

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
First Baptist Church, Crofton
May 16, 2022- 7:30PM**

Present:

Board Members: Martin Simon, Brian Riley, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, James Harvey, Robert Kendall, Hal Sheldon.

Staff: Chief Earl Fox

Martin Simon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by the President:

Martin introduced the CCA Board members in attendance.

Martin announced that moving forward; CCA Board meetings will be in person, with a hybrid video conference option. He remarked that the highest attended Board meetings were the ones held by ZOOM these last two years.

Martin thanked the First Baptist Church of Crofton and Pastor Matt for use of their meeting space.

Martin announced that the CCA Board Elections are taking place in the adjoining room. Polls close at the end of the meeting.

The CCA annual Armed Forces and First Responders Parade scheduled for May 14 was cancelled due to rain.

On May 24, at 5:00 PM at the Doubletree in Annapolis, the Maryland Department of the Environment will hold an informational meeting on the proposed Chesapeake Rubble Landfill located in Odenton.

On Sunday June 5 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the CCA Summer Concert Series will begin on the lawn of the Crofton Country Club, weather permitting. These concerts are made possible by the CCA and a grant from the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County.

On June 11 Crofton Kiwanis will host a 5/10 K challenge around Crofton Parkway. Participants may register at Crofton Country Club at 6:30 AM.

Martin recognized Anna O'Kelly in absentia. She is retiring her position as Vice President on the CCA Board. She also was the chairperson of the Covenant Review Committee for many

years. Martin thanked Anna for her many years of service to the community. She will be missed.

Guest Speaker:

Martin introduced the guest speaker, James Kitchin, Director, Office of Community Engagement and Constituent Services, Office of the County Executive.

James stated that the County Health Officer reported an increase in Covid cases, however more people are recovering now because more therapies and treatment options are available now versus when Covid began. The Health Officer also recommends mask wearing for all persons who are at high risk, or work in high risk environments.

James reported that the County has developed a Small Business Infrastructure grant pilot program. He announced that the first recipient of this grant program was to the Village Green Association in the amount of \$310,000. This will allow the ability for sprinkler systems to meet the current code for all business, especially food business. The CCA was in full support for this grant to revitalize the Village Green. There will be additional grants presented to other businesses throughout the County.

James reported that the County Council has passed the bill to allow the creation of the Police Accountability Board. There are 89 applicants so far. The County Executive will recommend eight candidates to the County Council. The city of Annapolis will recommend one. The Board will be responsible for reviewing complaints against officers, with a two day follow up with police. Every year collected data will be reviewed to recommend policy changes. The deadline for the creation of this Board is July 1, 2022.

James reported that the County has presented it's budget for approval by the County Council who will vote on it mid-June. There is a \$150 million dollar surplus. A bill to revise income tax has been passed, which will lower taxes at \$50,000. Property tax rates will remain the same. The County will be investing in services such as special education, mental health, and public safety. The next budget meeting is May 18th.

Citizen Questions or Comments:

A resident asked if the food in schools is budgeted by the County. James explained that it is mostly paid for by State grants.

A resident asked about the high density development planning in the County. James responded that there are targeted areas where this is occurring. The County is determining the best way to move forward. Regarding the Halle Landfill, the developers are not in compliance with regulations according to County Planning and Zoning. With regards to the increased housing development around Fort Meade, the County Council increased the flexibility for development due to the requests already contained in the GDP Plan 2040. James stated that the County is attempting to move forward with development only with planned infrastructure in place. The County offered \$22 million to the State Highway Administration, so that they can work together to create an improved plan for Route 3. A design plan is scheduled for presentation next spring.

Martin asked about the new shuttle bus in the County. James explained that the existing shuttle, which ran from Waugh Chapel Center to Westfield Mall has expanded and now stops at the parking area of the Crofton Country Club.

Jim Harvey asked about the plan to move the Station 7 Firehouse due to the restricted water supply at the current location. James responded that it is not part of the five year plan.

Marsha Perry commented on the disease, Armillaria, which is attacking the Oak Trees in our community. This disease was the cause of the tree accident that occurred in the neighborhood. It is prevalent in Western Maryland. She will communicate with the Maryland Forestry Board, and provide information on how to identify this tree disease.

With no other questions, the meeting was recessed for the vote tally by the CCA Election Committee. Election Chair Stephen Tull announced the results as follows:

Melanie Smith 52 votes
Martin H. Simon 262 votes.

Martin thanked the Election Committee members Chairman Stephen Tull, Joanne Olsen, Bill Saperro, Mike Eppinger, and Kathleen Wert Santoro.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (June 9, 2022)

MS/(tg)