



CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING  
July 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Co-chair Elaine Apatang-Butts. In attendance were committee members: Secretary Kathleen Boduch, Co-chair Elaine Apatang-Butts, William Gatchell, Lori Soloway, Co-chair Peter Somssich, Councilor John Tabor.

Also attending were Portsmouth City first responders Police Sergeant Brian Houde, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Gionet, and neighborhood representatives from various neighborhoods that are participating in the National Night Out event, which invites city responders to attend picnics within the city to acquaint the residents with themselves and their services. This year, 17 neighborhoods will be participating on August 1st.

#### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This year the question was raised as to whether CNC should consider this a localized event and set up picnics in 5 areas rather than have them spread out throughout the city in separate neighborhoods. That would have enabled the service groups to attend all of the picnics with maximum equipment - trucks, motorcycles, engines, canine officers, sirens, etc. With 17, that will not be possible. CNC surveyed the neighborhood groups and found that each neighborhood looks forward to its own picnic. The consolidated picnics idea was dismissed. With that done, Sergeant Hood has taken the lead in providing as many pieces of equipment and personnel to as many sites as possible. He stressed that he hopes no one will be disappointed.

#### HISTORIC HOUSE PLAQUES

The CNC is collaborating with the Friends of the South End, The Portsmouth NH 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program and the Portsmouth Athenaeum to have residents research the history of their homes and install plaques on/at their homes to document our living history.

Residents of Portsmouth are encouraged to participate in the Historic House Plaques program. The age of the house does not matter. It may be very old or very new.

There will be two seminars offered to help residents know where to find documents to validate findings: 1. At the Athenaeum on Congress Street on Wednesday, July 19th from 6-7:30, and 2. Portsmouth City Library on Parrott Avenue on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30.

## COMMUNITY POLICING

Portsmouth has begun to investigate the possibilities in rebuilding/refurbishing/relocating the city police department. The first meeting as the start of that conversation was held last week. CNC members attended that open meeting and will continue to do so and update neighborhoods about the process. Residents will continue to be invited into the conversation as it progresses.

The next CNC meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> in Conference Room A in City Hall. The next Ward Forum, located in Ward 5, will be held in the Fall. Date TBD.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Boduch, Secretary