

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)
May 9, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Staff: Chief Earl Fox, Tara Gottschalck.

Martin announced that this meeting is being recorded for the purpose of assisting the Secretary with the recording of the meeting minutes.

Chloe Gottschalck opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by the President:

Martin announced that early voting for the CCA board of Directors elections starts today and ends on Friday. Voting is open at Town Hall during regular business hours from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Wednesday and Thursday. Absentee Ballots are available by email upon request. Martin thanked Marcus Ladny for the donation of a ballot box.

On May 12 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM the CCA Election Committee will host a Candidates Night by ZOOM, featuring Presidential candidates. This meeting will be moderated by the Election Committee Chair, Stephen Tull. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Town Hall by 5:00 PM on Wednesday. If you wish to submit questions for the candidates, you may email them directly to Stephen Tull by 5:00 PM on Wednesday.

On May 14 at 10 AM, the CCA will host its Armed Forces/First Responders Parade. The Parade begins at Crofton Woods Elementary School and ends at Crofton Elementary School. There will be a celebration afterward at the backyard of Town Hall.

On May 16 the CCA will have its General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Elections from 5 PM to 9 PM at the First Baptist Church. This meeting will be held in person. Polling begins at 5 PM. The General Membership Meeting begins at 7:30 PM and ends at 9:00 PM.

On June 5 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the CCA Summer Concert Series will begin, featuring *Pocket Change*, at the Crofton Country Club.

On June 11 at 8 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 parking lot.

Martin thanked the Board members for their assistance at the CCA tent at Saturday's Festival on the Green. There were many people who visited the tent and signed up for volunteering and the CCA Listserv. He thanked Corporal Jett and Officer Simms for their attendance and support. They were a big hit with the children who ran the lights and the sirens. It was a great community outreach event.

Martin also participated in an event with County Executive Pittman, and Dr. Sroka of the Village Green Property Association. County Executive Pittman presented a County infrastructure grant for \$310,000 for the enhanced water delivery system needed for Village Green. This will pave the way to revitalize and draw new businesses and food establishments to the Village Green. It would also benefit the CCA if it decides to relocate Town Hall to the Village Green in the future.

Approval of Minutes:

Martin announced that the Board meeting minutes of the April 11 CCA Board meeting need to be approved. A motion was made by Anna to approve the minutes. Hal seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Covenant Review Committee - Anna-
Anna had nothing to report.

Recreation Committee – Daria-
Daria had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning – Chuck –

Chuck reported that the County is holding their FY 2023 budget meeting tonight in Annapolis, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. There is a second and final budget meeting on May 18, from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. The location has not yet been disclosed. This will be the last public meeting where citizens can comment.

Chuck reported that on May 2, the County Council voted on Bill 31-22, which passed with an 8-0 vote. This bill changed the zoning of the 4 mile radius around Fort Meade (up to 60 parcels of land). This was concerning as this bill was pushed through in one month. After the last election it was reported that all procedures for new development will be followed. This was pushed through before anyone in the community could digest the information. Nothing was presented to the Planning Review Board or presented by the County Council. This process has been skipped. This bill allows for higher density on these parcels, which now allow 15 units per acre, instead of 6. It has been reported that Fort Meade has created over 10,000 jobs, and that there has been a high demand for housing in the area.

Maintenance and Operations – Rob -

Rob reported on the progress of the Front Entrance. There were water and electricity issues that needed to be worked out. Martin added that the electricity has been turned back on. Some of the previous irrigation hoses need replacing. Sprinklers have been modified to cover for the interim, until the irrigation system is repaired. An estimate has been submitted for the

trimming of the Magnolia tree. Martin and Renee reviewed the budget to ensure there is enough coverage to fund these items.

Education Committee – Hal-

Hal reported that the Principal of Crofton Woods is retiring and will be replaced by Ms. Laurie Austin, who has been an educator since 1998, and part of the AACPS school system since 2009. Crofton Woods will host STEM day on May 5, and Community Service Day on June 3.

Hal reported that Crofton Middle School is sprucing up it's entrance by the Green Club. They will host a talent show on May 16 for 8th graders. Two students are moving on to the Maryland National History Day Challenge.

Finance Committee - Renee-

Renee reported that the recent budget review indicates that there are additional funds in salaries due to recent staff departure. Martin thanked Renee for her help and expertise.

Greater Crofton Council - Jim- No report.

Public Safety Committee - Brian- No report.

Police Chief Report - Chief Fox –

Chief Fox addressed the Board regarding the articles published in the Advocate. He spoke to the President and Treasurer about his concerns that those articles could be taken the wrong way. He understands there may be questions about how the Williams case was handled. He invited all Board members to speak to him personally so he can address any questions or concerns about the police process, and determine the best way to move forward so that the transition with new Town Hall staff goes smoothly. Martin thanked the Chief for his comments.

Town Manager's Report – Martin

Martin reported that the search for a Town Manager has begun, and he has picked up some duties in the interim. Brian Riley is in charge of the applicants for this position. The advertisement for the positions of Comptroller and Maintenance Foreman continues. Interviews will be set up soon.

Martin had a meeting with residents Littany Hollerback, Joi Howard, and Susan Fugate. They proposed ideas about how to use the Front Property. Martin reported that he has just recently received a communication from the County on the Forest Easement proposal to use the land in a way to alleviate the tax burden on the residents. He has not yet reviewed it, but will report on it more at the General Membership Meeting next week. Once this is in place, we can move forward on the land usage.

Martin reported on a meeting with Terry from the CAC. He asked if the CCA could hand over the water system to them at their expense. This will save the CCA some money, and allow the CAC to improve the condition of Hardy Field.

Chuck commented on the overgrown bushes at Clubhouse Gate, and asked if these will be trimmed back, or if a landscape plan is being discussed. Martin responded that they wished to install new plantings in keeping with the front entrance redesign; however, this could not be

included in the current budget. The trimming of the current plantings has been scheduled by Jams.

Board Business-

Martin reported that the Board has reviewed estimates for replacement security cameras at Town Hall. He commented that for an additional amount of \$785, the storage back up could be increased from 16 TB to 28TB. The initial quote did not include the backup.

Martin asked for a motion from the Board to move forward getting this work done. Renee motioned to increase the storage for the security cameras. Anna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Questions or Comments-

Melanie complimented the new plantings at the front entrance. She suggested further that the CCA partner with the Crofton Country Club to spruce up and repair the areas around the community, especially where there are plantings overgrown onto Crofton Parkway. She suggested working with the Country Club manager, and pointed out that several people on this call are club members.

Melanie also thanked Chief Fox, Sergeant Cabraja, and all the Crofton Police Department officers for removing the homeless man camped behind Patrice Circle. It was a very dangerous situation.

Martin also thanked Chief Fox, and thanked his wife Julie for her assistance in helping him clean up the campsite. He also agreed with Melanie regarding the Country Club clean up and maintenance of their property. This has been an ongoing concern, and the Board will continue to make those requests.

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (May 25, 2022)

MS/EF(tg)