

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2021
SEWANEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Community Council Meeting was held via Zoom only.

Members present viz Zoom: Anna Palmer, Bill Harper, Bruce Manuel, Eric Keen, Grace Storelli, John Solomon, June Weber, Kate Reed, Lynn Stubblefield, Nancy Berner, Pam Byerly, Phil White, Reuben Brigety, Shirley Taylor, and Spike Hosch.

Absent: Karen Singer, Sallie Green, and Sarah Hess

Minutes taken by: Carey Fulmer

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

(1) Approval of the September Minutes

September minutes were approved.

(2) Downtown Update from David Shipps- Nancy Berner

David Shipps, Vice President, Economic Development & Community Relations, announced an exciting Sewanee Village development of the establishment of an investment of 10 million dollars from the University endowment to begin the execution phase of a development plan to include the Village and surrounding area. David sent out an email outlining the plan prior to the meeting and is outline below:

October 25, 2021

Dear University Community,

Over the course of the past decade, the University has dedicated much research and consideration toward revitalizing the Sewanee Village and establishing a development plan that delivers on the promise of new residential, commercial, and retail offerings to better serve our students, employees, residents, and visitors. The elements required for such a revitalization are now largely known, and we are ready to begin implementing an exciting plan.

At its meeting earlier this month, the Board of Regents committed to investing \$10 million from the University endowment to begin the execution phase of a development plan to include the Village and surrounding area. Importantly, this investment aligns with the University's ongoing goal of attracting and retaining both students and employees. Generations of donors have funded our endowment and have trusted University governing boards and administrators to invest those funds wisely. As with all endowment investments, we expect a healthy financial return. In addition, the investment will begin

to generate many benefits in the near term, as well as help to ensure Sewanee remains an attractive and desirable place to study, work, and live for current and future generations of employees, students, and residents.

Investments in specific project proposals will ultimately be approved by the Regents' Investment Management Committee. While specific plans will come together later, examples include the development of additional entertainment and dining options befitting a campus community of students, as well as new housing and retail alternatives for employees and residents of our community.

This is a remarkable opportunity for the University, and this investment demonstrates the University's commitment to meeting the ongoing and evolving needs of all who call Sewanee home. I look forward to providing additional detail over time as new projects and initiatives begin to take shape. It is an exciting time to be in Sewanee.

My best regards,
David H.W. Shipps, C'88

David explained to the Council the details of the fiduciary responsibility, plans of financial return and how this would provide life enrichment to the community. David acknowledged that commercial development would take time, but assured the Council that the time was now. Questions were posed of how this endeavor would provide opportunities for students and residents to flourish, and David elaborated on the University's initiative and processes to work across the community in order for this to be both a financial return as well as a qualitative return that would be befitting a college community.

(3) First Reading of the Revised Constitution Related to Expanded Voting Districts- Nancy Berner

The revised constitution to allow the expansion of voting districts to include all of 37375 was circulated in the agenda prior to the meeting was passed on first reading.

(4) Options for Vacant Seat in District 4- Nancy Berner

Nancy Berner began the discussion to decide if the Community Council wants to refill the vacant seat in District 4 by a vote within the Council or hold a special election to allow the community to vote for the replacement of Mary Priestley in District 4. Nancy explained that the constitution did not allow for Community Council members to swap between districts (to allow Mary Priestley to serve the remaining term as an At-large representative and for someone residing within District 4 currently on the Council to serve in District 4. The decision was presented to the Council for the seat to remain unfilled until the next election held November 2022 or to hold a special election to fill the vacancy. A vote was approved to hold a special election and Nancy asked for a volunteer to serve as the election officer. Council member Lynn Stubblefield volunteered to serve as the election officer for the special called election.

(5) Discussion of Additional Ways to Improve Communication Between the Council and the Community- John Solomon

John Solomon began the conversation by asking the question of the role of Community Council members to find ways to communicate more effectively with community constituents.

Discussions began of ways to communicate more effectively and it was requested to house important announcements and Community Council minutes on a University website such as the Lease Office's CC page. Kiki Beavers suggested adding the monthly meeting minutes on the Sewanee Messengers and/or Sewanee Civic Association's website. Conversations will continue on providing ways to effectively communicate policy changes with the community. The Sewanee Messenger will continue to provide meeting summaries in the weekly newspapers.

(6) Announcements and/or Questions

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Fulmer