

Village of Friendship Heights  
Capital Improvements Committee Meeting  
Meeting Summary  
6/2/2015

I. Welcome

- A. There were 18 people attended the meeting: Mike Dorsey, Mohamed El-Khawas, Cleonice Tavani, Afsaneh Mirfendereski, Melanie Rose White, Herbert Levine, Robert A. Shapiro, Julian Mansfield, Dorthy M Hall, Kathy Cooper, Henry Heilbrunn, Lynne Heilbrunn, Ron Irion, Al Muller, Elaine El-Khawas, Betty Ardizzone, and John Mertens.
- B. Expanded charge. It is expected that there will be a new charge for the Capital Improvements Committee coming from the Village Council at the next Council meeting.

II. Status

- A. Included in the meeting packed is a copy of the report of the Capital Improvements Committee to the Council on April 14, 2015.
- B. Also included is a report from Betty Ardizzone

III. Designer for Village Center Project?

A. Discussion of the value of a designer

- i. This topic started a spirited discussion on the need for a designer and on the efficacy of designers in our past experience.
- ii. The major points made in this discussion were:
  - a) We should have a designer to bring a coherent vision to the project;
  - b) we don't need a designer, because we have already made some decisions that can be implemented without a designer;
  - c) because of the size of the project it makes sense to bring in an independent professional eye to help us avoid mistakes;
  - d) there are four examples from our past where we have bad outcomes from a designer

B. How do we make the best use of a designer and how do we manage and learn from a designer?

- i. Out of the longer previous discussion, evolved a discussion on how to obtain a designer, how to figure out which designer is best for us, and how to avoid pitfalls along the way
- ii. The major points of this discussion were
  - a) Have our requirements as tightly defined as we can
  - b) Make sure that the designer knows how the space is used

- c) Have several designers give us a proposal for the work that includes their understanding and cost for the project that we have defined
- d) Make sure that the presentation of each proposal aligns with our understanding of the project

#### C. Conclusions

- i. The preponderance of the discussion leaned toward engaging a designer. It appeared that those arguing against a designer were mostly working with the parts of the project that have been discussed exhaustively previously, namely the work in Huntley Hall.
- ii. We should follow our advice in III.B.ii to have our requirements well documented and understood and to have an oral presentation from potential designers to ascertain that we are in agreement on what is in the project.

#### IV. Constituent Requests (Note the correct spelling)

- A. Exterior water fountain – It was pointed out that we had had one in the days prior to the construction of the Village Center and that it had been a continuous source of trouble.
- B. WiFi in the Library – It was pointed out that we have WiFi in the Library, but it has not been well publicized. There will be a short piece in the next newsletter and a sign will be put in the Library telling how to use it

#### V. Longer Range Planning

- A. The question of what we as a Village want to have happen when Parcel 6 is developed
  - i. We own a piece of parcel 6, so we will have some say
  - ii. We are also the local community, so we will have some say
  - iii. There was not discussion beyond this.

#### VI. Other items not on the agenda

- A. Exterior street lighting – some of the people at the meeting will gather up data on the lighting situation and bring it to the next meeting
- B. The potential to put solar panels on the roof of the Village Center and become a greener community.

#### VII. Next meeting is August 4 at 5:30PM