

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)  
July 12, 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:**

Martin thanked everyone involved with the Bill Signing Ceremony. The closing for the property purchase will be during the first week of August.

Anne Arundel County DPW has announced a re-paving project for Duke of Kent Drive. The roadway will be resurfaced, and ADA compliant ramps will be installed on street corners. Once announced by the County, the official start date of the project will be posted to the Listserv. Questions about this project can be directed to the IMD Pavement Management Construction Supervisor at (410) 222-0556.

On July 15, at 6:30 PM Councilwoman Jessica Haire will host a ZOOM meeting for Land Preservation and Parks Recreation Plan. Registration for this meeting can be obtained by sending an email to [LPPRP2022@aacounty.org](mailto:LPPRP2022@aacounty.org).

On July 17, there will be a celebration of life ceremony for former resident and Board member Sharon Drew at 11:00 AM at the Methodist Church at Route 424 and Riedel Road. After the service there will be a block party celebration at 1741 Trent Street and 1721 Torrington Place. A light lunch will be catered. Please bring chairs or blankets. The reception will be moved inside the church in the event of inclement weather.

The next concert for the CCA Concert Series will be this Sunday at 6-8 PM at the Crofton Country Club featuring The Bay Jazz Project.

The Crofton Chamber of Commerce will host National Night Out, a community engagement project between the public and first responders. This event will take place at the Crofton Library on August 3 from 5-8 PM. The Crofton Police Department will participate.

The Crofton Chamber of Commerce will hold its Community Awards Ceremony on November 3.

Martin congratulated Vice President Anna O'Kelly for her featured article in this month's Living in the Triangle magazine.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Anna to approve the minutes from the CCA Board meeting of June 14. The motion was seconded by Chuck. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Covenant Review Committee** - Anna-

Anna reported that the CRC received a complaint about an RV rental business being run out of a home. A Violation Notice was issued. The residents have requested a meeting to discuss the matter. This meeting has not yet been scheduled.

**Planning & Zoning** – Chuck -

Chuck did not have anything additional on the Bill Signing Ceremony to report. He thanked everyone involved for making this purchase happen.

**Recreation Committee** – Daria-

Daria reported that the *Goodfellas* concert was very well attended, with approximately 250-300 people there. The audience for last night's concert was smaller. So far this summer the weather has not been a problem for our concerts. Please bring food and beverages as the Country Club is not offering any food services during the concerts.

**Education Committee** – Hal-

Hal reported that school is out for summer, though open for summer session. Students are scheduled to return for in-person instruction on September 8.

**Maintenance and Operations** – Rob -

Rob reported that he held a combined Parks and Maintenance meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The members discussed the Eagle Scout project at the Willows playground which is now completed.

The large holly trees at the front entrance median were removed. Now that the space is more open, the plans for the front entrance may be amended and no large trees are likely to be planted in the median.

There was a mulch delivery at Swann Park, which was paid for with the balance of the FY21 mulch account. There is more funding available now, so Rob will coordinate an additional mulch delivery for the Willows. The volunteer Scout is willing to help spread the mulch. Rob asked for additional volunteers to help. Interested people can contact Town Hall.

Larry has coordinated a meeting with a park equipment company this week to gather information on what playground equipment will need replacing at Swann Park and to secure estimates of costs involved.

Rob would like to have the shoreline at Lake Louise trimmed as soon as possible as it is becoming overgrown. Larry does not have the full shoreline trim estimate because the amount

of trimming had not previously been decided. Based on past trimming projects, Rob estimated that the cost for the Crawford Boulevard side will be between \$3-4 thousand dollars. Larry said we would have money to do this if the proposed transfer of the funds is approved. At that time Larry can then verify the cost with the landscapers. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for July 27.

**Public Safety Committee** - Brian-

Brian had nothing new to report. He is hoping to schedule the next Public Safety meeting this summer.

**Greater Crofton Council** - Jim-

Jim reported that the GCCC will meet tomorrow, July 13th. He will attend.

**Finance Committee** - Renee-

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

**Police Chief Report** - Chief Fox -

Earl reported that the Crofton Police will participate in the National Night Out event on August 3, 6-8 PM at the Crofton Library. He mentioned an upcoming Crofton Kiwanis 5/10K run event scheduled for Saturday, October 2, beginning at 8:00 AM. The Crofton Police will provide traffic safety and road closures for the race.

The Chief reported that he has applied for two grants for the body camera equipment that is now required for the Department. One grant is through the Governor's Office, the other is through an independent organization. He believes there will be more grant opportunities in the future. He will follow up once they are available. Jim Harvey asked if the grant from the Department of Justice is viable. Earl said yes, he believes our Department will qualify. There are other programs that are appropriate for small police departments.

**Town Manager's Report** - Larry-

Larry reported that we were able to spend the remainder of the FY21 mulch account. Recent mulch orders have been delivered.

Larry thanked Economy Tree Service and Jams for cleaning up the area before the Bill Signing Ceremony. They did a great job with all the landscaping.

Larry reported that a dead branch from CCA property fell onto a building at Village Green causing minor damage. Larry met with the property manager for Village Green and the owner of the damaged building. He then coordinated with our tree service for the removal and trimming of any trees that could potentially pose a future threat. Larry reported that a small dead branch fell from a tree and hit a softball player in the arm at Hardy Field. The girl was evaluated by EMS. Since then there has not been any additional concern. Larry arranged for additional trimming of the trees and removal of a dead tree in that area. Larry reported that two trees fell from CCA property on Tyrone Drive. One tree fell onto a swing set in a back yard. The other very large tree fell from the root ball and is being held up by another tree. Both will be taken care of by our tree service.

On Walleye Drive a tree on CCA property fell and caused some damage to a homeowner's fence. The Regime 5 Board had already had a contractor do clean up and removal and asked the CCA for reimbursement. Larry looked at the photos and the estimate provided and found it reasonable for reimbursement. The cost was \$315 dollars. Larry advised the Regime 5 property manager that in the future if we are not consulted before a contractor is authorized by Regime 5 to complete such work, the CCA may not pay for any reimbursement requested. Larry has also arranged for tree trimming and removal of a large tree at the Duvall Cemetery. Large branches were removed and additional trimming was done at Swann Park. Almost all of this tree work will be paid for using FY21 money which will save approximately \$5,000 in FY22 funds.

The CAC reported to Larry that they will repair and replace the fencing along the first and third baselines of Hardy Field by the end of summer.

Town Hall has been experiencing electrical problems, with repeated loss of phone service and internet access, as well as Police equipment use causing a circuit breaker to pop off. Our electrical system is over 50 years old. Some electrical upgrades needed to be done in order to maintain the electrical needs of the office and police systems. Electricians added a new line and additional receptacles. The cost was \$1,900 and was funded by the FY21 budget.

Two weeks ago the underground cable to Town Hall was replaced by BGE. Town Hall was running on generator power for two days. While the generator was running an oil leak developed and has since been repaired.

The Scout project at the Willows playground has been completed. The ADA ramp provides greater accessibility and replacing the timbers and spikes has made the area safer and more attractive. The cost for the materials for the project was \$2,459.

Larry reported that County DPW has concurred with his contention that the sink hole at the main entrance is related to a culvert for the County storm water system. The repairs will be made by the County.

Larry asked the Board if we will be meeting in the month of August. Martin recommended that if there was no budgetary reason to meet, that the August meeting be canceled. The Board members all agreed. The next meeting will take place in September. Martin commented that it may be in person, but also by Zoom. A technical solution will be investigated. The details will be announced on the Listserv once they are finalized.

#### **Other Board Business:**

Martin announced the requests for end of the fiscal year funds transfers. Susan sent an email to the Board requesting the following transfers of funds.

The first is a transfer of \$25,000 from Police surplus salaries to partially fund Police equipment (body cameras). There is currently \$5,000 in that budget, bringing the total to \$30,000. Susan acknowledged that we may receive grant money for this also. If grants are received, the additional funds can be re-designated to assist in the funding of a future fiscal year.

The second requested transfer is \$3,000 from the Police uniform budget to the Police equipment fund bringing the balance to \$4,349. The FY22 budget has \$5,000. Susan thinks that the current balance of \$1,349 is too low.

Rob made additional fund transfer requests. He requested moving \$3,000 from the Lake Louise Fund line item to the Lake Louise Beautification Fund. This will take care of the cost of the proposed shore trimming.

He also requested \$3,000 from the Grounds Maintenance Fund and \$1,700 from the Facilities Maintenance Fund be moved to the Parks Rejuvenation Fund. This will cover the upcoming sign installation and possibly some park equipment replacement.

Appropriate motions were then presented.

Rob moved that \$3,000 in surplus funds from the Grounds Maintenance account be moved to the Park Rejuvenation Fund. Anna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rob moved that the \$1,700 in surplus funds be transferred from Facilities Maintenance to the Park Rejuvenation Fund. Jim Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rob moved that \$3,000 from the Lake Louise line item be transferred to the Lake Louise Beautification Fund. Anna seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Renee moved that \$25,000 in surplus funds from Police salaries be transferred to the Police Equipment Fund. Jim Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Martin noted that the reason for the surplus was an officer on unpaid leave.

Renee moved that \$3,000 from the Police uniform surplus be transferred to the Police Equipment Fund. Hal seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business:**

Jim Harvey provided an update on the CCA peaches fundraiser. He has received proof of insurance from the vendor, New Market Fruits in Pennsylvania. A flyer will be sent out to announce the fundraiser. Peaches will be sold in half pecks (10-20 peaches) for \$20. They will be delivered on Saturday, August 14 to Saint Elizabeth Seton Church. Pick up hours are scheduled for 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Thirty percent of the proceeds will go to the CCA. Renee asked if they are organic. Jim will find out and include the information on the flier. Approximately four thousand advertisements will be emailed, and the flier will be posted to social media. Martin asked if all Board members approve of this fundraiser. All were in agreement. Jim mentioned that Crofton Kiwanis did the same fundraiser and it was very successful.

**Citizen Questions or Comments:**

Marsha Perry spoke about a meeting she had with the President of the Forks of the Patuxent Improvement Association (FOTPIA) to discuss ongoing projects in the area. There has been a lack of communication between FOTPIA and the Two Rivers community. They are having storm water management problems. They do not have an organized management group. They need to form an association in order to deal with issues affecting the community. The

Two Rivers developers want to drill another well. This will take water from the aquifer that is currently used by all Forks and Woodwardville communities. Marsha asked if Martin can take the lead on assisting them in the formation of a community association. The County has been very responsive to the Forks community. The lands are now suffering property damages due the development of Two Rivers. These groups need CCA support, and possibly the GCCC. Martin and Jim will discuss this later.

Willows resident Lisa Reynoso asked for assistance with some issues. There are many problems with the restaurant across the street on Route 450. Their community entrance on Route 450 is being used as overflow parking from the restaurant. Last Saturday a drunk driver hit a tree at the park in the middle of the day. People returning to their cars are urinating in yards, having sex, and dumping their trash. She asked if No Parking signs can be obtained for this area. She asked if the police can help with additional patrols on the weekends. There is also speeding traffic. She asked how to obtain speed humps for the road to minimize speeding traffic. She tried placing traffic cones on the street. A driver ran over all the cones and backed onto the sidewalk. She asked if anyone can suggest how can they get the restaurant to take down their tent so that they can accommodate more patron parking. She asked if anything can be done about the very high noise level coming from the restaurant.

Ms. Reynoso also commented that the Willows playground needs some attention. She appreciates the recent work completed by the Boy Scouts. However, she has other concerns. The chain climbing net no longer has the rubber coating on it and can cut hands. She also commented that the swings were lowered and asked if they can be brought back up to a safe height. Martin explained that Rob will be meeting with a recreation equipment company regarding updating park equipment. He would also like to put her in touch with neighbors who are looking to fundraise for park improvements.

Regarding the noise from the restaurant, Chief Fox suggested that Ms. Reynoso contact Detective Middleton at AACPD Western District at 410-222-6155. He deals specifically with noise complaints. Changing or adding signage on Defense Highway (Route 450) can only be done by the State Highway Administration as Route 450 is a State highway. The Crofton Police Department cannot issue parking tickets on Defense Highway as it is outside their ticketing jurisdiction. Reports of parking violations on Defense Highway should be made to the County Police at 410-222-8610. Parking, traffic and criminal violations committed inside the Willows can be handled by the Crofton Police or the County Police. The County Department of Public Works, Office of Traffic Engineering would have to be contacted regarding the traffic calming (speed bumps). If Old Willow Way qualifies to be considered for traffic calmers the process can then continue.

Martin commented that the Board can reach out to the restaurant owners. Lisa stated that she has reached out to the owner who said she is trying to come up with solutions for the issues. Ms. Reynoso asked if the restaurant can be encouraged to take down the tent in the parking lot since Covid restrictions have been relaxed. Lisa will contact the County Office of Inspections and Permits on this. Larry provided the number for Traffic Engineering, 410-222-7331. Rob asked if Lisa would like to be part of the Park Rejuvenation Committee. Lisa said she would. She asked the Chief if there is anything that can be done about the oil spill from the traffic accident by the tree. The Chief said he will talk to Charlie to see what can be done.

Fran Harwood asked Anna if there is a limit to how long a camper or RV can be parked outside of a home with power and water lines hooked up. Anna responded that yes the County has regulations. Campers may be parked on the street, however they are not allowed to have water and power hookups. These are only allowed in trailer parks. It is not legal on public streets. Anna suggests she report it to the County.

Resident Joseph Friend announced that two weeks ago he closed on the purchase of the former Sly Horse Tavern. Renovations have begun, and the exterior will look the same. There is a potential lease for a bakery/coffee shop, though nothing has been finalized. Joseph commented that they are in need of community support to urge the County to upgrade the current infrastructure. There is no adequate water line from the Parkway for sprinkler systems, nor is there a fire hydrant within 100 feet of the Village Green. These will be necessary in order to open a restaurant, in addition to allowing full capacity residence of other businesses in the Village Green. Jim asked if there are particular people that need to be contacted. Joseph replied that anyone in the County Executive's Office could help. They will be having a meeting this week with County representatives. He invited Martin to this meeting. Marsha and Jim offered their assistance.

In closing, Martin announced that the next CCA Board meeting will be September 13, and may be combined with the General Membership Meeting. A meeting announcement will be made on the Listserv.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (August 30, 2021)

LS/SM/EF(tg)