

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)  
November 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

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

**Staff:** Larry Schweinsburg, Susan Myers, Tara Gottschalck.

Larry Schweinsburg opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements by the President:**

Martin announced that the CCA Board meetings are recorded for the purpose of assisting the secretary in the transcribing of the minutes. Minutes are approved usually at the next Board meeting, if available. Once approved by the Board they are posted to the CCA website.

Martin thanked the Crofton Chamber of Commerce for their annual Community Awards Dinner. The CCA presented the Citizen of the Year award to Melanie Smith.

On November 10 at 7 PM, at the Blue Dolphin, the Crofton Kiwanis will sponsor a community meeting featuring County Executive Steuart Pittman who will speak to County residents.

On November 15 the CCA will hold a fundraiser at Ledo’s Pizza in Crofton from 4 PM until 9 PM.

The CCA Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Party is tentatively scheduled for November 29 at the Crofton Country Club. We are waiting on confirmation from Club management. More information will be provided as the event gets closer.

On December 8 the Crofton Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Blood Drive from noon until 5 PM at 2126 Espey Court.

On December 13 at 7 PM, the CCA will hold the next Board of Directors meeting via ZOOM.

Martin introduced Dawn Pulliam, a Crofton resident who is running for County Council. Dawn was having technical issues and could not participate in the meeting. Martin invited her to speak at our next Board meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Martin announced that the minutes from the September 20 General Membership Meeting and the October 4 Board meeting need to be approved.

A motion was made by Brian to approve the minutes of the September 20 General Membership Meeting. Anna seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Anna to approve the minutes of the October 4 Board meeting. Jim seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**FY23 Budget:**

Susan commented on the revision to the CCA FY23 budget with regards to the \$19,975 from the front entrance insurance funds, which has now been added to the budget.

There was another addition of \$3,874 from the Recreation Escrow account to be used for playground equipment, etc. This is a projected budget of \$30,170. If it is not used it can still remain in the budget.

Jim motioned for approval of the CCA FY23 Budget as amended. Renee seconded the motion. The CCA FY23 budget was unanimously approved.

Martin commented that the Board worked to present a thorough but frugal budget this year given the increase to the taxes from the Front Property purchase.

Larry commented that the initial proposed budget for CSCBD FY23 was presented to the Board on October 12. The first draft increased the budget from \$1,171,667 in FY22 to \$1,223,518, an increase of \$51,851 (4.4%). When presented, it was acknowledged that the Board would make adjustments to reduce the final FY23 budget increase and would keep the increase under the 4% cap, which is what occurred.

The initial adjustments to the proposed budget, as directed by the Board, following the first budget meeting were as follows: The increase in the SEP (Simplified Employee Pension) was decreased from 2% to 1%. Line Item 532 (Police Gas and Oil) was reduced from \$13,500 to \$11,000. Line 535 (Reserve for Police Vehicle Replacement) was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000. These adjustments reduced the initial proposed budget from \$1,223,518 to \$1,209,032. That reduced the total increased for FY23 to \$37,365, an increase of 3.19%.

On October 25 the County Budget Office advised us that the Assessable Tax Base for our community had been adjusted which left us with a reduction of approximately \$19,000 in projected revenue for FY23. We also determined that a \$5,000 expenditure from Reserve Funds had erroneously been included twice in two different categories.

The effect of these two items was to bring the FY23 expenditures and revenues out of balance. It was determined that we had two options available to bring them into balance. One option was to raise the expenditure level which would in turn require an increase in the tax rate to .101. The other option was to decrease the expenditure level and set the tax rate at .100. The decrease required would only be \$3,320.

Larry commented that in the interest of the taxpayers the right thing to do was to reduce the expenditures and the tax rate and recommended that option to the Board. The final revised budget is in accord with that option. The revenue and expenditures are in balance at

\$1,888,712 and the tax rate will be .100. The total increase in the budget between FY22 and FY23 ended up being \$34,045, so the percent of increase is 2.9%.

Brian made a motion to approve the FY23 CSCBD Budget as amended. Renee seconded the motion. The FY23 CSCBD Budget was unanimously approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Covenant Review Committee** - Anna-

Anna had nothing to report.

#### **Public Safety Committee** - Brian-

Brian mentioned the Listserv notice sent out last week. There have been a number of vehicle break-ins in the Crofton Woods area. He reminded everyone to please remove their valuables and lock their cars.

Melanie commented that at the Kiwanis meeting she will be asking County Executive Pittman and Chief Awad (if present) what coordination is taking place between the Anne Arundel County Police and the Prince George's County Police regarding these incidents. She stated that there is a pattern to these crimes in the Crofton Woods neighborhood.

#### **Maintenance and Operations** – Rob -

Rob reported the Fall Clean-Up Day was very successful. He thanked Park Rejuvenation Committee members for their efforts on the installation of the pollinator garden at Swann Park. The volunteers were able to spread 6 tons gravel and 20 yards of mulch at Swann Park and Hardy Field. Rob is in contact with the Boy Scouts regarding volunteer mulch spreading at The Willows. The original scout is away at college, so they are hoping to find another volunteer.

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 was unsure if it is early enough for Ballard to complete a fall planting, given the weather is getting colder.

#### **Planning & Zoning** – Chuck –

Chuck reminded everyone to please attend the Kiwanis meeting on Wednesday, November 10, at 7:00 PM, with the County Executive to find out about things going on in the County, and particularly in the Route 3 corridor.

Chuck reported that the owner/operator of the Capital Raceway did not show up to the meeting that was scheduled in early October with Andrew Pruski, and other local business owners. Andrew Pruski's office is attempting to reschedule this meeting regarding the business hours and practices for the Raceway.

Chuck reported on the pre-submittal meeting held by the County on October 14 for a discussion of the properties located at 1072-1074 Maryland Route 3. The proposed development is called the Village at Little Patuxent and is to be located approximately a few hundred feet from Capital Raceway. There are three lots proposed: a four-story condo

building, two over two style; a 2,400 square-foot fast food restaurant; and a 10,000 square-foot child care center.

**Recreation Committee** – Daria-  
Daria had nothing to report.

**Education Committee** – Hal-No report.

**Greater Crofton Council** - Jim-  
Jim reported that the next GCC meeting will be held on January 11, 2022.  
Jim reported the launching of a CCA fundraiser this week. It is for emergency First Aid kits. The kits come in different types and sizes, and can be ordered from a link from the CCA website. Martin thanked Jim for all his work on the recent fundraisers.

**Finance Committee** - Renee-  
Renee reported that she has drafted a proposal for time keeping for Town Hall personnel. Once ready this draft will be presented to the Board.

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

**Town Manager's Report** - Larry-  
Larry reported that he met with our tree maintenance contractor at Regime 5 and arranged for more work to be done on trees that are located on CCA property. There will be discussion with Regime 5 about some of the work they want us to do. One of the items is clearly their responsibility. He will confer with Rob before any questionable work is done.

Larry attended a preliminary meeting with Jim, Kathy, Susan, and Tara on October 18 at Town Hall to discuss a possible Cherry Blossom Festival in Crofton next spring. Jim commented the next meeting is scheduled for December 3.

A new gas line has been installed at Town Hall. In the next few weeks the new gas meter will be installed. All costs are being borne by BGE.

Despite the torrential rains the day before, the Halloween parade and the CCA/Kiwanis party in Town Hall backyard went off with no problems.

Kathy Lavin is working on planning for the Tree Lighting and Christmas Party but nothing has been settled at this time. She is also working on securing the use of Crofton Elementary School for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Martin asked Larry about the status of obtaining Body Cameras for the Police Department. Larry commented that the Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention has approved their grant application. There is some additional information needed, however the grant will provide \$51,000 for the project. Martin commented that in addition, the FY23 budget contains \$31,683 for the Body Camera fund. He added that the data storage portion of the project is expensive. He has been in contact with a few residents who are familiar with this technology and have offered their assistance if needed. Martin thanked Corporal Hafer for his work on the grant application.

**Citizen Questions or Comments:**

On behalf of the Village Green Association, Joseph Friend extended an invitation to the CCA to formally open communications about implementing public access to the front entrance property in order to apply for tax exempt status to the County. Currently the CCA is paying taxes on this 6.9 acre property. Martin stated that he is working with County representatives to find ways to apply for tax exempt status, such as making the property a public space with passive recreation, which will require public access, hopefully from the Village Green. He noted that the CCA does not currently pay taxes on other owned properties within the community. Joseph will forward the contact information for the VGA to him.

The VGA sent a letter to the County Executive's Office saying they were in support of a fire hydrant and water system to be accessed by Village Green. He encouraged residents to reach out to the County Executive at the meeting on Wednesday to support this effort on infrastructure and fire safety. Martin commented that this would benefit all the businesses of Village Green. Jim Harvey asked if the amount needed is still \$300,000. Joseph responded that is the amount needed for the line from the Crofton Country Club to the Village Green. They would then need an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 to connect the line to the Sly Horse Inn.

Melanie Smith thanked Jim Harvey for organizing the Flags for Heroes display at the front entrance. There are 77 flags planted. Jim may have a few more.

Marcia Richard and Claudia West suggested that we make a pocket park at the front entrance property which would include trees that are native to Maryland. They will do some research on this. They stated that there is an organization from which you can obtain six-foot native trees. They would also like to be involved with the Ballard design of the front entrance.

Rob stated that the next meeting of the Maintenance Committee is November 30th. He would like to add Marcia and Claudia to the list for the meeting and to do a walking tour of the property. Marcia will send their plan to Rob so that he can share it with the rest of the Committee. Melanie Smith suggested that the pocket park be named in memory of the late Dick Lahn.

In closing, Martin thanked everyone who worked hard on the budget.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (November 23, 2021)

LS/SM/EF(tg)