**CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

***All Board Meetings will be held at 7:00 pm in the WHCP Meeting Room***

***516 Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613***

**Subject to Coronavirus Restrictions**

Thursday, November 12, 2020

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**VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 15, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Chuck McFadden (President), Roman Jesien (Vice President), Mary Ellen Jesien (Treasurer), Michelle Barnes (Membership Director), and Tom Puglisi (Secretary), constituting a quorum of the Executive Committee with 5 of 5 members present.

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** NA.

**Board Members Present:** Sharon Smith, Rick Klepfer, Jane Weeks, Andre Duerinckx, and Dave Thatcher. Duerinckx and Thatcher lost the connection prior to the end of the meeting and were unable to re-connect.

**Board Members Absent:** Beth Kline.

**Also Present:**  Judd Vickers, Housing Quality Committee.

1. **Opening Comments.** CAN President Chuck McFadden opened the virtual meeting at 7:06 pm via Zoom.
2. **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.** Tom Puglisi made a motion, seconded by Mary Ellen Jesien, to approve the minutes of the July 2 Executive Committee meeting, and the motion was approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer’s Report.** Mary Ellen Jesien reported that 59 members have paid CY2020 dues and there is $2736.15 in CAN’s treasury. It was noted that $150 was to be donated to the Empowerment Center in support of its education programs. Beth Kline will be asked to follow up to effect this donation. All members present agreed that we need to identify effective strategies to recruit more members.
4. **Cambridge Community Conversations.** All agreed that the Cambridge Community Conversations have been of great benefit to Cambridge and should be continued. Chuck McFadden noted that the League of Women Voters Candidate Forums for the City Elections will be held this week (Wards 1,3,4) and next week (Ward 2 and Mayor), September 16 and 23, respectively. The Board of Education Candidate Forum will be held on October 7. All forums will be broadcast live on WHCP, 101.5 FM, and available on FaceBook Live and YouTube at 7:00 pm..
5. **Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission.** 
   1. Judd Vickers reported that the P&Z Commission has received a proposal to turn the existing Mill Street School building into 9 rental units, with no specific proposal for use of the remaining property. Brett Summers has now been added as a partner in the project. Judd indicated that discussion of the project was pulled at the last minute from the agenda for the September 1st P&Z Commission meeting. He noted that the Commission has received letters for and against the project, as well as a petition from 56 neighbors expressing strong opposition to approval of any rental units on the property. Judd will distribute the letters and petition to CAN Board members via email.
   2. Judd also reported that a project is being developed for a 7-Eleven shopping area in the vacant lot across from Maryland Ave and Route 50. Two houses adjacent to the property have been purchased to create a buffer between the proposed shopping area and the residential community.
   3. Judd reported that the proposal for a senior housing project, which has been in the planning stages for many years and is tied to the existing senior center at Route 16 and Chesapeake Street, may soon come before the P&Z Commission. Planning for the project began prior to the adoption of the UDC, which zoned the site for institutional use that prohibits multi-family housing, so a zoning change of some kind would be needed for the project.
   4. Judd reported that Lajan Cephas, who is currently a candidate for the Ward 2 City Council seat, has expressed an interest in working with him on monitoring P&Z Commission meetings.
6. **Cambridge Economic Development Director.** Cambridge Economic Development Director Carol Richardson is trying to form an Economic Development Advisory Committee and has asked CAN to provide nominations for membership. Sharon Smith indicated that she is interested in participating if her City Council candidacy permits. Sharon will contact Ms. Richardson and convey additional information to CAN Board members.
7. **City Council Commissioner Health Benefits.** At its September 14th meeting, the City Council discussed a proposed ordinance that would provide health, dental, and vision benefits for future City Council Commissioners, in spite of the fact that the Council had recently voted not to offer such benefits after a Special Advisory Committee had recommended against offering them. The new proposal would require Commissioners to pay the highest premium rate, rather than the lowest premium rate, as is now the case. However, the City would still be liable for the first $100,000 of costs for Commissions and their spouses (if covered). It was noted that (a) this personal benefit for Commissioners is being proposed at a time when the City is cutting spending; (b) no other part-time City employees in Cambridge receive such benefits; (c) the level of compensation paid to Cambridge City Council Commissioners is among the highest in Maryland ; and (d) most municipalities in Maryland do not offer health benefits to their Council Commissioners. The consensus of those present was that the CAN Executive Committee and CAN Board of Directors should oppose the latest health insurance proposal via a public letter and urge CAN members to make their views known to the Mayor and Commissioners before the next City Council meeting, at which the proposal is scheduled for Public Hearing and possible adoption. Chuck McFadden will develop a draft letter as soon as possible for Board members to review.
8. **Adjournment.** Chuck McFadden made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tom Puglisi. The motion was adopted unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8: pm.