

MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2025
SEWANEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

Members present: Rob Pearigen, Scott Wilson, Ben Beavers, Michael Payne, Evelyn Patton, Ben Tarhan, Phil White, Robert Benton, Marilyn Phelps, Katie Gohn, Walker Adams, Roger Speers, and Sallie Green

Members via Zoom: Ed Hawkins and Kevin Cummings

Absent: Rhea Bowden, Laura Willis, Delores Jelks, and Aidan Goulding

Minutes taken by: Carey Fulmer (attending via Zoom)

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

(1) Approval of the March Minutes

The minutes for the March 2025 Community Council were approved as circulated.

(2) Update on Arcadia at Sewanee- Wilson

Arcadia at Sewanee, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is exploring plans to build a retirement community near Sewanee Village. George Elliott, President of Arcadia's board of trustees, updated Sewanee Community Council members on plans of establishing a retirement community in Sewanee. His presentation information can be found in detail on their website at Arcadia at Sewanee.org.



The proposed development would offer a mix of independent living, assisted care, and memory support units, based on findings that show a strong need in the area. The presentation included a summary of Arcadia's history and current developments, preliminary conceptual spatial plans, and a summary of next steps. The total project is expected to cost about \$97 million, with funding coming from both donations and financing. Construction wouldn't begin until 2029, with full occupancy projected by 2031.

Sewanee residents and neighbors close to the proposed location raised concerns about traffic, walkability, environmental impact, and housing affordability. Arcadia explained the location was chosen for its close ties to the heart of Sewanee, which they believe is key to the project's success. Arcadia says much work remains and is committed to keeping the community informed as things move forward.

(3) Student Driving Issues- Phelps

Marilyn Phelps raised concerns about speeding by student drivers and the resulting pedestrian safety risks. She noted complaints from residents about students ignoring signals to slow down. Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, Nicky Campbell stated she would address this issue in upcoming student discussions about community living.

(4) Dog Control- Phelps

The committee reviewing the Dog Control Policy shared that mixed opinions on whether to increase or reduce regulations. Conversations regarding the possibility of renovating the dog pound where stray dogs could be kept until owners were located and fees could be charged to offset the cost of maintaining the pound.

It was mentioned that the current policy already says dogs should not be at large, but it is vague and hard to enforce. Phelps stressed the need for clearer rules that can be enforced and followed. Phil White reminded the group that there is a dog park on Lake Cheston Drive where dogs can be off-leash and interact with other dogs.

(5) Election of Community Council Rep to University Lease Committee- Green

The Community Council needs to elect one representative to serve a two-year term running July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. Two people interested in filling that one position. They are Ed Hawkins and Ben Tarhan.

Voting was facilitated via email by Tabatha Whitsett, and due by the end of day on May 27.

Tabatha reported election results on May 28: Ben Tarhan has been selected to serve another two-year term as the Community Council Rep to the Lease Committee. His new term will run July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

(6) Announcements and/or Questions

None provided.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Fulmer