



Town of Colmar Manor

A Port Towns Community
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Colmar Manor, Maryland 20722



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Town of Colmar Manor Town Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022 7 PM

Meeting ID: 826 7950 6698 Passcode: 3611

Call to Order

Motion to open the meeting at 7:05 PM introduced by Councilman Bowles, seconded by Councilwoman Mendoza. All in favor. No Discussion. 5-0. **Motion** passed.

Mayor Casañas requests a moment of silence for ongoing world events.

Attendance: Mayor Casañas, Councilman Harding (zoom), Councilwoman Hobbs (zoom), Councilman Bowles, Councilwoman Mendoza, Chief of Police Tracy Stone, and Town Attorney John Barr(zoom) are all present. Clerk-Treasurer Dan Baden is absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Mendoza delivers pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Casañas provides overview of agenda for the July 12, 2022 Town Meeting.

Appearances

Delegate Diana Fennell introduced herself to residents to provide information about her Book Bag Drive in honor of her birthday. The occasion will be in partnership with the Town of Colmar Manor and the Durant family. The event will take place in Blue's Park on August 6, 2022 from 11 AM -3 PM.

Resident/Public Comments

- **Ward 2 Resident** – concerned about voter expansion and presented information to elaborate on the matter of educating the Mayor, Council & residents about the issue.
- **Resident** - provided testimony about voter suppression in support of voter expansion in Colmar Manor. Resident provided documents to further brief the Mayor and Council on their efforts to come together to petition for the issue of voter expansion.
- **42nd Ave Resident** – Continued to echo the support for voter extension in Colmar Manor.
- **Ward 4 Resident** – Encouraged all present to remain cognizant of the power to vote.
- **34th Ave Resident** – Continued to echo the support for voter extension in Colmar Manor.
- **Resident** – Commended the traffic study effort that the Mayor & Council are pushing for to increase public safety in town. Resident further exclaimed that voter expansion should be a priority. Lastly, recommend to find a place to find all previous agendas for easy access.
- **Resident** – Shared that Colmar Manor should make greater efforts to invest in the youth.
- **Ward 4 Resident** – Recommend to initiate a Colmar Manor Youth Council to address the needs of the youth to make sure they are involved and feel supported by their community.
- **CM Bowles** shared his sentiments about making great strides to serve the Town of Colmar Manor as a unified team and encouraged residents to keep attending Town Meetings.
- **CM Harding** discussed his appreciation for CHISPA for coming out and highlighted residents for speaking about important community matters.
- **Resident** – Noted technical matters on the agenda.

Motion to vote on ARPA Funding introduced by Councilman Bowles and seconded by Councilwoman Hobbs. All in Favor. No Discussion. 5-0. **Motion** passed.

Committee/ Community Group Reports (3 Minutes Each)

Garden Club

Councilman Bowles reported on behalf of Ms. Epps that a canning class would be taking place on July 13, 2022 at Town Hall for any resident interested in participating. The next Garden Club meeting will take place on Saturday July 16, 2022 from 10 AM – 12 PM at the West Garden.

Neighborhood Watch

Mrs. Blue reported that public safety and trash were discussed during the previous Neighborhood Watch meeting. She stated that she's pushing to have block captions to promote safety in the neighborhood. The next meeting will be on July 27, 2022 on 43rd Ave and Newark Rd. Additionally, Mrs. Blue stated that National Night Out would be on August 2nd, 2022 from 6 PM – 8 PM.

Hispanic Outreach Community

Committee introduced their roster to residents.

Recreation Community

The Recreation Council Chair, Vivian Jackson, extended her remarks of appreciation for the participation in Juneteenth and Pride Paint & Sip. The next recreation council meeting will be on July 18th, 2022 at Monroe Street Park beginning at 7 pm. Reminded residents to look forward to an Ice Cream Social and School Supply giveaway in August.

Green Team

Ms. Barrow encourage more resident participation in the Green Team and highlighted that Colmar Manor has been Maryland Certified for 6 years and the 2022 application was submitted on June 30th. Councilmember Hobbs shared her appreciation for Ms. Barrow for continuing the sustainability mission and helping the Green Team reach the June 30th, 2022 deadline.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Casañas noted her appreciation for being able to attend MML Summer Conference in Ocean City. Mayor Casañas highlighted former Mayor Barrow's achievement of 20 years in service of the Town of Colmar Manor. Mayor Casañas noted that the newsletter will be available at Town Hall and requested volunteers to help publish useful articles. In addition, she thanked MNCPPC for the summer camp, and recognized the efforts of the Council for their continued work to serve the Town of Colmar Manor. Lastly, Mayor Casañas noted that her priority is to hire a town administrator.

Council Reports (3 Minutes Each)

Ward 1 Councilman Harding

Reported his elation for the great energy going on in the Town of Colmar Manor.

Ward 2 Councilwoman Hobbs

Highlighted that a Joint Business Network event took place in June to give community entrepreneurs an opportunity to network. The next meeting will be in September.

Ward 3 Councilman Bowles

Discussed the idea and need for the newsletter to feature Colmar Manor community stories and encouraged more participation from residents.

Ward 4 Councilwoman Mendoza

Echoed her support for the MNCPPCC Summer Camp since it helps many Colmar Manor families for only \$60 dollars and reminded residents that spots are still available. Councilwoman Mendoza reminded residents about the summer meals program to provide food insecurity to the neighborhood will begin on July 15, 2022 at Bladensburg High School, Port Towns Elementary, and William Wirt Elementary School from 10 am – 12 pm and that any under 18 can benefit from the initiative.

Treasurer's Report – Clerk-Treasurer Dan Baden is absent. Mayor Casañas noted that should residents have questions they can get in touch with herself or the Council.

Police Report

Police Report for the month of June 2022 was read by Chief Stone & accepted into record by Councilman Bowles, seconded by Councilwoman Mendoza. All in favor. 5-0. No Discussion. **Motion passed.**

Presentations

Route 1 Communities Care Restaurant & Food Initiative

Organization was not present.

Foundations of Greatness

Introduced the aim of their Non-Profit which is geared towards impacting the youth. Mentioned the idea of team night, family movie night, morning walks all in effort to bring all of the residents together. Lastly, the organization presented calendar with potential events to Mayor and Council.

Oxon Hill Boxing Club

Introduced the idea of starting a Boxing program for the Youth of Colmar Manor. Highlighted that the initiative is free of charge and their goal is to host a Colmar Manor Boxing Tournament with after school outreach that would potentially be Monday-Friday and appealing to age groups as early as age 3. Town Attorney John Barr inquired about the necessary insurance required to protect the Town from all sorts of liabilities. Mayor Casañas concluded on connecting the club with Town Attorney.

Greenwill Consulting Group

The group presented themselves as stewards of the Maryland state budget and stated that they can assist the Town of Colmar Manor in developing a list of objectives to provide their expertise to find budgetary grant programs. The group would help the town monitor legislation in the MD State Assembly that could provide the town with information for state grants that the town could apply to. Mayor Casañas mentioned that she met the Greenwill Consulting Group at MML and mentioned that her concerns were taxes and property development in town.

Premium Pay

The Mayor & Council decided to provide all current full & part time employees of the town including the town attorney \$2,500.00 in premium pay as part of the ARPA spending plan so moved by Councilwoman Mendoza seconded by Councilman Bowles. All in Favor. 5-0. No Discussion. **Motion Passed.**

Motion to transfer \$45,000.00 from the "FY22 Carryover ARPA Funds" account to a new account titled "Premium Pay - ARPA" to fund the cost of the approved premium pay allocation and related payroll costs introduced by Councilman Bowles and seconded by Councilwoman Mendoza. All in favor. No Discussion. 5-0. **Motion Passed.**

Scholarship Fund

Mayor Casañas reported that six applications were received for the Town scholarship and expressed to grant a \$500.00 scholarship to all six applicants. Motion to transfer \$2000.00 additional dollars from the Town Reserve accounts into the scholarship fund stated by Councilwoman Mendoza and seconded by Councilman Bowles. **Motion** tabled by Councilwoman Mendoza.

Councilmember Bowles moves to transfer \$2,000.00 to the scholarship fund from an account designated by Clerk-Treasurer Baden seconded by Councilwoman Mendoza. All in favor. 5-0. **Motion Passed.**

Resident/Public Comments

Resident made comment about supervision during private hall rentals at Town hall; resident also commented about safety in the neighborhood.

Mayor Casañas stated that a council retreat is in the works to address the complexities of issues addressing residents' issues.

Resident stated that treasurers report has not been approved in two months. Resident highlighted that recreation coordinator is needed. Resident mentioned discrepancies in ARPA budget with the information sent out to the general public.

Resident commented about the debt the town is in and encouraged an audit based upon statements from her recollection made by former Mayor Barrow during her term.

Resident suggested ARPA funds should be deployed in a way to assist residents with Rental and Utility assistance.

ARPA

Mayor Casañas along with Councilman Bowles read the proposed ARPA Budget line items. Motion to approve the proposed ARPA Budget spending options stated by Councilwoman Mendoza and seconded by Councilman Bowles seconds. All in favor. 5-0. **Motion** passed.

Ethics Ordinance

Councilman Bowles conveyed to residents his push to establish an ordinance to propose ethic guidelines for elected officials and official employees. Councilman Bowles introduced motion to request consideration for the ethics ordinance to be added to the general code of ordinances upon the completion of the legislative process and seconded by Councilwoman Mendoza. All in favor. 5-0. **Motion** passed.

Car Wash Property

Councilman Bowles discussed the potential development plans for the Car Wash Property in response to re-occurring trespassing behavior. Councilman Bowles share that a meeting was established with property manager and will report back developments with residents shortly thereafter.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 PM presented by Councilwoman Mendoza and seconded by Councilmember Bowles. All in favor. 5-0. **Motion** passed.