

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS TELECONFERENCE

February 7, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Bianca, Chair
Mary F. Chance
Paula S. Etting
Erin S. Hughes
Donna L. Kahoe

STAFF PRESENT: L. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works
Michael Krantz, Director of Administration
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance
Charles Moore, Chief of Police
Patti Parker, Community & Public Relations Manager
Charles Keenan, Town Counsel
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting Etiquette/Protocol/Roll Call

Chair Bianca advised the objective of the teleconference is to conduct normal business of the Town of Bel Air during the COVID pandemic and to allow for social distancing.

Chair Bianca reviewed the protocol for the meeting and reminded parties present to identify themselves before speaking.

Chair Bianca conducted the roll call. Those present are listed above. Joining the meeting were Joseph Bragg and Michael Blum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Chance seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Etting seconded the motion that the minutes of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners' meetings held on January 18, 2022 and February 1, 2022, be approved as submitted.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Certificate of Appreciation to Joseph Bragg - Train Garden

Chair Bianca expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude to Joseph Bragg for volunteering his time and bringing his extensive train collection to the Town of Bel Air during Winter Wonderland 2021. The time taken by Mr. Bragg and his team of volunteers to create a custom train garden, the hours spent volunteering to keep the attraction open and offering it free of charge to the community are greatly appreciated.

Joe Bragg is a local businessman and member of the community who has lived in greater Bel Air since 1972 and within the municipal limits since 2009. Joe loved the opportunity to be able to show off his passion for model trains and embraced the opportunity to showcase Bel Air in the train garden created in Armory Marketplace. Joe and his team of volunteers worked for several days to set up the garden and customized it to include signs for many Bel Air businesses and local landmarks so that community members would feel connected to the garden. Joe went above and beyond the Town's expectations as a volunteer keeping the train garden open during the Saturdays of Winter Wonderland and additional days to accommodate more visitors. The train garden welcomed over 4,800 visitors during the holiday season and was a wonderful addition to Winter Wonderland.

Chair Bianca recognized Joe for his efforts in making Winter Wonderland such a memorable attraction for the Town. On behalf of the Bel Air Town Commissioners, Chair Bianca presented Joseph Bragg with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Ms. Parker, Community & Public Relations Manager, advised the train garden was amazing and Joe did so much more. He opened the train garden to accommodate a child in the community who could not attend in crowds due to an injury. Ms. Parker stated things like this make the community fantastic and a great place to live.

Joseph Bragg informed it was such a pleasure to show off the trains and speak to so many people who said this was the most unique train garden they had ever seen. Mr. Bragg thanked his brother and friends for helping to create the garden. Joe sincerely looks forward to another year.

Ms. Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development, thanked Joseph Bragg for his efforts and informed Angela Robertson extends her gratitude also.

Commissioner Chance was amazed at the detail and the number of hours setting up the train garden. Commissioner Chance commented it was extraordinary and enjoyed by many.

Gift Basket to Michael Blum

Chair Bianca advised Mike Blum, for the last twelve years, has been largely responsible for the organization and success of Bel Air's Christmas Parade.

After months of planning, Mike Blum turns Main Street into a delightful parade of costumed characters, floats, cheerleaders, baton-twirlers, bands, dancers and other entertainers. To the delight of Bel Air's

children, Mike always manages to make sure that Santa and Mrs. Claus zip down from the North Pole to attend this fun-filled event.

This year, the great weather and a fantastic selection of parade entries drew record breaking crowds to both the parade and the post-parade events in Shamrock Park (such as the bonfire, hot chocolate and cookies, and tree lighting). Mike's attention to detail ensures that families attending the parade and post parade festivities leave with a true holiday spirit and a great sense of community.

Chair Bianca stated Mike is filled with the energy to get things done and shows his dedication to the Town of Bel Air in making this a great place to live.

Ms. Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development, advised it is an honor and delight to work with Mike Blum on the Christmas Parade. People look forward to the Christmas Parade and it has gotten better every year. Ms. Heidenreich stated the time you put in is beyond the call of duty of any volunteer and is obvious Mike brings joy to people. On behalf of the Bel Air Town Commissioners and Town staff, Ms. Heidenreich presented Mike Blum with a gift basket in appreciation for all he does for the Christmas Parade. Ms. Heidenreich informed Mike put in many hours of work for the 2019 Christmas Parade but the Parade was cancelled because of weather.

Ms. Heidenreich thanked the Downtown Alliance who also works with the Town on the Christmas Parade.

Michael Blum stated the Christmas Parade is a wonderful event with thousands of happy spectators attending. Mr. Blum acknowledged the dedication of his staff, volunteers, Mr. Bane and Town staff who worked together to make this happen. Mr. Blum informed many hours are put into planning the parade and the 2019 Christmas Parade was cancelled due to weather not knowing what we would face in 2020.

Mr. Blum thanked the Town of Bel Air for the gift basket and hopes there will be many more parades.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 807-22 Amending Town Code Chapter 397. Sewers Article I. Sewers and Sewage Disposal § 397-18. Sewer service rate determination - Adding Sewer Base Meter Sizes

Commissioner Chance moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that Ordinance No. 807-22, which repeals and re-enacts Chapter 397, Article 1, Section 18A pertaining to sewer service rate determination, of the Bel Air Town Code, be received by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Resolution 1179-22 Adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Bel Air.

Commissioner Etting moved, and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that Resolution No. 1179-22, a Resolution adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan, Town of Bel Air, Maryland, be received by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2022, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Ayes: Commissioners Chance, Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

The motion carried.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Bianca reported the following:

- February 26th - begins the four consecutive Family Fun events at the Armory. Show time 11:00 - 12:00 noon. Tickets are free and must be reserved on-line.
- March 5-11th - Bel Air Downtown Alliance is hosting the 2022 Chocolate, Brew & Wine Tour. Purchase tickets on-line.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED: February 22, 2022

Signature on file
Kevin M. Bianca, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk