

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)
December 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Martin Simon, Anna O’Kelly, Brian Riley, Renee Speer, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, James Harvey, 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 December 24, 2021, Town Hall will be closed for Christmas.

On December 31, 2021, Town Hall will be closed for New Years Eve.

On January 17, 2022, Town Hall will be closed for Martin Luther King Day.

On January 18, 2022, a CCA Board and General Membership meeting will be held by ZOOM.

Approval of Minutes:

Martin announced that the Board meeting minutes from November 2 need to be approved. A motion was made by Anna to approve the minutes. Renee seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee – Daria-

Daria reported that the Tree Lighting with Santa event went very well. The weather was good, and it was very well attended. There were 150 gift bags that were given out in the first half hour. There was \$178 donated to AVFD.

Planning & Zoning – Chuck –

Chuck reported that the County Executive forwarded a letter to the County Council requesting the transfer of property on Conway Road to the Board of Education for the construction of the new elementary school. This should help prevent access to the proposed Chesapeake rubble landfill.

Chuck mentioned that Andrew Pruski intends to reschedule the meeting with the owners of the Capital Raceway for later December or early January.

Marsha Perry reported that Mark Smith has written an article that will be published in the next week on the Chesapeake Landfill. She will provide copies to the Board.

Marsha reported that the owners of Giant have not yet determined or published who will be coming to their space which they own, after their move to Crofton Center. They have confirmed that it will not be another grocery store.

Marsha commented that she was present for the Capital Raceway meeting with Andrew Pruski though the owners were not. It was mostly a discussion by community representatives regarding what the community's problems are with the Raceway. The owners have since said they would attend, but had very limited availability. Because the raceway season is nearing it's end, the issues are being tabled for a later meeting with the owners or their attorney. She mentioned the concern about the Capital Raceway schedule from others on the Public Relations Council. The FOPIA has been paying all attorney costs in this decades long battle and are seeking help from other community organizations to assist with the costs. Two Rivers has the most to lose, but have not yet contributed any money.

Marsha will attend a hearing on the Halle Landfill on January 25.

Education Committee – Hal-

Crofton Woods Elementary held a successful Turkey Trot Fundraiser in order to raise money for individually sealed child masks. Their concert was held on December 1. The PTA will hold a spirit night on December 13. The school has reported 30 Covid cases.

Crofton Middle School has begun it's non-athletic clubs and intramural sports now that they are able to provide bus transportation. They will hold it's chorus and band concerts on December 13 and 15.

Covenant Review Committee - Anna-

Anna reported on the issue regarding a trailer renting travel business. The residents met with the Committee, and notified them that they have sold their two trailers.

Maintenance and Operations – Rob -

Rob thanked Brian's crew for their efforts on the mulch spreading at the Willows. There was 30 yards of mulch that was spread. The Boy Scout volunteer was not available.

Rob commented on the anticipated new design for the main entrance. He reported that the Committee has accepted the contract from Ballard Landscape Design, and is waiting on their proposed plan. Rob will follow up with them regarding the submittal date. Martin asked about the agreed start date once the plan is approved. Rob said they needed six days.

Public Safety Committee - Brian-

Brian had nothing to report.

Greater Crofton Council - Jim-

Jim reported that the next GCC meeting will be held on January 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Center. He will attend.

Jim reported on the CCA fundraisers. The Ledo Pizza fundraiser was 30% of sales. He is waiting to hear back from the owner, and will get this information tomorrow. The other fundraiser is for First Aid kits. The kits come in different types and sizes, and can be ordered from a link from the CCA website. So far the CCA has made about \$200. It will run until December 31, and may possibly bring in an additional \$100. Martin commented that there seemed to be a good turnout at Ledo's. He thanked Jim for all his work on the fundraisers.

Finance Committee - Renee-

Renee reported that she will be assisting with the hiring of the new Comptroller. She has been reviewing applicant resumes, and will participate in the interview process.

Police Chief Report - Chief Fox –

The Chief reported a recent rash of break-ins of cars at the town homes on Dryden and Carlyle. There was a theft from an open garage on Wickham. A car was stolen from a resident on Albermarle. The car was found, and the driver was arrested.

The Chief reported that the Crofton Police Department has completed it's training on the new report writing system, which is a web based design.

A grant in the amount of \$51,000 has been provided by the State of Maryland Office of Crime Control for the required body camera equipment for the police department.

The Chief reported that the ongoing case with the officer has been resolved. This will allow for the hiring of a new officer. Cpl. Cabraja is working on an on-line application through Indeed.com. Additionally, the Chief will review some previous applicants and determine if they are still interested in the open position.

Daria asked about the resolution of the case. The Chief said he will provide the details in the Executive Session after the Board meeting.

Town Manager's Report - Larry-

Larry reported that Charlie was very appreciative that Brian's group dealt with the mulch spreading at the Willows.

Larry reported that the resignation of Susan Myers as Comptroller/Assistant Town Manager is a great loss. The Comptroller position has been advertised on the Listserv with no response. An advertisement for the position has been posted to Indeed.com. There have been 20 responses so far. There are at least 7 potential candidates to interview. There were 6 additional applicants today. Larry will go over these.

Larry reported that The Advocate content was completed and finalized with Daniels Printing on December 8. Daniels will have the completed printed and labeled newsletters at Town Hall by December 27. Larry will deliver them at the mail center on December 28.

Larry attended the Cherry Blossom Festival meeting at Town Hall on Friday December 10. Jim will report more on this.

Martin asked about the interview process for the Comptroller position. Larry said that he would like Martin and Renee to participate in the interviewing of potential candidates. Martin would like to begin the interviews the week of December 21.

Jim Harvey talked about the Cherry Blossom Festival meeting last week. In attendance were Martin, Larry, Kathy, Jim, Tara, and Claudia West. The Festival is scheduled for March 26, 2022 from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The idea for the festival is to encourage people to walk around the Crofton Parkway by providing activity stations throughout. There will be food trucks, face painting, music, etc. The CVGC will have a station with an arborist to talk about the cherry trees. There will be other organizations who will participate; Crofton Kiwanis, Kindness Grows Here, the CCC, nSprout, Harvest Time, and School of Rock. The budget will be \$1200, which will include two port-a-potties placed around Crofton Parkway, a face painter, and signs. Kathy has verified that there is enough in the Recreation budget to cover this. The next steps are to get Board approval. Jim will need to knock on doors to get permission from residents to have the bathrooms placed in front of their homes. He will put together a map for attendees of the festival. The CVGC will encourage residents to plant more cherry trees, and provide information on how to care for them.

Martin said that a vote would be required from the Board. Jim motioned to have the Cherry Blossom Festival on March 26, 2022, with a cost of \$1200. Hal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Anna asked if any insurance s needed. Jim said that he would look into getting a rider from Living in the Triangle insurance policy.

Jim will verify with James Kitchin if a permit is needed for the Port-a-potties.

Citizen Questions or Comments:

Marsha Perry asked for clarification of the new Comptroller position. She wished to know if the new candidate will also be an assistant to the Town Manager. Martin said no, the employment opportunity is for a Comptroller only. Marsha commented that the job description of the Town Manager will need to be looked at with the filing of the new position. Martin agreed.

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

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (January 5, 2021)

LS/EF(tg)