

---

**CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS****BOARD MEETING****February 7, 2024****MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Chuck McFadden (President), Roman Jesien (Vice President), Dave Thatcher (Treasurer), Tom Puglisi (Secretary), Mary Ellen Jesien, Kim Miller, Sharon Smith, and Judd Vickers. Eight of eleven members being present, a quorum of the Board was achieved.

**Board Members Absent:** Andre Duerinckx, Brad Rice, and Donna Towers.

- 1. Opening Comments.** CAN President Chuck McFadden convened the meeting at 6:31 pm at 200 Belvedere Avenue in Cambridge. Chuck announced that Rick Klepfer has resigned from the Board.
- 2. Approval of Minutes.** The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 16 Annual Business meeting.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** Dave Thatcher reported that the CAN bank account has a current balance of \$4,085.67. CAN's email distribution list, including 12 Cambridge government officials, currently contains 741 addresses.
- 4. CAN Meetings Live Stream.** Chuck reminded the Board that CAN is paying WHCP's Julian Jackson to livestream CAN's Public Members Meetings and subsequently post videos of the meetings on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@whcpstudio4716> and FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/WHCPRadio/videos>.
- 5. March Meeting.** CAN's next Public Members Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the Dorchester County Public Library basement meeting room (303 Gay Street in Cambridge). The speaker at the meeting will be Ward 5 Commissioner, Brian Roche, who will provide an update on Council activities, traffic lights downtown, the Maryland Avenue and Cedar Street Gateways, CWDI, Bike trails, and more. Tom Puglisi will include streaming links in the CAN email and *NextDoor* announcements, and Kim Miller will post flyers.
- 6. Meeting Preparation. Coordinators.** Chuck stressed that Board Members should coordinate CAN's public meetings. Kim volunteered for the May and July meetings, and Judd Vickers volunteered for the September meeting. The November meeting needs a volunteer. Duties include the following:
  - Scheduling the library meeting room
  - Picking up the key to the room on meeting day
  - Coordinating with the speaker regarding equipment needs for slide presentations, etc.
  - Coordinating with WHCP's Julian Jackson to livestream and post a video of the meeting
  - Developing meeting announcements and publicizing/promoting the meeting
  - Setting up and taking down chairs and tables
  - Providing and collecting the sign-in sheet for the meeting
  - Locking the room and returning the key

**7. Meeting with City Manager Tom Carroll.** Chuck summarized, and the Board discussed, the content of his recent meeting with Cambridge City Manager Tom Carroll.

- **Cambridge Harbor.** Mr. Carroll remains concerned that the Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc (CWDI) plan to develop Cambridge Harbor may not be economically sustainable, as land use is dominated by greenspace and non-profit entities (i.e., the Richardson Museum, the Visitors Center, and presumably the YMCA) that generate no tax revenue.
- **Proposed Amphitheaters.** Chuck noted that outdoor amphitheaters have been proposed for both Cambridge Harbor and Cannery Park at the Packing House and questioned whether Cambridge can support two such venues. Board members mentioned that the Packing House seems almost empty and wondered whether that Packing House project will be sustainable.
- **City Elections.** The filing date for candidates in the Cambridge City Elections for Mayor and City Council Commissioners is August 5<sup>th</sup>, and the election date is October 19<sup>th</sup>. It is not yet known whether current office holders will seek reelection or what additional candidates may come forward. Chuck noted that recent City Council meetings have been very brief in length and have included no substantive discussion.
- **Shoreline Resilience.** Chuck reminded the Board that the Shoreline Resilience project is deep into its design phase. This \$20M project includes a 3.5' to 4.5' high embankment (7' above Mean Sea Level) running from Gerry Boyle Great Marsh Park to Cambridge Creek. Board members posed many questions about how the embankment would affect private property, the Yacht Club, the City Marina, Long Wharf Park, etc. Answers to these questions remain unclear, and it was noted that City residents may not know about the impacts of this and related projects.
- **City Management** Chuck reported that he expressed disappointment to the City Manager about how the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has been treated and about the lack of responsiveness of the Planning and Zoning Office and the permitting process.
- **City Marina.** Chuck informed the Board that the City Manager is willing to work with CAN's Marina Committee to identify priorities for the City Marina going forward. Chuck clarified that the City has again taken over management of the marina, as the relationship with Oasis Marinas provided little benefit to Cambridge.
- **Blackwater Cove.** Chuck informed that Board that the City is considering providing a grant to build a fence for Blackwater Cove neighborhood to separate it from the recently developed Dollar General property. CAN would like to help the Blackwater Cove neighborhood with this issue and with the operation of unauthorized group homes in the neighborhood.

**8. 2024 CAN Projects.** The Board discussed the following projects that CAN could undertake this year. All projects would need Board members who are willing to manage and coordinate project activities.

- **Marina Committee.** Chuck will revive the CAN Marina Committee with the assistance of Pete Doyle from the previous committee. The Committee's goal is to identify issues of concern and propose practical approaches to address these issues.
- **Belvedere Circle.** Chuck proposed recommending that the City install a traffic circle at the intersection of Belvedere Avenue and Hambrooks Boulevard to alleviate problems with

---

left turns from Belvedere onto Hambrooks and Hambrooks onto Belvedere. Board reaction the proposal was mixed.

- **Environmental Cleanup.** Board Members proposed partnering with ShoreRivers on a cleanup project as CAN has done in the past or organizing its own cleanup of streets and gutters in the West End. Judd will coordinate with ShoreRivers and check with the Nanticoke Water Alliance about CAN's participation in cleanup activities.
- **Housing.** Judd suggested that CAN concentrate on code enforcement and on the City's \$1M Land Bank project. Board Member Sharon Smith has applied for a seat on the City Landbank Committee.
- **Community Questionnaire.** Several Board Members proposed developing a questionnaire to examine residents' views on the location of the YMCA and other issues of interest to the community. Kim offered use of her Survey Monkey account for this purpose. Board Members are to send questions Tom P to collate.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.