

Community Advisory Committee Minutes  
August 10, 2022

Attendees: Al Muller (Village Council Liaison) , Bill Corey, Sheila Footer, David Churchill, Evan Smith, Cameron Moody, Bill Lewis, Ken Niles, Sandy Schwarzbart, Ethel Pacheco, Jason Goldstein, Joe Bucherer (Chair)

Meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 5:30 pm.

Topics:

1. The Committee voted to approve release of its document titled “Report on Enhancing Identity of the Village of Friendship Heights” to the Village Council for presentation of outlined recommendations.
  - a. The Committee looks forward to presenting a summary at an upcoming Village Council meeting.
2. Several Village Residents were in attendance. The Committee would like notice of its meetings to be prominently promoted so that residents could bring issues forward, to increase public comment, and to further interest of others to consider joining the Committee in its effort to be as representative of the community as possible.
3. Discussion of Village Communication and Major Decision Process
  - a. Residents of the Village approached members of the Committee regarding the pending decision of the Village Council to purchase the property at 4608 N Park Ave (Red House)
  - b. The Committee opted to hear the concern under the premise of a process discussion and did not under direction of the Committee Chair consider the pro or con aspects of the pending purchase. The committee recognized that the Village Council has the authority to consider such actions. However, based on Village By-Laws, Section 4 Article IV where the Council may consider public discussion, the Committee heard resident concerns and discussed the merits of improving opportunity for communication with major purchases or similar decisions.
  - c. A summary of points raised in the discussion were:
    - i. Residents expressed interest in having ample time prior to the meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> to review the inspection reports, facts regarding the purchase, and any contingency language for consideration in public comment.
      1. Secretary Muller when questioned indicated that he was not at liberty to speak for the Council as a whole, and as this was an active transaction was not at liberty to make comment.
      2. Regarding this the Committee Chair indicated that this was like how any Condo Board would operate with pending contract or legal issues.
    - ii. Several Committee Members and Residents expressed concern about the perception that Executive Sessions of Council make it seem that decisions are not made in public and that the lack of information sharing limits the discussion of alternatives. It was noted that the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was not well attended.
  - d. After hearing the discussion, the Committee voted to request that the Village Council do more than post on the Bulletin Board and Website that meetings are occurring, especially where there is a need to elicit public comment on major decisions. Such efforts would be to issue a request to the management of Village buildings to post such meetings via their internal Bulletin Boards and electronic communication methods.

The next meeting will be on September 7, 2022, at the Village Center.