

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2024
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, Sallie Green, Rhea Bowden, John Solomon, Michael Payne, Bill Harper, Ben Beavers, Phil White, Evelyn Patton, Ben Tarhan, Marilyn Phelps, and Roger Speers

Members via Zoom:

Absent: Laura Willis, Robert Benton, Bruce Manuel, Aidan Goulding, and Lynn Stubblefield

Minutes taken by: Carey Fulmer (attending via Zoom)

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

(1) Approval of the September Minutes

Dr. Rob Pearigen requested a revision to the September minutes to identify Polly Robb as Reverend Polly Robb vs. Mrs. Polly Robb. A second revision requested by Dr. Pearigen was to add the statement, *“Councilwoman Evelyn Patton shared her concern that the University is not always as mindful as it should be about concerns in the St. Mark's community, including matters related to lighting.”*

The minutes for the September 2024 Community Council were approved as circulated with the addition of these revisions.

(2) Traffic Safety Committee Update – Payne

Michael Payne updated the Council on the Safety Committee’s progress in slowing traffic by utilizing the speed humps around campus. This committee is requesting funding through the Community Council Project Funding Grant in the amount of \$6,000. The University has confirmed they would match this amount to contribute toward this safety initiative. Approximately four complete sets could be installed with this funding.

The Council raised questions on the criteria for choosing which street receives these traffic-calming speed humps, and Michael gave a brief update on the conditions of high traffic and no sidewalks. Provost Scott Wilson reported on the speed humps on Tennessee Avenue and Green’s View Road that were installed as part of a Tennessee Department of Safety grant. Scott also confirmed that there are regulations to consider, such as the pitch of the road and multiple curves that could prohibit some streets from being considered for a speed hump.

Council members as well as community members, suggested the following streets be considered for speed humps as, Alabama, Kentucky, Kennerly, Mississippi, Willie Six, Roarks Cove, and Florida Avenue, and Michael Payne stated that ultimately the University would decide the location that has the highest amounts of student traffic.

The next step is to request the funds through the Grants fund in order to have adequate funds to move forward.

(3) Election Update- Tarhan

Ben Tarhan updated the group that an extension has been given until October 30 for candidates for Districts 1, 2, and 3. Sallie Green confirmed she had received signed petitions from Walker Adams (District 2) and Ed Hawkins (District 3). Ben requested 5 or 6 volunteers to help on Election Day to assist in Community Council voting. Early voting will continue through October 31 at the Lease Office.

(4) Announcements and/or Questions

June Weber confirmed that they have received five grant requests through Project Funding Grant, and proposals would be reviewed to submit to the Council for approval. The Community Council has to vote to approve the proposals via email before permissions are given. An email will be circulated soon to approve the proposals rather than waiting until the next Community Council meeting in January.

Michael Payne reminded the audience of St. Mark's and St. Paul's pancake benefit and raffle on November 23 that raises money for local charities.

Evelyn Patton gave a shout-out to the Sewanee Fire Department, who was called in to assist with the Palmer school fire.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Fulmer