

Cochran's Crossing Village Association

Monthly Board Meeting at The Woodlands Township Building

Minutes

April 26, 2022

Members present: Lori Riley, Jim Goldmeyer, Cynthia Kessinger, Shiva Basavanna, Hubert Vaz-Nayak, Amanda Van Dusen, Lisa Doornik, Liberty Christoff, Jaime DiNoia, Terri Larson, Laura Peterson, Pat Lowe, Kayt Sukel, Tricia Danto, Sharon Lavery, and Kathryn D'Andrea. Members not in attendance: JC Harville, Walter Ehrhardt.

Guests: Deputy Carlos Tavarez, Montgomery County Sheriff's office; Erin Redmon and Amy Tidwell, The Woodlands Township; Chief Buck, The Woodlands Fire Department; Vicki Brantley, resident; Paul Nelson, MUD #7 board director candidate; Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, The Woodlands Township.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Vice President Lori Riley. Members present constituted a quorum.

Law Enforcement Report: Deputy Tavarez presented the report for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. In March, there were 991 calls for service in Cochran's Crossing, 7 vehicle accidents, 328 patrol drive-throughs, 8 suspicious person calls, and 11 suspicious vehicle calls. There were 6 welfare checks. Arrests totaled 3. There were 89 vacation watch calls in the village. There were 188 traffic stops made in the village and 5 vehicle burglaries.

He reminded the board that April is Autism Awareness Month. Registration may be made through the dispatch system.

He reminded us of the 9:00 PM routine in locking all car and home doors and to leave nothing in plain view, to enable alarms, and to remove firearms and spare keys from vehicles.

Deputy Tavarez said there are many scams currently. Never pay with a gift card.

He shared a new MOCO Sheriff's office video with the board. He can be reached by phone at 281-297-6523 and 281-210-2025.

The Woodlands Fire Department Report: Chief Buck discussed Emergency Preparedness. Public Safety Open houses are scheduled at Fire Station 2 on Gosling near Research on June 5th from 10-noon and at Fire Station 4 on Bay Branch on June 18th from 1-3 PM. Hurricane season is June-November. Have enough food, water, and medications for at least 72 hours. It may take 3 days to get things back to normal after a hurricane. Tax free weekend this Saturday and Sunday for emergency preparedness includes many items needed, including flashlights. Sign up and get MOCO alerts at MC911.org via your cell phone.

Chief Buck said at least 30%-40% of the maps available to contractors with gas line markings are mislabeled and mismarked. Tachus, Consolidated, and AT&T are actively installing fiber. Frontier might be entering the community market, as well.

The most common cause of house fires is lightning strikes. Fires that start in the attic do not activate smoke and fire alarms quickly. A lightning rod would have to be above the tree line to be beneficial. He said that 2 fire stations have been hit by lightning.

The Woodlands Township Directors Report: Shelley Sekula-Gibbs stated that the 3 Covid testing sites are still available, although she is not sure for how much longer. The Covid positivity rate is way down.

She said stenciling is occurring throughout The Woodlands. Plan to have 800 done by the end of the year.

Variety of other reported information: Pickleball can be reserved online. A needs assessment survey is available and takes about 10 minutes to complete, allowing for any comments. Lifeguards are needed. Pools open 5/14 with a preseason schedule. Spray grounds are now open. Waterway Nights has begun. The plan is to replace 7-8 year old trolleys next year and will be powered by cleaner natural gas. Express Park and Rides continue, although a lot of ridership is from outside of The Woodlands. Cares Act has been/continues to pay for the Park and Rides. Sales tax has been up, which helps keep property taxes low. Hotel occupancy tax is up but not to previous levels being that the business traveler has not returned. Expectation is it will be 2023 before returning to prior Covid levels. Drainage task force cancelled and Township is leaving it to MUDs and others to work on drainage. Referenced the issue of groundwater vs. surface water usage.

Guest Comments: Lori Riley read a statement from the March 30 Township board of directors meeting asking those running for public office not to campaign, hold a debate, or rally on Township property. Candidates may introduce themselves and state what position they are seeking. Lori then asked for Guest comments. Paul Nelson, MUD #7 candidate, introduced himself, said he lives in Panther Creek and has 30-40 years of industry experience with groundwater and surface water issues. Vicki Brantley said that she is a resident present to see what our meetings are like.

Outgoing President's Report: Lori Riley read JC Harville's statements that he'd represented the CCVA at the Emergency Preparedness Event breakfast on April 2, attended the president and officer's meeting with Karen Dempsey to receive answers to village association's election questions (answers emailed to the board), attended the April 13 Cattail Park event, and completed and submitted The Township service agreement with funds (\$12,500) to be released soon. He also responded to 3 emails regarding refinancing and one from a resident regarding tree removal who he referred to Devon at The Township.

JC Harville submitted 3 questions on the agenda to be considered for submission to The Township to be placed in the candidates filing package for future village association elections.

The questions and answers could be used by each village association in a voter's guide on their respective websites, Facebook pages, etc.

The following questions have been used by the board in the past for incoming new members and were proposed and accepted by the board to be submitted for consideration at the May presidents and officers meeting where final questions are planned to be determined for submission to The Township:

1. How long have you lived in Cochran's Crossing?
2. Have you served on a volunteer board like this in the past? If so, please explain.
3. What are ideas you have to improve our service to the residents of Cochran's Crossing?

The Woodlands Township Program Specialist Report: Amy Tidwell and Erin Redmon explained that as liaisons between Village Associations and The Woodlands Township, they would appreciate being made aware of any kind of neighborhood event. They would like to come to the event with the Neighborhood Watch program along with the sheriff and fire departments to aid in neighbors helping neighbors. Each board member was sent an email with dates and times of upcoming events.

Approval of Minutes: Unanimous approval of March board meeting minutes following a motion made by Jim Goldmeyer and seconded by Kayt Sukel.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Goldmeyer presented the treasurer's report for March and for April to date. A deposit of \$482.06 was made to the education fund for a digital sponsorship renewal. Cash balances of \$19,973.22 remained in the General Fund and \$5,796.64 remained in the Education Fund. Jim reported he would remove the Compass income line item of \$25 from the budget. PNC purchased Compass Bank and has not extended the program to nonprofits for holding accounts as Compass did. Jim to change wording from Christmas to Holiday Lighting Contest on the report.

Election of Officers: In following the bylaws, officer positions were elected in the order of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Before electing each office, the candidates gave a short introduction. The candidates were as follows: JC Harville and Tricia Danto for the position of president, Lori Riley and Terri Larson for the position of vice president, Cynthia Kessinger and Jaime DiNoia for the position of secretary, and Jim Goldmeyer and Lisa Doornik for treasurer. Secret ballots were used to elect each position and collected and counted by Amy Tidwell and Erin Redmon of The Township. Results of the election: Tricia Danto, president; Terri Larson, vice president; Jaime DiNoia, secretary; and Lisa Doornik, treasurer.

The above portion of the minutes respectfully submitted by outgoing secretary, Cynthia Kessinger.

Newly elected officers presided over the remainder of the meeting. Due to the change in treasurer officeholder, Jim Goldmeyer must be removed from the association's PNC accounts and Lisa Doornik must be added to the PNC accounts.

Education Committee Report (Cynthia Kessinger):

- (10) Applications (a downslope in interest; CPHS says it's a normal pattern they are seeing too)
- (3) \$500 Scholarships chosen. Cynthia read their names and bios: Aqsa Fayyaz, Victoria Frenzel, and Sofia Ortega. This information will be in the June Woodlands Community Magazine article. The scholarship recipients and families were invited to the May board meeting. Two of the recipients said they will attend, and one was not yet sure whether she would be attending.
- The scholarship recipients have been invited to participate in the 4th of July Parade.

Treasurer Report (Jim Goldmeyer):

- Jim suggests keeping track of volunteer hours of each CCVA board member
- A motion was put forward to continue keeping track by Jim Goldmeyer; Lori Riley seconded to hear a vote from the board; Two votes for yes (Jim and Liberty); Motion denied by votes.

President's Report (Tricia Danto):

1. Cochran's Crossing Pool Party:

- Save the Date: June 11th at Bear Branch from 11-2 (Reported by Tricia)
- Kroger to Donate Water and Cookies (Reported by Cynthia)
- Kona Ice is available with special pricing (Reported by Cynthia)

2. Mission Statement and Committees:

- Three Main Tiers of Our Mission: Community Liaison; Host Events for Community; Education Fund
- (3) CCVA Sub-Committees Needed:
 - Communications Committee
 - Events Committee
 - Education Committee
- All CCVA board members, please send an email to Tricia indicating which committee you want to join. Tricia.Danto@gmail.com
- Sub-committees to meet via Zoom before the May meeting
- Cynthia Kessinger will email the full CCVA roster to Jaime DiNoia

3. Fall Festival Report:

- Date Confirmed: October 23rd at Shadowbend Park

Additional Items + Residential Concerns:

- Amanda Van Dusen: Welding business in neighboring home; business being conducted all hours in the back yard with a lot of noise violations
- Amanda Van Dusen: The board wants an update on combining the two water treatment plants
- New Shirts for the Board were not discussed

Approval of Minutes:

Unanimous approval of March board meeting minutes

Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. by a motion from Amanda Van Dusen with second from Lisa Doornik supported by a unanimous vote

Next Meeting: May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at The Woodlands Township Building