

NAC 11 Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2022/7:00 pm
Brewers Alley
MINUTES
draft

NAC 11 COORDINATORS: Present: Bruce Albaugh, Ricardo Bairan, Nkem Wellington, Marge Rosensweig, Steve Jakubczyk, Matt Edens

CITY STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS: Allen Etzler, NAC Liaison/Community Outreach Specialist; Richard Griffin, Director of Economic Development; Corporal Mike Murphy/Officer Eric Morton, FPD Directed Patrol; Derek Shackelford, Alderman

MINUTES: Marge Rosensweig

INTRODUCTIONS: NAC 11 Coordinators, residents, and guests introduced themselves.

POLICE REPORT: Corporal Mike Murphy/Officer Eric Morton

Between March 15-April 15, 2022:

- 1,135 calls for service; 310 Patrol Checks; 74 Traffic Stops; 11 criminal arrests; 16 traffic arrests; and no significant events:
- Focus 4 Crimes:
 - 0 robberies reported
 - 2 burglaries
 - 1 theft of auto
 - 2 thefts from autos

To deter crimes, Officer Lawson advised residents to:

- Lock doors and windows to residence and vehicles
- Keep items of value out of view and curtains/blinds closed
- Remove objects (e.g., rocks, bricks, etc.) that can be used to break windows
- Invest in a doorbell camera and/or surveillance system, which improve peace of mind and help identify suspects/solve crimes.

Questions/Answers:

- Q: How is the FPD addressing truck/delivery parking in metered spots? A: Most occurs when cars park in loading zones. Parking Enforcement is conducting checks at 9 am and ticketing violators. If you see violations with no tickets, contact Parking Enforcement: <https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/FormCenter/Engineering-35/Traffic-Complaints-Safety-Concerns-124>
- Q: Please provide an update on speeding during Covid. A: The Directed Patrol is incorporating traffic stops to their regular patrol, and someone will be assigned to enforcement. In response to follow-up about speeding on cross-streets, Corporal Murphy noted that speed cameras are the future, and residents' private cameras are "invaluable" in addressing speeding.

- Q: Do you want a list of everyone with a camera you can access if needed. A: We have a camera registry. Contact Allen Etzler (240-549-4380) or register the camera online (NKEM: I can't find a link for that.)
- Q: Please provide an update about loitering around Manny Mart. A: Enforcement of the loitering law in City Code has been deemed (by City officials) unconstitutional. Unless there is a victim who will testify to being accosted/impeded, we cannot issue a citation. Camera footage of (supposed) drug deal is useless the drugs are clearly identifiable. The FPD drug unit conducts operations and uses undercover cops, drones, and cameras. The LEAD (Law Enforcement Assistance Diversion) Program is in place, helping to divert people in need from the criminal justice system. (NKEM: You said we'd provide contact information on this.) As well, an interdisciplinary group is forming to explore different ways to deal with the problems in the South Market area.

NEW BUSINESS:

The E. 4th St. to E. 5th St. Maxwell Ave. "shared space" project: Due to unavailability of engineering department representative, this discussion was tabled to a subsequent NAC meeting.

Overview of the Budget Process and Opportunities to engage--A. Etzler: Mayor OConnor's proposed 2023 City Budget was presented on April 1st. Subsequent public hearings are providing opportunities for each department to present their priorities to the Board of Alderpersons. Remaining meetings can be viewed on Channel 99 live (or subsequently via video) or in-person at City Hall on April 25, April 28, May 2 and May 10. At the same time, public comments are being solicited on the City website. The full budget is available at cityoffrederickmd.gov/fy23budget; and comments can be submitted in writing via the "feedback" button.

Questions and Answers:

- Q: How many days before/after can comments be submitted? A: The City is talking about keeping public comment open throughout the process. Feedback from the NAC attendees is that the technology available for public comment doesn't meet the task.
- Q: Are public comments aggregated/analyzed/presented to the public? A: At this time, public comments are only provided to the Mayor and Board. Feedback from NAC attendees is that the comments should be part of the public record; and, if you want to be sure your comments are received, write directly to the Mayor and Alderpersons.

Update on Downtown Hotel Project—R. Griffin: The City, County, and developer have been working on the hotel project for several years and is based on a need for more hotel rooms for the 2 million+ visitors annually as well as residents' needs for places to stay downtown. The project is anticipated to include 200+/- room hotel with 20,000 meeting spaces, parking, eating options, etc. The developer has until 12/2023 to finish planning, at which time they will cost out the project to determine its feasibility. HPC Level 1 approval has been obtained; and PC and HPC level 11 approvals will be sought.

Questions and Answers:

- Q: How much parking will there be? A: the LMC requires there be enough parking to accommodate the room count, restaurant, etc. Public parking will also be used.

- Q: Can you provide actual numbers? A: The LMC requires that developers meeting with neighbors so you will be able to obtain that from developers. (See Final Comments below re: LMC requirements.)
- Q: Does the parking plan account for the number of developments in the pipeline for that area? A: The City parking department is planning a 6th facility that will continue to help provide the parking space demand for this facility. A general guideline is that hotels have big demands for weekend and evening parking while commuter parking is more M-F 9-5.
- Q: What about traffic? A: The developer has to meet all the APFO (adequate public facilities ordinance) requirements. Roads are defined facilities and the developer has to prove it can work. Most will pay a mobility fee, the bulk of which will be used for intersection improvements, as well as signage and signals.
- Q: When will these improvements be made? A: Not directly addressed.
- Q: How many people fill a 20,000 ft. conference center? A: The City's parking system will handle the parking.
- Q: Will the garage be ready when the hotel comes online? A: Yes, around the same time. Two sites have been identified—behind the Visitors Center (already an open-air lot), the USPS parking lot between E. Patrick and E. Church Sts., bordered on the east by East St.

Final comments:

Griffin: There will be a full opportunity for review before the project is constructed. Meeting attendees noted that the “opportunities” for public engagement in planning processes are up in the air. Although the Board of Alderpersons have stated a strong preference for return to the individual NAC-developer meetings in place prior to the pandemic and the Director of Planning announced these would resume, a subsequent press release from the City indicated that All-NAC Planning Presentations would continue. Residents spoke at length about the inadequacy of these meetings which provide no opportunity for dialogue between residents and developers and no feedback to residents for their written or phoned-in comments. Additionally, the technology of these All-NAC meetings is not at all user-friendly. (See additional discussion below under NAC Structure.)

NAC member: The APFO protects against problems. Regarding parking, many people who will work at the facility are minimum wage employees. They will need (and should be provided) a transit pass so they can work downtown. Most attendees agreed with this proposition.

Update on Outdoor Dining Process—Richard Griffin: The Mayor and Board have authorized greater use of food trucks, but there will be no parklets and no street closures.

NAC Structure Review Process—Alderman Derek Shackelford and Allen Etzler: Alderman Shackelford described his thought process for NAC revitalizations and noted, while he has some ideas, he has not submitted any proposals to the Board for their consideration. Of concern is that the 15+ year old NAC structure developed when the City was 2/3 the current size seems not to be working at present. There is no real citizen engagement, involvement, advocacy. One of his goals is better representation for/empowerment of the neighborhoods; another is—potentially—consolidation of the NAC areas; a third is—ultimately—Aldermanic representation of NACs and Aldermanic districts. He has spoken to individuals involved in forming the NACs, current and prior NAC coordinators and members, etc. The next step, according to Allen Etzler, is outreach to individual NACs, civic associations, HOAs, nonprofit organizations, etc., as well as email communications and a survey to determine the types of meetings residents want, how they want to receive information. The timeline is for this outreach to be concluded by early July before Alderman Shackelford formulates and presents his proposals.

Meeting attendees expressed hope that Alderman Shackelford’s efforts would be successful but great frustration about the current situation, asserting residents are neither engaged nor listened to, and not involved in any meaningful way in City plans and decisions that affect their lives. One attendee said the presentation was heavily weighted on “structural” issues while the residents’ statements speak to “process”—i.e., feedback, dialogue, early engagement in the processes of government, and robust 2-way communication, rather than notification and dispensing of information.

OTHER:

An attendee asked about VPRO enforcement (Vacant Property Registration Ordinance—https://library.municode.com/md/frederick/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=PTIITHCO_CH12.5REPRMASA_ARTIVVAPR)

In response, the status of enforcement was described including the number of properties registered and the communications between the City and property owners. As well, residents can report observed vacant properties to the City (<https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/FormCenter/Code-Enforcement-4/Code-Complaint-35>). Although the City cannot enter a property unless a dangerous situation is observed, code enforcement staff can use water bills, accumulated mail, boarded windows, etc. all of which can be noted on a complainant’s form. This is the general city of Frederick “report a problem” link: <https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/518/Report-a-Problem>

CONTACTS

Coordinators	Steve Jakubczyk	jakubczyksteven@gmail.com	Ricardo Bairan	rick.bairan@gmail.com
	Bruce Albaugh	brucealbaugh@gmail.com	Eric Nicholson	jenicholson@gmail.com
	Nkem Wellington	nkem.wellington@gmail.com	Marge Rosensweig	Marjorie803@comcast.net
	Matt Edens	Kineticcontent@gmail.com		

Community Outreach Specialist/NAC Liaison	Allen Etzler 240-549-4380	aetzler@cityoffrederickmd.gov
Frederick Police Department	Cpl. Mike Murphy	mmurphy@frederickmdpolice.org
	OFC. Eric Morton	EMorton@frederickmdpolice.org

<p>NAC 11 MEETINGS – 7:00 pm Brewers Alley NAC 11 MEETINGS – 7:00 pm Brewers Alley</p>	<p>FREDERICK POLICE DEPARTMENT Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 301-600-2100 Anonymous Crime Tips 301-600 TIPS (8477) – phone 240-674-TIPS (8477) - text fpdcrimetip@frederickmdpolice.org</p>
---	---

Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to call 5 days prior to the meeting to make arrangements. The City of Frederick Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or any other legally protected group in employment or in the provision of services.

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2022