

CA Report to Dorsey's Search Village 2/12/2020

- The Board held a meeting at Oakland Manor to get input from village managers and boards regarding neighborhood centers. The input was very useful and offered positive support for the centers. We will be exploring all options for preserving and enhancing these facilities.
- The Board continues to work on the FY2021-22 budgets. Important votes will come up at the February 20 meeting.
- There is no further news on a new spa tenant at the Haven. Negotiations continue.
- Construction of Symphony Woods pathways will begin shortly. The pathway routes are currently staked out with project completion expected by spring 2020.
- CA hired GKV to conduct marketing research on awareness, reputation and utilization of CA services. Results show respondents have a positive perception of CA. However, data indicate that a marketing relaunch of the Haven is needed due to perception of it as an exclusive, luxury facility. For those interested in the study, it's on the CA website under the Board packet for the December meeting/work session.
- It has been noted that there is confusion among Columbia residents as to who is responsible for various services. The CA website has a page titled "Who Handles What?" that outlines responsibilities of CA, the County and the Villages.
- The Board discussed legislation currently on the docket in Annapolis. It was agreed that CA has an interest in three proposed bills – fees-in-lieu for middle income housing, developer political contributions and a \$250K bond issue for Inner Arbor's "Butterfly Building." A letter has been sent to the delegation voicing our positions.
- Two easements were approved – one to connect a 24-unit 55+ housing development to CA's pathway system and one to allow the County to upgrade the dam holding back the Sewell's Orchard Pond. The pathway connection easement resulted from the developer's agreement to be annexed by King's Contrivance and come under the CA lien.
- We have been working on a policy for CA grantmaking. Current thinking is that the Board would specifically budget funds for any major (>\$100K) grants. We also plan to award a major grant to the Community Foundation to be professionally distributed to organizations that support CA strategic objectives. Under discussion is a third category that would provide grants to organizations selected by CA's CEO and Director of Community Services.
- The Advisory Committee chairs and another member selected by each chair will to be invited to join the CA Board and senior staff at our April Stakeholder Dinner.
- Our open space staff has been upgrading bridges, installing a new sound system for Slayton House, a new roof on Stone House, a lobby upgrades to Kahler Hall, a new tribe room in the Columbia Gym and a dehumidifier at the Athletic Club.
- Howard County and CA worked together on a project to prevent flooding in the Hyla Brook in the Birches area.