events. WHCP sponsors a Radio Reading Service that serves as a lifeline for blind persons in the community. WHCP can always use more readers for the Reading Service. WHCP also needs volunteers to help in a variety of areas related to regular broadcasting -- especially volunteer community journalists to provide local content (e.g., volunteers willing to do in-depth interviews or produce/host weekly programs). See Handout Attached. WHCP holds "radio boot camps" to teach people to do the basics. Contact Mike Starling (443-637-6000) to volunteer.

10. Dorchester Goes Purple— Mike Starling. WHCP will serve as the official radio station for the "Dorchester Goes Purple" initiative, an awareness campaign targeting the problem of opioid addiction in Dorchester County, which has had five opioid-related deaths since the beginning of this year. As Direct of the Campaign, Mike is promoting a "Triple-A" program of Awareness, Action items, and Accountability. The campaign's kickoff will be August 28, and WHCP will be the campaign's official radio station with campaign-related programming. For example, in September, WHCP will broadcast real-life stories every day from people in our area affected by the opioid crisis. Contact Mike Starling (443-637-6000) for additional information.

11. “Groove City Video – What’s in a name?” WHCP and Groove City Studios are producing a video to provide an historical perspective on the significance of "Groove City" for the African American Community in the Pine Street area, whose residents were literally not permitted on Race Street in Cambridge until the Civil Rights movement began to take hold. The term "Groove City" elicits diverse emotional responses by which we connect to Cambridge. This video will pay tribute to the foundation and beginning of the Groove City movement and celebrate the brand that it has become. The video will educate the community by telling the Groove City story; honoring its soulful beginnings in the black community, with hopes to inspire a continuing dialog that leads to a brand that unites our community as a whole. A fundraiser to support the video will be held on July 27th here at 516 Race St. Kent Lee is the headliner. Additional information on the fundraiser is available at <http://www.groovecitystudio.org>.

12. CAN Membership. Chuck McFadden encouraged attendees to consider joining CAN if they have not yet done so.

- a. Question:** There seems to be a lack of understanding about what CAN is and what it wants to do. **Answer:** CAN welcomes members from any and all Cambridge neighborhoods who are interested in organizing and working together, building a diverse membership reflecting the diversity of Cambridge residents. CAN's goal is to develop the community and support other non-profits in the City.

Comment: County Council Candidate Shay Lewis-Sisco indicated that

it is important for her to learn about what is going on in the community. She wants to increase her network and encourage transparent communication about what is going on in Dorchester County, especially the lower County (shay4council@gmail.com).

- 13. Adjournment.** Chuck McFadden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Puglisi seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm