

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
First Baptist Church, Crofton
November 14, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Anna O’Kelly, Marsha Perry, Brian Riley, Renee Speer, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, Stephen Tull, Robert Kendall, and Hal Sheldon.

Staff: Martin H. Simon, James Harvey, and Tara Gottschalck.

President Anna O’Kelly opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by the President Anna O’Kelly:

Anna announced that this meeting is being recorded to assist the secretary with transcribing the minutes.

On Sunday, November 27 the CCA will host the annual Tree Lighting and visit with Santa at the Crofton Country Club. This will be an outdoor event. There will be a fundraiser for AVFD Station 7. Station 7 will also begin it’s annual Christmas tree sale fundraiser on November 25.

There will be a Crofton Winter Farmer’s Market at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church parking lot on November 19, December 3, and December 17, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

On November 24 and 25, Town Hall is closed for Thanksgiving.

The next CCA Board meeting will be held on December 12, 2022, at the First Baptist Church Crofton, at 7:00 PM. Residents may also attend by Zoom.

Approval of Minutes:

Anna asked if there are any comments or questions regarding the minutes of CCA Board and General Membership Meeting September 12, 2022, that were distributed to the Board on October 13. There were no additional comments. The minutes were filed.

The October minutes were just distributed this evening, and therefore we will wait to approve them at the next meeting on December 12.

Town Manager’s Report – Martin H. Simon

Martin added a calendar announcement for the next General Membership Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the First Baptist Church Crofton at 7:30 PM in the large room.

Martin reported that the December Advocate is in progress and will be mailed to residents at the end of December. It will include the FY24 Budget.

Martin reported that the replanting of the front entrance has been completed.

Martin thanked Jim and the Crofton Kiwanis for the Flags for Heroes display installed at the front entrance. The lighting is now operational.

Martin reported that County Executive Steuart Pittman participated in the tree planting ceremony at the front entrance as a symbolic beginning of the Forest Conservation easement project. There will be hundreds of trees planted on the front property by the County.

Martin reported on funding and partnering opportunities for new playground equipment for area parks. The organization Rebuilding Together of Anne Arundel County has had a recent change in leadership. He will be meeting with President and Vice President tomorrow. In addition, Senator Rosapepe's office has reached out and suggested the CCA apply for an upcoming legislative bond initiative that will be available in January.

Martin reported that Keith has returned from his work in Florida. He has begun cleaning up the brickwork at The Orchards.

Martin met with parent advocates last week from Crofton High School regarding the planning of a graduation parade around Crofton Parkway for next year in June. There is interest in making this an annual event for the high school.

Martin commented on tree damage and removal in the community. Currently he has received \$16 thousand in quotes for problematic trees. He believes this will increase in the future. He is re-examining property lines to ensure they're on CCA property. He suggests crafting official language for the policy and procedures manual regarding tree removal procedures.

Comptroller's Report – James Harvey

Jim reported that the 2022 audit report was officially approved by the County. A draft FY24 budget was submitted to the County and returned with one minor correction. It will be resubmitted to the County for final approval once it has been distributed to the community in December.

Jim reported that the interest rate on the ICS account has been increased from 0.5% to 2.5% adding an additional \$20,000 of additional income over 12 months. Also, the rate will be revised every six months rather than twelve months.

Jim has entered monthly budget estimates into the books, where previously only the annual total budget was entered into the books. This will allow better tracking of expenditures and future spending planning. This will also allow the closer tracking of revenues to ensure there are none held back by the County.

The new time management system is in progress. Jim is coordinating with ADP. Renee added that she would like to go over the reporting generated from this automated ADP system. They could do this during the finance committee meeting.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee – Daria DeLizio

Daria had nothing to report.

Greater Crofton Council – Chuck See

Chuck had nothing to report. The GCC has not met since September.

Covenant Review Committee – Stephen Tull

Stephen reported the committee has approved a shed and fence on Farlow Avenue.

Maintenance and Operations – Rob Kendall

Rob had nothing to report. He thanked Martin for his work on the bond initiatives. Martin commented that the tree stumps grinding along the Crofton Parkway median are finally being addressed by the County.

Education Committee – Hal Sheldon

Hal announced that Crofton Woods Elementary will have a one-mile Turkey Trot fundraiser on 11/17. School is closed for parent-teacher conferences on 11/21 and 11/22. School is closed the rest of the week for Thanksgiving. There will be holiday shopping for students on 12/2 and 12/3. All items are \$2. There will be a two-hour early dismissal on 12/7.

Crofton High School reports the forfeit of some games due to four ineligible football players. There is a meeting with the Superintendent on 1/3/23. Concerts will be held in person this year.

Crofton Middle School will be hosting a field trip to New York City.

The schools are still reporting shortages of crossing guards, school bus drivers, food service personnel, and custodians.

Public Safety Committee – Brian Riley

Brian had nothing to report. He did mention that the Crofton High School Field Hockey team won the State Championship 2-1. He commented on the police statistics for October and the significant increase in calls, which was over 400. Martin commented that Chief Fox is unable to attend the meeting this month due to a family emergency. He stated that it is a top priority to apprehend the theft from auto individual. Sgt. Jett has a court date with this individual at the end of the month. He also added that the new officer will start on December 2nd.

Finance Committee – Renee Speer

Renee reported that the FY24 budget has been completed, and thanked Jim for all his efforts.

Planning & Zoning – Marsha Perry

Marsha reported there are two main projects for AVFD Station 7. The first is a new rescue vehicle. They are also renovating the white building which will be used as a training facility. It will also be available for use by the Crofton community.

Marsha reported on the construction project on Martha Greenleaf Drive. She provided a copy of the meeting minutes of the Public Community Input Meeting for the Versa Tile and Marble Project held on October 3rd. There are multiple modification requests for this project. There is major concern with regards to the wetlands and the drain below that are located there. Another major concern is traffic and equipment movement and storage during construction. The planned facility will be 6,300 square feet, 3,150 of which will be the basement. She will stay on top of this project.

Marsha reported on the athletic fields proposed on Millersville Road. The traffic and aquifer studies are complete. The aquifer study was not acceptable due to the nitrogen site run off levels. The benchmark regulations used was for agricultural load, which is lower than the standards set for County parks. The traffic study was questionable due to the size of the study area, which is too small. The safety data was incomplete and did not include pedestrian and bicycle safety data. It also does not quantify or address the level of impact on school traffic. The community wishes to have a low impact park, and not a sports complex, such as the originally proposed Coppermine facility.

Marsha reported on the Op-ed by Jim Lyons published in the South County Gazette on the Citizens Environmental Commission which mentions Crofton. The article talks about how the County Planning and Zoning refused to allow the modifications needed to build a new residential development.

Marsha mentioned the article by Gerry Winegrad in the *Capital Gazette* last week "The Chesapeake Bay Foundation are Failing to Save the Bay." The article states that there is now a law before Supreme Court that will give the EPA authority of the protection of wetlands on small lots.

Fred Tutman of the *Patuxent Riverkeeper* also mentioned in an article the success of Crofton's battle against the Enclave development.

These are examples that small communities can fight the over development of their communities. People outside of Crofton are looking to us for support.

Marsha mentioned the publication we are preparing for Crofton's 60th Anniversary. There are many famous people who have lived in the community such as sports figures, musicians, etc. She suggests they write about their experiences living in the community.

Police Chief Report – Chief Earl Fox – No report.

Other Business.

Citizen Questions or Comments –

Karen Nelson spoke about her email she sent to Martin regarding a yard sale held on Crofton Parkway across from the First Baptist Church. The items were left overnight for two weekends in a row. Anna mentioned that over the weekend there was no Town Hall personnel working, otherwise the items would have been removed. Martin has been monitoring since then and has not seen any new items.

Karen continued discussing boat and trailer parking around the community. The community needs to come together to find a way to deal with this. Martin explained that the police department can only respond to vehicles not properly tagged. He continued saying that he has reached out to County representatives on this issue. They do not see a realistic way to change parking enforcement laws for boats and trailers in Anne Arundel County given the large number of waterways in the surrounding area.

Stephen Beagle asked about vehicles parked in driveways along Crofton Parkway in the H section that are covered, with no plates. Martin responded that the police are aware and periodically run checks. Recently there was one vehicle with an expired registration. The owner was contacted.

With no other questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (December 20, 2022)

MS/JH/EF(tg)
Attach (4)