

Meeting: **Monday, October 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. - The Victor, 1 Market Street, Caruso Room**
6:45 PM- Food and drinks from Market Gourmet @ the Victor
7:08 PM- Meeting starts

- Agenda:
1. Call to Order and Introductions – 25 attendance.
 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting were distributed by Secretary Bryon Yoder via email and approved.
 3. Guest speakers:
 1. Mayor Dana Redd - Redd shared some words about working with CGNA and discussed public safety past challenges. Redd thanked CGNA who had provided a letter of support for Camden County Metro Police division. Discussed rebuilding of Camden, from City Hall management, fiscal responsibility, bonds possibly being upgraded, which increases funding for public projects. Focus on public safety led to formation of Metro Police. 155 members of old CPD hired for Metro Police. Discussed NJ Economic Opportunity Act, sponsored by Senator Don Norcross. Education - working on intervention model to transform public education with Board of Ed. Questions/discussion topics:
 1. Opportunities to collaborate – Neighborhood cleanups, Cooper Grant hasn't had a city-sponsored event. Mayor Redd said to contact her office to set something up.
 2. Car break-ins, recent attack on Cooper Street. - Concerns that still not enough police presence. Currently 272 police officers. Additional 100 coming in December. Getting additional funding to add more officers. "Trauma-informed Care" program designation in Camden. Deputy Chief Williams present. Latko described crime issues in the neighborhood. When will we see neighborhood patrols? Mayor Redd explained "triage" of areas of highest crime. Said that ramping up will occur in some neighborhoods that don't currently have patrol. Redd said she will speak with Chief Thomson.
 3. City Council members represent four wards, plus three "at-large".
 4. Resident explained that a home alarm triggers dispatch to send police but have to confirm with property owner first, which doesn't work if property owner isn't able to confirm. Advice to call Capt. Sapinara, who is assigned to Cooper-Grant.
 5. Discussion that having police presence in the neighborhood increases sense that it's a "safe" place to live.
 6. CRA properties, maintenance. Mayor Redd advised speak to Candace Jefferson at CRA. Talked about partnership with county and their resources. Freeholder Leonard advised county has resources who can be tapped.
 7. Waterfront infrastructure work in progress. Waiver from DEP to separate sewer from storm, to have stormwater directed toward river.
 8. Invitation to have Mayor and other officials attend meetings on a quarterly basis.
 9. Interest in supporting construction of 18 new homes in Phase 2.
 10. Promoting Camden as a good place to live.
 2. Freeholder Ian Leonard – Brought handouts to explain three questions on the upcoming ballot. 1. Profits from gaming to support veterans organizations, 2. Increasing the minimum wage, 3. Moving the primary election to May. Discussed working with CGNA on rain garden initiative at MLK Daycare center.
 1. Question on move of election? Intent to make it partisan, vs. non-partisan.
 3. Councilman Frank Moran - Spoke on working with Bill Hoag and Jonathan on getting street lights on (over 500 lights) and other projects.

4. City Council At-Large Candidate Felix Moulrier spoke on his goals for the city. Past chair of DCCB, participated in numerous grass-roots efforts. Shared various issues with how things have been done in recent years, partisan elections.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Collection of voluntary contributions
 - b. Monthly Report – Beginning balance September was \$35,491.27. \$1.10 deposit from last month's meeting donations, plus \$100 donation for banner. \$35,592.37 \$49.27 expense for food for the meeting. \$57.00 collected.
4. Communications
 - a. Others included below
 - b. IRS communication about filing for taxes. Waiting to hear back on 501c3 application.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Neighborhood Flags/Banners – Intent to “brand” the neighborhood and market ourselves. Possibly add sponsor on bottom of banner.
 - b. Frank Fulbrook Memorial – Frank's brother shared that he's been contacted about various memorial options. Plaque on the house, something in Johnson Park, street around Phase 2 Harris Memorial Park, naming City Council Chambers. Frank attended numerous meetings in the city. Call to have neighbors attend various city meetings.
 - c. Rutgers Homecoming and neighborhood clean-up recap. Cleaned out the entire community garden. Public Works picked up trash from clean-up. Plots available for neighbors. Worked with street-sweeping to help maintain streets. Rutgers closed down Linden Street. Gallery Eleven One was open with wine and cheese. Big success promoting art crawl and community vibrance. Looking to partner with Rutgers again next year's Homecoming.
6. New Business
 - a. Camden County PD present. All neighborhoods will have a walking beat eventually. Started at neighborhoods with homicides, getting those under control. Use 911 process for emergencies. Captains have direct contact phone numbers to communicate. Sgt Rogers is community liaison. Notify PD immediately for any and all concerns so they can be addressed. Eye in the Sky cameras, so far none in Cooper-Grant. Second Street is major drug corridor. Rutgers has some cameras. CCPD will have access to those cameras. CCPD keeps recordings for approx. 30 days. No police on bicycles yet, but they're coming. Radars also coming to the city. Dispatchers are trained to send officer based on perceived imminent threat. Resident expressed concern that students in North Camden have said they don't see officers or feel safer walking around. North Camden has received major attention, especially around Molina school. Safe Corridors program engaged. Mid-December will see more walking beats. Police are sometimes under-cover. Patrols do occur overnight in Cooper-Grant between 10p-4a.
 - b. Development Committee Report – Bryon Yoder & Bill Hoag gave brief updates on various initiatives. Tara from Zipcar attended meeting. Looking to bring car to Camden. Looking to get a spot in Cooper-Grant. Service is member-based and open to use by all members. Zipcar pays a yearly fee to the city. Membership is \$60/yr, then pay by the hour or day. Discount for Victor residents.
 - c. Arts Committee Formation – Suggestion made to create an arts committee. Bill Hoag explained efforts by Gallery Eleven One, Chris Mayer, Liesl Oberfeld. Goal to have a monthly meeting of arts members to coordinate efforts, includes art, music, poetry, etc. Bill Hoag makes motion to form committee, seconded by William Butler. Unanimous approval. Will create an “arts@coopergrant.org” email.
 - d. Fire Hydrants Painting & Curb Painting Project Update – Latko shared that after 8 months of efforts, downtown hydrants have been painted. Ian Leonard has assisted for two years with curb painting. Any other small projects in the neighborhood? Pass suggestions along to any board member.
 - e. City Elections Forum – Discussion to hold one this year, South Jersey Chamber of Commerce holding a Mayor's Forum at Rutgers Friday, November 1 at noon. Time

is tough for many neighbors, so contact CoC to request live-streaming or recording of forum.

- f. Camden County Freeholder's Meeting – November 21st, 6:30-8pm, City Council Chambers. Neighbors encouraged to attend.
 - g. CGNA officer elections – Nominations opened and following new officers elected:
 - i. President: Jonathan Latko
 - ii. Vice-President: Bryon Yoder
 - iii. Treasurer: Sandy Newhall
 - iv. Secretary: Gayle Christiansen
 - h. Senator Norcross shared a number of initiatives/studies ongoing at the state level. Mail-in ballots available at the county clerk's office.
7. Announcements
- a. Want neighborhood updates/announcements via email? Please e-mail secretary@coopergrant.org with your name and address
 - b. Next CGNA Meeting – Monday November 25th at 7:00 p.m.-The Victor, 1 Market St.
 - c. Election Day – November 5th, 6a-8p, don't forget to vote at Rutgers Student Center.
 - d. Pizza & Poetry – October 29th, 7pm @ Little Slice of NY on Third Street
 - e. Final Third Thursday of 2013 – November 21st.
 - f. Camden City Garden Club Mobile Food Market every Tuesday from 5-7pm at Friends & Penn.
 - g. Monthly Book Club at the Victor, November 13th at 7:30pm
8. Adjournment 9:12pm.