

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2023  
SEWANEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

Members present: Rob Pearigen, Scott Wilson, June Weber, Ben Tarhan, Laura Willis, Robert Benton, John Solomon, Michael Payne, Phil White, Marilyn Phelps, Sallie Green, Rhea Bowden, and Bill Harper

Members via Zoom:

Absent: Bruce Manuel, Lynn Stubblefield, Evelyn Patton, Ben Beavers, Sean McEwen, and Margaret Crone

Minutes taken by: Carey Fulmer (attending via Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1) Approval of the September Minutes**

The minutes for September 2023 were approved as circulated.

**2) How to Submit Agenda Items- Scott Wilson**

Scott Wilson provided information to the Council on the process of submitting an agenda item and encouraged action items to be submitted to the council representative for their district.

**3) Community Funding Committee Grant Request- June Weber**

June Weber updated the Council on two requests for community funding- the first request coming from St. Mark's Community Center for the installation of a grinder pump at the cost of \$3,642. Funding has been raised to purchase the pump and the Council voted to approve this request to cover the cost of installing the new pump.

The second item presented for approval for funding for \$5,000 to replace broken equipment and to build a pavilion and grill at Woodlands Park. Since this playground is on University property, June requested that the Council consider approving this request contingent upon receiving permission from the University/Facilities Management for these repairs and upgrades. All the labor will be completed by volunteers- the request is for funding only to purchase the necessary equipment. The Community Council voted and unanimously approved this request.

**4) Traffic Calming Measures/Speed Humps- Michael Payne**

Michael Payne explained to the Council how hazardous traffic conditions are along Kentucky Avenue. Mr. Payne also referenced the routine hazards of construction vehicles using this 18' wide road when

the large vehicles can be upwards to 9 feet wide. Compounded with excessive speed and lack of sidewalks, the road is unsafe and he requests the assistance of the Franklin County Road Commissioner, Sewanee Police department, and consideration of speed humps to alleviate this issue. If speed humps (different than speed bumps) were utilized, it would help to slow the traffic down. Reminding the community that the speed limit is 20 mph along Kentucky Avenue, Mr. Payne requested a committee be formed with Sewanee Police department, University representatives, alongside Council members to investigate ways to address this issue.

Kathy Henslee also requested this same group to study ideas to slow traffic along Roark's Cove Road as well, citing high rates of speed being an important issue.

The Council voted and approved the request to form a committee to study these safety concerns.

#### **5) Event Parking- Scott Wilson**

John Solomon asked what was discovered following the most recent Family Weekend regarding parking issues. Scott Wilson confirmed that Family Weekend and the Installation festivities tested the process that they are working towards regarding parking on campus. There is still work to do, but the initial logistics of blocking off parking behind Fulford Hall for guest use, providing a shuttle service for guests with mobility issues, and placing physical barriers (cones) to indicate the no parking area along University Avenue was successful. Further strategies will be explored to identify creative solutions for parking on campus.

Several comments were presented addressing concerns of missing University events due to the lack of handicapped accessible parking. Scott Wilson assured the Council that solutions being considered addressed the need for ADA compliant parking. Further suggestions were presented to allow bike lane traffic during non-event hours.

Marilyn Phelps stressed the danger of cyclists riding on the sidewalks as it poses a threat to pedestrians. Michael Payne asked if bike lanes are required in order for people to bike. Could one side of the road be identified as parking and the other as a bike lane? John Solomon noted that it is much easier to see students crossing University Avenue without parked vehicles. Safety has increased with better visibility. Scott Wilson assured the Council that more conversations would continue to find creative ways to solve these issues.

#### **6) Announcement and/or Questions**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carey Fulmer*