



## NAC 11 Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022  
7:05 pm – 8:25 pm

### INTRODUCTIONS

- City Officials & Staff, Guests, Residents
  - City Officials: None
  - Staff: Lauren Paulet; Richard Griffin, Director, Department of Economic Development
  - Guests: Kara Norman, Executive Director, Downtown Frederick Partnership (Partnership)
- NAC II coordinators: Steve Jakubczyk, Marge Rosensweig, Bruce Albaugh, Nkem Wellington, and Matt Edens
- Approval of Minutes from October 2022 NAC 11 Meeting

### POLICE REPORT

- **Intelligence Led Policing October 15-November 15, 2022**
  - 1092 calls
  - 210 patrol checks
  - 61 traffic stops
  - 4 criminal arrests
- **Focus Four Crimes**
  - Robbery—NA
  - Burglary
    - 14. W. Patrick—entry through unlocked door; property inside destroyed
    - 36 S. Market—entry to business through window broken by subject; stole multiple items
- **Theft of Auto—NA**
  - Theft from Auto - 44 E. Patrick
  - 584 N. East St.—tools stolen from toolbox on company vehicle
- **Crime Patterns/Trends:** FPD advises that residents lock residential and vehicle doors and windows; keep valuable items out of view; remove objects from around property that can be used to break windows; invest in doorbell camera for peace of mind and helping FPD solve crimes

Several questions/comments followed the FPD updates:

- A resident commented on the ATVs and motorbikes travelling both ways on N. Market (near Café 611) and wondered why this incident, though it had been reported by several residents to the FPD, was not included in the update. This type of incident has occurred several times over the past six months and has been brought to the attention of police on more than one occasion, which leaves the impression in the minds of residents that this is not considered (by the FPD) as an issue. Attendees agreed that the best strategy at this point is to call in whenever similar

incidents occur, which might stimulate increased FPD attention. A suggestion was made for the caller(s) request an officer to come to the scene to encourage the ATV/motorcycle operators to disperse.

- Attendees noted the increased attention to street safety, with exploration ongoing re: how to accomplish the goal of safer streets, including where to install speed cameras. A proposal to the Frederick County delegation asking for more speed cameras (in areas outside the ½ mile school zone limit) to the Maryland General Assembly is one option. Helps FPD build a case for more attention. The NAC will continue to monitor the issue and keep residents informed. As well, the Partnership has applied for a grant for speed boxes and is waiting for a response.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- \$100k Community Legacy Grant—Norman explained this grant which will distribute \$56,000 to the Partnership and the remainder to the Golden Mile Alliance and East Frederick Rising (EFR). The Partnership allocation supports:
  - façade improvement grant for commercial buildings and multi-family units. More than 100 buildings have received façade improvement grants in the past 25 years. There is generally a backlog of façade improvement grants.
  - a fire suppression incentive program including increasing capacity in the building (e.g., a sprinkler). Eligible are historic buildings, less than 10,000 sq. ft. Grants are up to \$25,000 as these are expensive projects to implement. Once installed, sprinkler systems expand the potential uses of the building(s).
  - Mission Interior. This (up to \$5,000) matching grant provides an incentive to owners to reinvest in capital improvement in their business (e.g., for lights, paint, new flooring). Several projects were completed during the COVID lockdown. The Partnership will set aside \$20,000 for these grants, and several projects were completed during lockdown.
- Update on [State Revitalization Program Award](#) & Downtown Streetscape Parking, Traffic, and Utilities Studies—Griffin noted the desire for old downtown buildings to be in use and applauded the Partnership for its advocacy for downtown projects. The Streetscape project is intended to address the 40-year-old streetscape, the deficiencies of which were highlighted during Covid (e.g., uneven sidewalks, tree wells, poor pedestrian experience). The engineering study was initiated pursuant to residents' preference for knowing the impact of streetscape changes on parking and traffic, as well as a need to understand/map the old subterranean infrastructure. The City has been working with our congressional representatives, the US Corps of Engineers, and city engineers to figure out how to respond to stormwater issues as well. All reports from project studies will be available to residents as they are done.

Attendees posed several questions including whether:

- There will be any opportunity for resident input during the study processes? Response: Consultants are studying recommendations in the Streetscape study report. Intent is to have consultants digest report and tell us “if you decide to do this, this is the outcome.” We would like to get implementation cost data, but consultants are focused on the implementation concerns, not the cost.
- City staff have talked with ESR representatives who may include in their number technical engineering people. Response: Both Griffin and Norman sit on ESR board.

- The Streetscape is affected by habitually vacant properties as (according to the questioner) there doesn't seem to be much progress re: vacant properties. Response: This is a valid concern, but we ignore the buildings—from building to building. Griffin added that the Streetscape responds to the use of the building, and we can only guess what the buildings will be used for.

Additional comments focused on:

- The practicality of expanding sidewalks.
- The current lack of visitor density north of 3rd Street and need to clean up Market Street north of 3rd and south of Carroll Creek Linear Park.
- The need to act now to improve pedestrian safety—not wait until long term studies are done, redone, and—then only perhaps—acted upon. In response to this concern, Griffin noted that residents can advise code enforcement of problems; and Norman added that the streetscape study/response will include a mechanism for the City to pay into a fund to maintain the sidewalks.

## **CONTACTS**

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| <p><b>NAC 11 MEETINGS – 7:00 pm</b><br/> <b>In-person   Brewer’s Alley</b></p> <p><a href="#">2022 Schedule – Next Meeting</a><br/> <a href="#">January 17</a></p> | <p><b>FREDERICK POLICE DEPARTMENT</b></p> <p><b>Emergency:</b> 911<br/> <b>Non-Emergency:</b> 301-600-2100<br/> <b>Anonymous Crime Tips</b><br/> 301-600 TIPS (8477) – phone<br/> 240-674-TIPS (8477) - text<br/> <a href="mailto:fpdcrimetip@frederickmdpolice.org">fpdcrimetip@frederickmdpolice.org</a></p> |
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