

MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2026
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: Scott Wilson, Sallie Green, Ben Beavers, Evelyn Patton, Katie Gohn, Kevin Cummings, Michael Payne, Phil White, and Robert Benton

Members via Zoom: Ed Hawkins

Absent: Rob Pearigen, Marilyn Phelps, Walker Adams, Ben Tarhan, Aidan Goulding, Delores Jelks, John Gilmer, Rhea Bowden, and Laura Willis

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 2026 Community Council were approved as circulated.

(2) Proposal for Dog Park Upgrades – Wilson

Community member Andrew Cowan spoke to the Council about an update needed to the dog park in Sewanee. Improvements include paving a few areas, installing some benches, and planting trees to improve the area. The cost of these improvements will be approximately \$18,000. A full proposal will be submitted through the [Sewanee Community Funding Project](#) to request funding for this project as well as funds obtained through local fundraising.

It was suggested to utilize the University Farm goats to remove some of the vegetation from the fencing. Carolyn Hoagland, University Farm Manager, confirmed with Scott Wilson that if a specific time could be set for the dog park to be closed for local patrons and pets, they could bring some goat to eat down some of the overgrown vegetation and assist in maintaining the area overgrowth. Sallie reported the entire Parks Committee budget is \$11,000 per year for all the Sewanee parks.

(3) Report from the Traffic Committee and Proposal for Traffic-Calming Measures – Wilson

Scott Wilson revisited the traffic committee's progress on installing speed bumps across campus roads in order to slow down traffic. Some areas that have been reported as needing these traffic calming measures include Willie Six Road, Finney Lane, Florida Avenue, Roark's Cove, Breakfield Road, Bob Stewman, and University Avenue. Topography of the roads such as curves or elevation can prohibit speed hump installation, so this will be a consideration in speed hump placement. Another traffic calming measure that is being proposed is more traffic speed signs (6)

to bring awareness of speed limits as well as one addition flashing speed signs. Cumulatively, (including two speed humps) this will cost \$9,000, and the request for the [Sewanee Community Funding Project](#) is \$4,500 and the University will match the other portion of the money needed to begin this project.

Sallie reported that the Sewanee Community Funding Project Committee was previously headed up by June Weber while Marilyn Phelps and Laura Willis served as part of this working committee. Since June is no longer on the Community Council, this needs to be revisited. Sallie Green is the Treasurer and confirmed that there were adequate funds to approve the \$4,500 requested by the Traffic Committee. This motion was approved by the Council via vote and there were no votes opposing this funding.

Katie Gohn requested if the 55 mph in front of Saint Andrew's School could be reviewed to request the speed limit being lowered on this stretch of highway. Katie mentioned the cars pulling out onto 41A on the residential roads around this area as well as large trucks speeding through this area causing a hazard to students biking to school via Mountain Goat trail and school traffic causing congestion through the day. Sallie Green confirmed she would find out the process of formally requesting a lower speed limit.

(4) Election Plans and the Appointment of an Election Officer – Wilson

Scott Wilson requested a volunteer to serve for the upcoming election. Sallie outlined the process and timing needed and Katie Gohn volunteered to cover the election for the upcoming election on November 3.

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

A Volunteer is also needed for a Council representative to serve on the Lease Committee. Kevin Cummings volunteered to serve in this capacity.

(6) Announcements and/or Questions

Ed Hawkins requested a handicap accessible ramp to be installed in the Sewanee Community Center for those with mobility issues. Considerations are being given to move the Sewanee Community Council meetings to the St. Mark's Community Center next year and there is a ramp available there. Ed mentioned this addition would be beneficial to others with mobility issues for the multiple community gatherings and classes offered at the SCC. Even though access is available through the Senior Center, there is not always someone available to open the Senior Center for access to the Community Center. Sallie offered to reach out to Georgia Hewitt to discuss the viability of a ramp at the Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Fulmer