

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
First Baptist Church, Crofton  
December 12, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** Anna O’Kelly, Marsha Perry, Brian Riley, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, Stephen Tull, Robert Kendall, and Hal Sheldon.

**Staff:** Martin H. Simon, James Harvey, and Tara Gottschalck.

President Anna O’Kelly opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements by the President Anna O’Kelly:**

Anna announced that this meeting is being recorded to assist the secretary with transcribing the minutes.

The Crofton Winter Farmer’s Market will begin on select Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Church on December 17<sup>th</sup> , and January 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Town Hall will be closed on December 26<sup>th</sup> , January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, for Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The CCA General Membership and Board Meeting will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the First Baptist Church, in the large room. This meeting is in person only, and the FY24 Budgets for the CCA and Tax District will be presented.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Anna asked if there are any comments or questions regarding the minutes of CCA Board meeting of October 10, 2022 that was distributed electronically in November, with suggested corrections. There were no additional corrections needed. The minutes were filed.

**Town Manager’s Report** – Martin H. Simon

Martin reported that the County Forestry Board has completed the planting of 1,668 native trees and shrubs at the front yard. The paperwork for the Forest Conservation easement is still with the County legal department and is expected to be completed soon. He thanked the County team that made this project possible. He thanked Jen Fisher, the County arborist who was instrumental in this process, for her additional assistance in touring the community to identify trees in poor health. As a result, he will report a number of trees to DPW for removal, and others on CCA property that will need to be taken care of.

Martin reported that the stolen Japanese Maple at the front entrance has been replaced. In addition, the Willow Oak on Old Willow Way that died has been replaced. Jen Fisher also assisted here, providing the tree to us at no cost.

Martin reported a large sink hole that has been discovered by a resident in the common area of The Orchards. It is over 25 feet in length and under a fence. It is suspected that it may have been a dumping area for construction material when the community was built. It cannot be repaired until it is determined how far down the tunnels go. It will be a costly repair since it is not covered by insurance. It cannot be repaired until the total length and depth is determined. Martin will provide updates on the progress.

Martin reported that the final draft of the December Advocate has been sent to the printer. It is our larger issue that contains the FY24 Budgets. This issue has been extended to 16 pages, and now incorporates 8 advertisements for local businesses, which has generated \$1,325 in revenue. It is scheduled to be mailed the last week of December.

### **Comptroller's Report** – James Harvey

Jim reported that we received a payment from the County for \$852,479.93, which is 67.5% of the \$1,262,200 that we requested. Last year the first payment was a little over 64%. The remaining \$409,729.07 is to be paid to the CSCBD at the end of February (deposited in the first week of March last year.) The AA County Finance office asked that we send them a copy of the new Bond in January at \$3,000,000 in coverage to avoid any withholding.

Jim clarified that we are earning 2.5% interest on all money in the ICS accounts. The money market makes whatever the prevailing rate is at the time at Sandy Spring. Right now, there is more than \$1,000,000 in the ICS account earning that 2.5%.

Jim reported that he cancelled the ADP HR package and the Comptroller joined SRHM for HR policy material access, saving a net of \$2,300 per year and providing better source material for employee policy changes that are being drafted for the Board to review in the Spring of 2023.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Recreation Committee** – Daria DeLizio

Daria reported that the Holiday party and visit with Santa was a great event and was very well attended. There was a malfunction of the tree lights, which the Crofton Country Club has not yet repaired.

#### **Greater Crofton Council** – Chuck See

Chuck reported that the next GCC meeting is tomorrow. He will attend.

Marsha asked about the new leadership. Chuck said the last meeting there was much discussion about the President's poor health, and who might replace them. He mentioned that they wish to begin a better outreach to the homeowner's associations who once participated, but no longer do.

#### **Covenant Review Committee** – Stephen Tull

The Committee approved an addition to a home on Swinburne.

#### **Maintenance and Operations** – Rob Kendall

Rob thanked Martin for the tree replacement. The bond initiatives are coming up for the park equipment. He has received a second set of estimates and plans.

**Education Committee** – Hal Sheldon

Hal reported on area schools. Crofton Woods Elementary will hold winter concerts this year. All County schools will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> for winter break. The School Superintendent of Schools, Mark Bedell, will be at Crofton High School on January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This is a listening and learning session

Hal added that the shortage of County personnel continues for crossing guards, bus drivers, teachers, food service, and custodial employees.

Face masks are optional in County schools.

**Public Safety Committee** – Brian Riley

Brian had nothing to report.

**Police Chief Report** – Chief Earl Fox – No report.

Martin commented that Chief Fox and Sgt. Jett are out with Covid. Cpl. Sims remains negative so far. The officer that was due to start last week has decided to remain with the Sheriff's Department. The Crofton Police Department is in communication with Anne Arundel County police regarding the recent break-ins in the community. The perpetrator has not been caught.

**Planning & Zoning** – Marsha Perry

Marsha reported that she was approached by the HOA of Crofton Colony for her assistance. The Colony wants a retention pond for storm runoff. Toll Brothers does not want to install one. The development was constructed during the Schuh administration. The engineers did not do a good job of mitigating storm water runoff. Marsha and the Crofton Colony met with James Kitchin to try to negotiate a solution. The County is worried that Toll brothers might sue them. Crofton Colony appointed a civil engineer, Scott King, who oversees the erosion task force. The County Executive visited the site and agreed there must be a flow at a sustainable level that does not require any additional mediation. There are no sidewalks or drainage ditches, so the overflow goes to the Crofton Colony across the street. Marsha will continue to report on this.

Marsha reported that Pat Huecker is now a Board member of GAN.

Marsha has attended legislative meetings of the Sierra Club, The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the League of Women voters to determine what environmental issues are of concern. They all have legislative committees that are concerned with lot size and development, just as we are. There is a consensus trying to get their developers to adhere to the environmental statutes of their areas. Currently there is a case before Supreme court to get The EPA to enforce laws on small lots.

Marsha reported on the proposed Millersville Park. The community has concerns with the traffic study that was done. There is a meeting in January with the stakeholders.

**Finance Committee** – Renee Speer – No Report

**Other Business**

Jim followed up on information sent out to Board members regarding the naming or dedication of the front property. He checked with the County. A sign or plaque does not require approval from the County as long as it is placed outside of the easement. There is interest in naming the property in memory of resident Dick Lahn. Jim will send out a link with information on his life.

**Citizen Questions or Comments-**

Littany Hollerback mentioned a safety concern in the area of Crofton Woods Elementary School, during daily drop off and pick up. Drivers are concerned with pedestrians in the street and not walking on the sidewalks, or not crossing in the crosswalk areas. Martin suggested an email to residents from the police department.

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

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (January 6, 2023)

MS/JH/EF(tg)