**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**

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**VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 20, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Chuck McFadden (President), Roman Jesien (Vice President), Mary Ellen Jesien (Treasurer), and Tom Puglisi (Secretary), constituting a quorum of the Executive Committee with 4 of 5 members present.

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Michelle Barnes (Membership Director).

**Board Members Present:** Andre Duerinckx, Rick Klepfer, Beth Kline, Sharon Smith, and Jane Weeks, constituting a quorum of the Board with 9 of 11 members present.

**Board Members Absent:** Dave Thatcher.

1. **Opening Comments.** CAN President Chuck McFadden opened the virtual meeting at 6:42 pm via Zoom.
2. **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.** Roman Jesien, made a motion, seconded by Tom Puglisi, to approve the minutes of the September 15th Executive Committee meeting, and the motion was approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer’s Report.** Mary Ellen Jesien reported that 60 members have paid CY2020 dues and there is $2755.27 in CAN’s treasury. One additional new member application was received today, dues payment pending.
4. **CAN Elections.** Chuck McFadden announced that we need to discuss the CAN election process. The Board of Directors is currently made up of the 11 members listed below. The terms of 4 of the members (McFadden, ME Jesien, Barnes, Thatcher) expire in January 2021.

**President, Chuck McFadden, 2019 – 2021**

Vice President, Roman Jesien, 2020 – 2022

**Treasurer, Mary Ellen Jesien, 2019 – 2021**

Secretary, Tom Puglisi, 2020 – 2022

**Membership Director, Michelle Barnes, 2019 – 2021**

Director, Andre Duerinckx, 2020 – 2022

Director, Rick Klepfer, 2020 – 2022

Director, Beth Kline, 2020 – 2022

Director, Sharon Smith, 2020 – 2022

**Director, Dave Thatcher, 2019 – 2021**

Director, Jane Weeks, 2020 – 2022

Discussion ensued regarding whether it was practical and desirable to hold the CAN election this year, given the restrictions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It was agreed that an in-person Annual Business Meeting with in-person voting would not be possible. Given the reality of COVID-19 and the limited opportunities for Board Member to exercise their roles in 2020, Tom Puglisi suggested that the Board should consider whether it might be reasonable to extend the terms of all current Board Members for one year, so a valid election could be held next year. Sharon Smith pointed out that this approach would preserve the staggered terms required under the Bylaws.

Andre Duerinckx made a motion to postpone the CAN elections for one year and to extend the terms of all current Board Members for that one year. The motion was seconded by Jane Weeks and approved unanimously by the 9 Board members present.

All Board Members present indicated their willingness to accept the additional year of responsibility that the motion required. Roman Jesien agreed to ascertain whether the absent Board Members would also be willing to accept this responsibility. If either is not willing, the resulting vacancy will be filled by the Board in accordance with the CAN Bylaws at *Article IV, Section 8 (If a vacancy should occur on the Board of Directors, the remaining Directors, by affirmative vote of a majority thereof, may select an individual to fill said vacancy at any meeting of the Board, and such Director shall serve until the next Annual Business Meeting.) –* ***NOTE:*** *Michelle Barnes and Dave Thatcher later agreed to serve the additional year.*

1. **Future Meetings.** Discussion of the Annual CAN Business meetings and future CAN Board meetings quickly resulted in a consensus that we need to find a way to hold virtual meetings to keep the general CAN membership engaged. Chuck McFadden observed that CAN has good recognition in City Hall but our members need to be more engaged in setting the CAN agenda. Chuck asked that Board Members think about how to structure the January Business meeting and what we want to focus on during the coming year. Andre Duerinckx pointed out that one very important function of CAN is to facilitate communication, which CAN has done a lot during the past year.
2. **Cambridge Community Conversations.** Chuck McFadden announced that Cambridge Community Conversations needs a volunteer a Question Analyst for tomorrow night (October 21st ) when City Manager Patrick Comiskey will discuss the October 17th City Election and the December 1st City Runoff Election. [Tom Puglisi indicated that the scheduled guest for October 21st (County Manager Keith Adkins) was not able to appear because of a scheduling conflict.] The October 21st broadcast will be the 16th Cambridge Community Conversation.

Chuck McFadden explained that four people are required for each Cambridge Community Conversation in addition to the Guest – Producer/Organizer, Question Analyst, Moderator, and Technical Staff. In addition to CAN, Cambridge Community Conversations is also sponsored by WHCP Community Radio, the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, the Dorchester Star, and the Dorchester Banner. Sponsoring organizations take turns producing/organizing the programs. Future programs include the following:

* + November 11th— Special Veterans Day Program
  + November 12th (Thursday) – Award Presentations – Dorchester Heritage Foundation and Dorchester Business Resources Group
  + November 18th – Cambridge Dec 1 City Election - Runoff Candidate Forum
  + December 2nd – Dorchester Santa & Salvation Army Charity Campaigns
  + December 16th – Cambridge Virtual Holiday Parade (tentative)

All agreed that sponsorship of Cambridge Community Conversations has become a worthwhile and important CAN function and that we need to get more CAN members involved in these productions.

1. **Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation (AGCDC).**  It was noted that AGCDC is seeking $349,000 in State funds and other grants to develop the buildings adjacent to the Harriett Tubman Mural space on Race Street. AGCDC wants to develop the properties as green buildings, target rental of the second floor offices to non-profit organizations, and create a park to surround the Harriett Tubman mural. Current first floor tenants of these buildings would remain to generate ongoing revenue. The AGCDC building across Race Street would have apartments on the second floor and retail downstairs.
2. **Volunteers Needed.** Chuck is requesting CAN volunteers to dismantle Nancy Clinard’s fence at Belvedere Ave and Travers St. Several members agreed to help on Saturday.
3. **Adjournment.** Chuck McFadden made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Roman Jesien. The motion was adopted unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.