

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2026
SEWANEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Community Council meeting was held in person in March with an option to also participate online via Zoom.

Members present: Rob Pearigen, Scott Wilson, Evelyn Patton, Delores Jelks, Michael Payne, John Gilmer, Rhea Bowden, Laura Willis, Phil White, and Robert Benton

Members via Zoom: Ben Beavers

Absent: Ed Hawkins, Marilyn Phelps, Walker Adams, Ben Tarhan, Katie Gohn, Kevin Cummings, Aidan Goulding, and Sallie Green

Minutes taken by: Carey Fulmer (attending via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

(1) Approval of the January Minutes

The minutes for the January 2026 Community Council were approved as circulated.

(2) Update on Speed Bumps – Willis

Laura Willis requested the Council continue the speed hump project that has been successful in slowing down traffic around campus and consider adding speed humps along a stretch of Roark's Cove Road due to visibility issues and pedestrian safety risks near the curve by Kirby-Smith Road.

Scott Wilson explained that the recent speed hump projects were funded through a combination of grants and University support, with locations chosen based on safety priorities and community concerns. He noted that similar funding partnerships could be used for future installations if additional funding is approved. Each set of speed humps cost approximately \$5,000.

Questions were presented about the [Sewanee Community Funding Project](#) balances and the timing of money awarded, which allocates \$10,000 annually for community improvements.

(3) Excessive Speeding on University and Texas Avenue – Gilmer

Council member John Gilmer raised concerns about pedestrian safety due to speeding, particularly on University Avenue and Tennessee Avenue. Laura Willis cited Roark's Cove Road a big issue for speeding and safety issues for pedestrians where a lack of sidewalks, poor lighting near crosswalks, and road conditions increase risk.

Chief of Police, Jeremy Thomas spoke of the SPD's efforts of patrolling to curb speeding as well as the use of radar speed signs to bring awareness to motorists in the area and mentioned the two

currently in use on University Avenue near the Wellness Commons and the Sewanee Hospital. He requested the community's assistance by reporting speeding to the SPD.

(4) Lighting at Crosswalks – Gilmer

Gilmer continued reporting traffic concerns regarding poor lighting at crosswalks across campus as a big issue in the safety of pedestrians. More lighting is needed especially in the Woodlands residential area.

(5) Proposed Community Council Dates for 2026 – 2027 – Wilson

Scott Wilson presented the proposed CC dates for 2026-2027, and these dates were approved as circulated.

2026

August 24 - on reserve
September 21
October 26
November 23 - on reserve

2027

January 25
February 15 - on reserve
March 22
April 26 - on reserve
May 24
June 28 - on reserve

(6) Community Clean-Up Day – Wilson

The next Community Clean-Up day is Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Volunteers will meet at the Sewanee Welcome Center at 9am.

(7) Announcements and/or Questions

Community member, Andrew Cowan stated he planned to present a proposal in the upcoming meeting for upgrades to the Phil White Dog Park. Upgrades include improvements such as drainage, seating, shade, and vegetation control. Robert Benton, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, stated he would review the available balance in the dog park fund.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Fulmer