

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)
February 14, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Staff: Larry Schweinsburg, Chief Earl Fox, Tara Gottschalck.

Larry Schweinsburg opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by the President:

On February 17, 2022, 7:00 PM, at the Waugh Chapel Village Commons Community Center, Andrew Pruski will hold a meeting with area community leaders and interested parties and the owners of the Capitol Raceway to discuss their business operations and the impact on the surrounding communities. Marsha Perry will attend.

On March 8, 2022, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM, the Crofton Chamber of Commerce will host a blood drive at their offices at 2621 Espey Court.

On March 26, 2022, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the CCA will host its Cherry Blossom Festival around Crofton Parkway. There will be live music, a face painter, food trucks and educational exhibits.

On April 9, 2022, at 12:00 PM, the CCA will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Crofton Elementary School. The rain date is scheduled for 4/16/22.

On May 14, 2022, 10:00 AM, the CCA will host the annual Armed Forces/First Responders Parade. The Parade will begin at Crofton Woods Elementary School and end at Crofton Elementary School.

On June 5, 2022, at 6:00 PM, the CCA Summer Concert Series will begin at the Crofton Country Club.

On June 11, at 8:00 AM, Crofton Kiwanis will host its 5/10 K Challenge around Crofton Parkway. Registration will begin at 6:30 AM at the Crofton Country Club.

Martin reported that he and Rob have been working on submitting the paperwork for a legislative bond initiative request from the State that would help modernize our park equipment at Swann Park and the park at The Willows. On February 4 Martin presented the request before the Anne Arundel Delegation of the House. He thanked Delegate Bagnall and Senator Reilly for their bipartisan cross-sponsorship of this initiative. Martin also thanked Cailey Locklair for her support. If fully granted this will provide an additional \$280,000 to the \$50,000

that has already been saved for this project, which could enable construction to begin this summer.

Martin reported that he is exploring ideas with the County to offset the tax bill for the front property purchase. He hopes to report good news on this next month.

Martin thanked Renee for assisting Town Hall with accounting duties, and interviewing candidates for the Comptroller position. The position is still open. Anyone interested can contact Town Hall.

Martin appointed five volunteers for the CCA Election Committee. There are representatives from all five districts. The election will be held on May 16, with a filing deadline of March 30. The Committee will have their organizational meeting tomorrow to elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

Approval of Minutes:

Martin announced that the Board meeting minutes of the January 18 CCA Board and General Membership Meeting are not ready yet. They will be added to the agenda for Board approval at the meeting next month.

Committee Reports:

Covenant Review Committee - Anna-

Anna reported on a fence replacement project on Elwyn Avenue. The homeowner did not seek approval until the day before installation. The request did not contain sufficient information for approval. The fence installation was completed the next day. The Committee agreed that they would not approve it.

Hal asked if it is possible for the Committee to have the fence removed. Anna responded that the Committee has no authority to have the homeowner take it down. She added that surrounding neighbors may take legal action if they wish to.

Daria asked if it would be worthwhile to post reminders on the website to make homeowners aware that approvals are needed. Anna commented that the homeowner was aware, however, did not apply for approval until the project was already in progress.

Public Safety Committee - Brian-

Brian reported that the Committee is closely monitoring Bill 16-22, the establishment of the Police Accountability Board. There is a public hearing scheduled for March 7.

Recreation Committee – Daria-

Daria has nothing to report. Martin mentioned that he directed the volunteers that were not needed for the Election Committee to the Recreation Committee which always needs volunteers.

Planning & Zoning – Chuck –

Chuck reported on January 25 through 27 there were hearings by the County Court of Appeals regarding the Halle Landfill. These were regarding appeals for variances granted for a time

extension of a previously approved rubble landfill, and an appeal of the additional granting of a variance for a time extension for a sand and gravel operation. This is a very complicated issue has been ongoing for 33 years.

The Board of Appeals will hold additional meetings concerning the time extension request for the landfill, including the extension's impact on the neighborhood, March 1, 2, and 3, 2022. There is a possibility these meetings will include a public comment portion. Crofton First has been following this closely.

Chuck mentioned if time allows he will try to attend the meeting on the Capitol Raceway.

Marsha Perry reported that she and Pat Huecker were reviewing documents from the ruling at the last hearing from 2017 on the Halle Landfill. She plans to attend the March 1 meeting. She clarified that while the hearing is open for citizen comment, the Board is not accepting any written comment. The hearings will be held at the Arundel Center in the County Council Chambers.

Marsha Perry reported on the Millersville Park project. There were two ZOOM meetings held to discuss this issue. One with the former Millersville Homeowners Association members and Jessica Haire and the second meeting with Steuart Pittman and his staff. Tomorrow is the deadline to comment on the LPPRP (Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan) draft plan of December 2021. It will determine land use in Anne Arundel County in the future. Marsha commented on it on her own, not as associated with the CCA. The County Council ruled against using the land for the Coppermine Tennis Facility in October. Youth athletic representatives in the County are lobbying for more ball fields. The Millersville Homeowners Association asked for CCA Board support. Marsha explained that the Board cannot take a position; however, Jessica Haire and Andrew Pruski understand there is interest in this issue. The Millersville residents are not opposed to the land being used for recreational purposes, but would rather it is used for leisure activities such as hiking and biking, not activities that require large parking areas.

Marsha reported that she received letters from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and from Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, regarding the attachment of 140 acres of forested land to the Patuxent refuge preserve. It has ecological and economic value. Marsha responded that she would report it to the CCA.

Marsha reported that Fred Tuttmann was removed from Patuxent River Association by Governor Hogan. Marsha cannot find out why. His replacement is the owner of Homestead Gardens.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has two bills that are being heard by the legislators. If passed, the bills make the Patuxent River Commission a voting member of the commission. Since there are twenty-two co-sponsors for the bills she expects that they will pass.

Maintenance and Operations – Rob -

Rob thanked Martin for his help on the park equipment funding.

Rob presented the design plan and pricing from Ballard Landscaping for the front entrance. Rob would like Board members to review it for feedback, and then vote on it over email in the upcoming weeks. Rob explained that the existing brick footers will remain since they house the electrical systems for lighting. Rob described the mix of plantings, which will be of varying heights. Anna commented that the new plantings are generally lower maintenance than what was there before. Rob stated that the planting costs are \$25,661. The lighting costs are \$2,475. There is a design fee of \$1,875 which was already paid that will be refunded if we go with this design. The estimate is a bit more than the \$20,000 planned. The Board can discuss ways to approach this.

Hal asked about the rain garden. Rob said that the rain garden is separate from this landscaping project, and does require periodic maintenance. Daria asked if the new lighting plan will increase the visibility of the curb area on Crawford Boulevard. As of now it is very difficult to see where the curb is, especially when crossing over Route 3. Rob said that some of the lighting is along the curb, so it will help with visibility, but it is a good idea to consider reflectors on the curb. Martin asked if Larry checked with the County regarding the reflectors. Larry commented that since the curb is the responsibility of the County, he will check with them. Cailey Locklair offered her assistance in dealing with County Traffic Engineering. Martin asked if Renee and Larry would review the budget to determine where additional funding may be found for this project. He commented that there may be other ways to offset the cost, such as having community volunteers assist with demolition. Rob also mentioned that reducing the amount and size of the stone work could help reduce costs. Rob will email the proposal and costs to the Board.

Education Committee – Hal-

Hal reported there is a temporary substitute Principal at Crofton Woods Elementary. The current Principal is recovering from surgery. There is a Skate Night scheduled for February 28. There is a Book Fair scheduled for March 7 to 11. On March 7 and 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held at Crofton Middle School. The school musical is looking for ads and sponsorship.

Finance Committee - Renee-

Renee reported that she is still assisting Town Hall with accounting duties while the search for a replacement Comptroller continues. She is also assisting with the interviewing process. She will follow up with Chief Fox on the status of the body camera equipment.

Greater Crofton Council - Jim- No report.

Police Chief Report - Chief Fox –

Chief Fox reported that the body cameras were ordered today. The funding for the equipment is from a State grant in the amount of \$46,849.76. The first payment of \$15,617.70 is due April 2022. The next payment of \$15,616 is due July 2022. The final payment is due in October 2022. Once the reports are filed, the State will then send reimbursement. After two and a half years the company, Axon, will run updates on all the equipment. Upgrades will be run again at the five year mark, at which time the Police Department will own the cameras outright. The Department will need to pay for licensing and cloud data storage costing approximately \$8,300 per year. Chief Fox recommended that these costs be considered in the Public Safety Budget moving forward. Martin commented that they will be included in the FY24 budget, and he is

hopeful there will be additional grants available in the future to support this program since it is State mandated.

Hal asked if there are replacements available for damaged equipment. The Chief believes that the included upgrades will cover any maintenance. The Chief responded that there will be two additional spare cameras in case of damage. If a camera is damaged by a suspect, restitution will go through the court system. There will be a total of seven cameras.

Martin asked about training. The Chief said training will begin by reviewing a film, then a training day will follow. He estimates that the cameras will be up and running by the end of May or early June.

Renee asked how the data is stored and retrieved. The Chief responded that Axon provides the cloud storage. The officers will have training on how to retrieve the evidence data. The Chief clarified that this is included as part of the purchased package.

The Chief reported that the new officer will be starting on March 4. He will begin training with the County at that time.

Town Manager's Report - Larry-

Larry reported that he has completed and sent out the official letters of invitation to local government and public safety officials requesting their participation in the Armed Forces/First Responders Parade in May. Kathy takes care of the remaining invitations.

Larry reported that the County has begun the demolition and repair of driveway aprons and sidewalks within the community. At the request of a resident, he contacted DPW in an attempt to gather specific information on the project, but could not get through to anyone at the County.

Larry has begun his annual spring maintenance pothole report for the County.

Larry reported that the sink hole by the drain on Crofton Parkway and Duke of Kent Drive has been repaired.

Larry has been in contact with DPW regarding the remaining clean up of tree debris in the community. DPW has acknowledged their delays due to staff limitations; however they are in the process of catching up.

Citizen Questions or Comments:

Karen Nelson thanked Chief Fox for handling the parking issues in the community.

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

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (March 2, 2022)

LS/EF(tg)