

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)
June 13, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Anna O'Kelly, Marsha Perry, Brian Riley, Renee Speer, Charles See, James Harvey, Robert Kendall, Hal Sheldon.

Staff: Martin H. Simon, Chief Earl Fox, Cpl. Jason Jett, Tara Gottschalck.

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

Announcements by the President:

The CCA Summer Concert Series continues Sundays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. This Sunday June 19 features the Bay Jazz Project; June 26, features the Tom Lagana Group (Jazz), July 10th features Six Pack Rodeo (Country), July 17 features Moxie Blues (Blues), July 24 features the Sandra Dean Band (Classic Rock), July 31 features Wicked Olde (Pop/Folk).

The Crofton Farmer's Market continues through June on Wednesdays from 3:00 PM-7:00 PM, at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church parking lot on Route 424.

The next CCA Board meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 7:00 PM, in person, at the First Baptist Church, Crofton.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 2 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM, at Crofton High School.

Approval of Minutes:

Anna reported that the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order now states if minutes are distributed before a meeting, they do not require a motion for approval, only corrections. Anna asked if there are any corrections needed for the CCA Board meeting minutes of May 9, that were distributed electronically on May 25. No corrections were needed. The minutes were filed.

Anna asked if there are any additional corrections needed for the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of May 16, distributed electronically on June 9. No corrections were needed. The minutes were filed.

Committee Reports:

Anna announced that since she has just assumed the position of Board President yesterday, she has not yet made any changes to committee assignments. The committee assignments will remain the same as the last administration.

Covenant Review Committee - Anna-

Anna reported that the committee granted an approval for an addition.

Education Committee – Hal-

Hal announced that the schools are winding down for summer. Summer sessions begin soon.

Maintenance and Operations – Rob -

Rob reported that he has been consulting with Martin regarding the remaining funds of the fiscal year. There was an auto accident at the Front Entrance that did damage to some of the new plantings and the Japanese maple tree. Martin has been dealing with the driver's auto insurance company regarding the damages. The Magnolias have been trimmed, and the enSprout pollinator garden is thriving. They had a clean up day in June. They are planning another one on July 24 at 1:00 PM. An additional clean up day is scheduled for August 27 at 10:00 AM. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for June 28 at 7:00 PM by ZOOM. Anyone wishing to participate may contact Town Hall.

Planning & Zoning – Chuck –

Chuck reported that on May 24 there was an MDE sponsored meeting on the Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill. He was unable to attend. The Crofton First June 12 newsletter published statistics from a study run by Anne Arundel County Community College regarding area growth. Most responded they wished zero growth, however, there is an increase in demand for affordable housing, which County residents do support. There was also a consensus for the support of re-development rather than building new.

Marsha reported on Bill 31-22 that was mentioned by James Kitchin at the General Membership Meeting. This bill was introduced by Andrew Pruski. It was supported by all 7 votes in the County Council. This BRAC Bill granted re-zoning of the four mile area that surrounds Fort Meade that was originally zoned as mixed use. It is now zoned as R-15 Townhouses. The issue with this bill and the re-zoning is that it was pushed through by the County Council without public hearings or community input. It was promised in the past that this would never happen. Zoning without public comment is not transparency. The administration claims that they are just responding to military needs. This will significantly affect the area at Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 175. The area will now contain 6,000 units, which is a 60% increase. In addition, there were over 300 environmental modifications requested, and 80% of these were granted by the County. Granting these without public hearings is a direct disregard of the County code. Marsha encourages the CCA to address this with the County Executive and his Planning and Zoning team.

Marsha continued stating that the upcoming elections are important, and it is important that residents are heard. Crofton has been split into two districts recently; the CCA is part of District 33B, while the rest of Crofton is now in legislative District 21. Sid Saab is running for Senate, replacing Ed Reilly who is not running for re-election. We need to make sure all districts are heard. The CCA is still in District 7 for County Council. There are two Republicans and four Democrats running. The County Executive is also running for re-election. There are five republicans running in the primary. Please pay attention since these officials will be making our decisions for the next four years.

Marsha consulted a tree expert to look for signs of the Armillaria disease. The tree expert she used is an ISIA certified arborist. Marsha suggested that the Town Manager speak to him about the result of his analysis. There may be a new Oak tree disease in Crofton. Martin asked Marsha to send his contact information. He mentioned that he did attend the Halle Landfill meeting. There was not much new information; however, the Forks of the Patuxent organization appreciated the support of the CCA.

Public Safety Committee - Brian-
Brian had nothing to report.

Recreation Committee – Daria-
In Daria's absence, Anna commented that so far we have had two very successful concerts this summer.

Greater Crofton Council - Jim-
Jim had nothing to report. The GCC meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled, and they usually do not meet in August. The next meeting will be in September.

Finance Committee - Renee-
Renee reported that she is conducting a budget review since the fiscal year ends on June 30. There is a surplus due to salaries. Martin has reached out to the group regarding wish list items that can be fulfilled in this fiscal year. The reimbursement for the Body Camera Grant in the amount of \$15,000 has been received. Renee and Martin will reinstate the search for a new Comptroller. She will be reaching out to Susan to prepare for the upcoming audit, which is due to the County at the end of September. She reported that bill paying is current. Anna thanked Renee for stepping in while we are without a Comptroller.

Police Chief Report - Chief Fox –
Chief Fox reported on the police statistics for the department for the month of May. They have been posted to the website. There were 348 calls for service, and 170 patrol checks. There were 10 reports issued and 120 traffic citations and repair orders combined. There were no arrests this month. The department had 24 assists to County police, which were mostly traffic accidents. There were 30 miscellaneous items and 1 training day. The Chief went on to report that two officers are leaving the department in June. Cpl. Hafer will be leaving on June 10. Sgt. Cabraja will be leaving on June 22. The recruitment process has begun with an advertisement on the FOP website, a Facebook announcement, and by word of mouth. A formal advertisement will be placed soon. The Chief mentioned an article in The Capital dated June 8, which reports a major loss of Annapolis City police officers due to retirement or resignations, and the inability to recruit qualified replacement officers. It is a challenging time across the country for police officers.

Martin asked the Chief to list his year end budgetary wish list for the department. The Chief listed the following; Two Ballistic Vests at \$1,700 each, Mobile Data Computers and docking stations for the police cars at \$4,800 each, Four tires and a turn signal for one of the police vehicles at \$1,500, Ammunition for AR-15s at \$1,000 for training and certification purposes, and \$1,000 for participation in National Night Out. Martin asked the Chief to clarify the need of the ammunition. The Chief responded that it is needed for re-certification for use by the County. This is required two times per year.

Town Manager's Report – Martin

As the new Town Manager, Martin addressed the Board and discussed that his approach to his new position will be focused on community engagement.

Martin reported that he will be conducting interviews for the Comptroller and Maintenance positions beginning next week. He has submitted a report to DPW regarding potholes in the community. There will be scheduled road maintenance on Crofton Parkway over the summer. The County responded swiftly to two urgent tree issues.

Martin reported that he met with Regime 5 and Regime 8 regarding the handling of trees in the common areas. Martin has consulted an arborist and a cost benefit analysis. They are working on property line verification before moving forward with a plan.

He reported that the front entrance has been tamed by a bush hog crew arranged for by former owner Bill Berkshire.

He is meeting with the insurance adjuster tomorrow to assess the damages from the recent auto accident at the Front Entrance. Ballard Landscaping will be replacing the damaged plantings. They have also replaced some small plantings lost to frost. Ballard also took care of the trimming of the Magnolias as well as the branches hanging over the brick wall and sign at no additional cost.

Martin reported on the irrigation system, which has been ordered to replace the previous system which was damaged during the multi phase demolition of that area. The installation of the new system will be coordinated with the replacement plantings.

Martin will be reviewing all Town Hall vendor contracts. The current IT provider contract has been examined and he has met with another IT contractor for competitive pricing. He will also reevaluate the phone contracts, and the current contract with the landscaping company, Jams.

Jim Harvey asked about plans to power wash the front brick and signs. Martin agrees it needs cleaning, but power washing may damage the bricks. He is looking into a safe cleaning method.

Citizen Questions or Comments-

Joi Howard offered Martin her assistance in the evaluation of IT needs at Town Hall. She asked about possible ways for the community to address the recent school shootings from a neighborhood perspective. Chief Fox responded that the County provides counselors. He commented further that the Crofton Police Department is trained to carry AR15's, and needs to ensure that they are following the County regulations. Joi suggested that the County may have additional programs on how to be proactive for things such as mental health that the community may be able to tap into. Martin commented that he wishes to provide greater outreach in the community. He will be creating a series of Town Manager Town Halls in the fall. The last election showed no votes from any apartment renters, indicating that we are not reaching everyone in the community. Martin asked for Joi's assistance. She agreed to help.

Joi Howard, Littany Hollorback, and Susan Fugate have created the organization enSprout to expose the community to growing food. Their first project at Swann Park was the installation of the pollinator garden. This September they celebrate their one year anniversary. They would like to commemorate this anniversary with the beautification of the border of the pollinator garden. The community members would sponsor rocks to paint as families. They would leave these as a memento, and the rocks would keep soil from running off. enSprout is in the process of obtaining it's 501(c)(3) non profit status. This would not be a fundraiser. Participants would cover the cost of rocks and paint, approximately \$10-\$20. She inquired if there is anything they need to receive clearance from the CCA for this project to beautify this space. Martin will get back to her tomorrow by email.

Scott Chismar agrees with raising the profile of Martin's position and expanding community outreach. He thanked the Chief for following up on parked trailers with expired tags. He asked about the officer involved Wicomico shooting and what can residents do to show support. Earl said he will reach out to the Chief there to see if they need anything. Scott commented further on the importance of meeting attendance, and suggested reaching out to local high schools to see if students can receive credit for their attendance. Anna agreed it was a good idea. Martin mentioned his meeting with the school with regards to the Crofton's 60th Anniversary. They were supportive of the celebration. Marsha thanked Scott for his involvement in the community.

Anna stated that it is the goal of the Board to resume in person meetings beginning with the next meeting in July. The Board did not meet in person for this meeting due to Marsha's travel.

Hal commented that in the past there was a paid psychologist that was part of Town Hall staff. Anna confirmed this.

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 (June 29, 2022)

MS(tg)