

Community Advisory Committee Minutes
March 4, 2025

Committee Attendees:

Ken Niles, Chair
David Churchill
Stephanie Clipper
Bill Corey
Bill Lewis
Cameron Moody
Al Muller
Ethel Pacheco
Sandy Schwartzbart
Village Council Member Cheryl Tyler

Paul Brown, a new member, was not able to attend
Evan Smith, also did not attend

This meeting focused on review of 4 proposals submitted for vetting under the Council's "New Initiatives" program.

All four proposals originated with the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network (FHNN), a neighborhood organization founded as part of the national Village movement (<https://www.vtvnetwork.org/>). There was general discussion concerning how to approach the programmatic needs of this organization, for example, whether the Council budget could cover these activities, such as the proposed arts-oriented trips. However, the Council's line item for trips, at \$3,000, is not extensive. While the Committee found merit in all the proposals, in general, it seemed likely all the proposed activities could be accomplished by the Council and/or Village Center.

In accordance with the New Initiatives Project each proposal could earn a point total of 95 points.

The first proposal concerned field trips to various "arts destinations." Discussion focused on the reach of the proposal in terms of residents who might benefit, especially given the use of an 8-passenger van as outlined. An additional concern was the limitation of the targeted audience, specifically people interested in the arts and crafts. Some committee members thought the effort duplicated programming offered through the Center and that the Village's events staff might be able to increase the number of attendees who could participate. Committee members viewed the proposal as largely favorable but believed the submitting organization might better work through the Village Center. This proposal earned a total score of **27**.

The second proposal is for “movement and dance classes” offered through FHNN in partnership with Arts for the Aging. The key concern expressed by Committee members was the proposal’s limitation to four condominium buildings; this was viewed as discriminatory. One member noted that the Village itself already offers movement and dance classes, so this program would duplicate some Village efforts. The committee believes FHNN should approach the Village and work with programming staff on execution of the program. This proposal received a total score of **34**.

The third proposal was for “volunteer training for home visits to persons with memory loss” and for the “provision of respite for caregivers,” to be conducted in partnership with Iona Senior Services. The proposal was solely for the financial assistance to execute the project. The committee had reservations about this proposal and cited a lack of specifics about who was to be trained and whether it focused on FHNN volunteers alone. There was general uncertainty about who might benefit, i.e., who would qualify to participate in the training. CAC member Bill Corey wanted to go on record saying he abstained from scoring and he thought this proposal inappropriate, offering services that were too personal and that would not be acceptable to most Village residents. This proposal received a total score of **42** from the remainder of the committee.

The last proposal concerned “end-of-life preparation and related individual sessions,” again offered in partnership with Iona Senior Services, whose trainer is Dixie Bosley. This proposal was viewed favorably and was seen as benefitting the most residents in the community with unlimited eligibility. It received a total score of **70**.

Village Council Member, Cheryl Tyler announced that there will be a 2-hour Development Committee meeting, March 27 at 3:00 PM, featuring representatives from the Montgomery County Planning Office, including lead planner Atara Margolies.

David Churchill from the Willoughby said his building is looking at policies concerning guests, packages and food deliveries. He is circulating a note soliciting information from CAC members, requesting information on how other buildings handle these requirements and he invites comments.

Bill Corey said the HVAC project in 4620 has been delayed with a new qualified independent engineer hired to undertake a review. The scope of the project and amount of any assessment remains unknown at present.

Cameron Moody said the Elizabeth is taking on boiler replacement.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will take place in the Village Center on April 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

The Committee adjourned at 7:00 PM.