

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)
June 14, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Martin Simon, Anna O’Kelly, Brian Riley, Renee Speer, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, James Harvey, Robert Kendall and Hal Sheldon.

Staff: Larry Schweinsburg, Susan Myers, Earl Fox, Tara Gottschalck

Larry Schweinsburg opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by the President:

There will be no CCA Concert this Sunday (6/20). The next concert is scheduled for 6/27, 6-8 PM, at the Crofton Country Club. *Goodfellas* will be the featured group.

The next CCA Board meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 7 PM via ZOOM. There may be a possibility for a hybrid option for this meeting.

The Crofton Chamber of Commerce continues its Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 3-7 PM at the Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton Church, through October.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health will offer Pfizer vaccine clinics at the Crofton Library on June 22 from 1-3 PM, July 13 from 1-2:45 PM, and on August 3 (second dose only). A Listserv announcement will be sent out tomorrow.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Jim to approve the minutes from the CCA Board and General Membership meeting of May 17. The motion was seconded by Renee. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Update on the Enclave Property Purchase: - Martin-

The County Council passed legislation, (Bill 51-21) that enables the CCA to move forward with the property purchase. The Bill will be signed by the County Executive at an event on Wednesday at 5 PM at the property site. A few elected officials and CCA Board members will be present. Everyone is invited to attend. Parking will be provided at the Crofton Country Club lot closest to Prince of Peace Church. Police will guide pedestrians to the site. The ceremony will take place to the right of the Route 3 entrance off Crawford Boulevard. The loan and title process for the property purchase is ongoing.

Update on Main Entrance (Crawford Boulevard) –Rob

Rob reported that on Wednesday the trees damaged in both vehicle accidents will be removed, as will several other holly trees. Rob and his team are finalizing the details of the new landscape plan, and they will seek feedback from the Board.

Committee Reports:

Maintenance and Operations – Rob -

Rob reported that volunteer Patrick Mooney has completed replacing the railroad ties at the Willows Playground with new composite borders and an ADA approved access ramp, as part of an Eagle Scout project. The Parks Rejuvenation Committee is very pleased with the result.

The Committee met two weeks ago. Rob is planning to meet with a representative from Miracle Recreation Equipment to discuss replacement equipment for Swann Park. Rob commented on the trimming around the shoreline of Lake Louise. Some of the trimming has caused erosion. Trimming less frequently will alleviate that. However, there are some views from Route 3 that would likely be obstructed. Removing the invasive trees would help this. Rob suggested that this be completed soon if there is enough money to do so, since the budget is at fiscal year end.

He also suggested having additional mulching done at the parks by Eagle Scout volunteers if there are funds remaining to purchase more mulch. The next meeting of the Parks Rejuvenation Committee is tentatively scheduled for July 6th. Anyone interested in participating please contact Town Hall.

Planning & Zoning – Chuck

Chuck did not have anything to report. Marsha Perry updated the Board on the Halle Gravel Pit Project. The Chesapeake Terrace community has received notice from the County Board of Appeals that there will be a Zoom meeting regarding this on July 23. This meeting is only for the attorneys representing the Forks of the Patuxent community and those representing the Halle Companies. The variance for the Halle Companies rubble landfill will expire in October. The Halle Companies are requesting a three year extension of the variance. Residents may view the meeting by Zoom. Interested residents may contact Diana Bussey of the Anne Arundel Board of Appeals at 410-222-1119, or email at Dbussey@aacounty.org. Marsha will attend.

Public Safety Committee

Brian reported that the last Public Safety Meeting was held on May 19 in the back yard of Town Hall. Brian asked for volunteers to participate on the Committee. He asked that interested parties contact Town Hall. The next meeting will be held in late summer.

Recreation Committee – Daria-

Daria reported that the first concert was well attended.

Finance Committee – Renee-

Renee reported that budget planning for next year will begin soon.

Education Committee – Hal-

Hal reported that our new Crofton High School hosted the graduation ceremonies for most of the public high schools in Anne Arundel County last week.

Covenant Review Committee - Anna-

Anna reported that the CRC has not received any new requests for project approvals. One previous submission requires neighbor approval. The homeowner has not yet provided that. There are still two issues that were discussed at the June 9 meeting that are open and in progress.

Greater Crofton Council- Jim-

Jim reported that the GCCC will meet officially in September.

Police Chief Report – Chief Fox –

The Chief reported that that the Pride Parade is scheduled for Sunday June 27 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The parade will begin at Crofton Woods Elementary School on Urby Drive, and proceed down Crofton Parkway to Crofton Elementary School on Duke of Kent Drive. This section of Crofton Parkway will be closed for this event.

Town Manager's Report – Larry-

Larry reported that the sink hole at the front entrance appears to be expanding. He sent a letter to the Director of DPW requesting a decision as to whether or not the County is responsible for the stormwater culvert there. If so, Larry requested that the County proceed with inspection and repair. Charlie will mark it with traffic cones. Larry also thanked resident Evelyn Harris for reporting it.

Other Board Business:

Jim Harvey spoke about a CCA fundraising option. Resident John Carey works with New Market Fruit, a farm in Pennsylvania that sells peaches and apples. Peaches will be available for pick up in August and are sold in half peck quantities. We can use the website to arrange orders and pick up, perhaps in an area parking lot. This fundraiser was used by Kiwanis last year and was a success. Jim can put this together in one week. The CCA would receive 30% of the proceeds for the sales. Martin asked Mr. Carey if he is licensed to sell the fruit. He replied that licenses are only required when preparing food. He continued that the fruit is picked up early that morning, and then transported directly to the distribution site. The customers are given a two hour window for pick up. Martin stated that he has a few additional liability questions before the Board can vote on this. Hal asked how many peaches there are in a half peck, and how long can they last. Mr. Carey replied there are about twenty. They can be stored in a cool environment for up to two or three weeks. He mentioned that apple cider will be available along with the apples. Jim said the target date for delivery is August 14. Larry mentioned that if we use the school parking lot, the Recreation and Parks Department will have to be notified for approval, and that process takes time.

Citizen Questions or Comments:

LuAnn Dodson asked about the rules on the display of political signs, and signs perceived as political signs, in the neighborhood. Anna responded that it is against the covenants to display signs, and that the CRC has asked residents to take them down. There were many complaints from residents refusing to take them down. Ultimately, sign removal cannot be enforced legally.

LuAnn went on to comment about the removal of the gates at the front entrance. She does not feel that the community was made sufficiently aware that they were being removed. She feels there were disingenuous answers as to why they were removed. She believes that there was an agenda regarding the gate removal, and the fact that someone wanted media coverage of the event spoke volumes. She said that she feels we need better representation for the entire community which is not happening now. Martin responded that the CCA is a non-partisan group which does the best job it can to represent the wishes of the people in the community. This issue was discussed at Board meetings over several months. LuAnn said the ball was dropped here. Martin responded that the Board meetings are open to all and this is a good way to be as informed as everyone else in the community.

Karen Nelson commented that the accidents at the front entrance prompted the re-evaluation of the area. She stated that perhaps it is a good idea to open a discussion with the media as to why the gates needed to come down. The gates were not inclusive. The article in *Living in the Triangle* celebrates the removal of the gates. Martin commented that the Board is always striving to improve communications. We are in need of email addresses. We have only a small fraction of those addresses compared to the number of residents. We have put out regular notices requesting that people join. Please tell your neighbors to sign up for the Listserv.

Bob Brannon of Rochester Court thanked Anna for her response on the fence issue on their street. There is a stockade fence which runs to the edge of the sidewalk. He stated that there have been three unsafe incidents that almost occurred. He commented that there needs to be a process of notification when a structure is built that affects the neighbors. This fence obstructs the vision of oncoming traffic. He thanked Martin for reaching out to the family, though he does not think they will respond. He contacted the County and found out the fence was approved. Martin said the property owner seemed open to communication for a possible resolution. Bob asked if SHA or the County could be contacted to put up a Stop sign. It is an accident waiting to happen.

With no other questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (June 22, 2021)