

Community Advisory Committee Minutes
August 5, 2025

Attendees:

Santanu Basu'

Wendy Wei Chang

David Churchill

Stephanie Clipper (Acting Secretary)

Kathleen McGuinness

Cameron Moody

Observers: Vic Basile (Council Member), Al Muller (Council Member), Bill Corey

This meeting did not have full participation, perhaps attributable to the summer vacation schedule. Neither CAC co-chairs Chantal Ryoubachewsky nor Jacob Lewis were present. Attendees agreed that CAC will retain its current meeting schedule of Tuesday 6.p.m. ideally preceding the Council's regular monthly meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2nd at the Village Center; attendees should receive confirmation of this. The custom is for attendees to work off agenda circulated in advance of meetings. The Village Manager and/or the one or both co-chairs should send out reminders with any ancillary materials prior to meetings. Several attendees also expressed interest in receiving the final list of CAC members.

Two council members were present as observers. Dr. Muller explained that the role of council members at CAC meetings is to provide answers and background to any questions or concerns that might arise. He began by providing an update to both the Page Park and Red House projects, both slated to be completed in 2026. The Village has retained the services of a project manager for Page Park. That individual is helping to keep track of permits and is also assisting with the Red House, which now has a tenant. The business is called Frank Pyle's Provisions; this name is taken from the name from the original carpenter who worked on the building. Work currently underway includes both interior work and external construction of ADA-related requirements, specifically an elevator to located on the outside of the building proximal to parking. The project is awaiting final approvals.

Off-duty Montgomery County police patrols are to resume soon in the Village. The police are considered employees and will work flexible hours. The Village will pay for FICA. The police will issue tickets and will likely focus on school bus safety, traffic enforcement, break-ins, and robberies. Several CAC members raised concerns about the hours scheduled for these patrols, specifically the absence of evening hours.

The CAC discussed speedhumps, including one speedhump at the intersection of South Park and Hills Plaza, which may have been installed incorrectly. One firm had previously advised that it be located away from the crosswalk, and a different company said it should completely span the width of the roadway. It is the only speedhump within the Village boundaries to not span the entire width of the roadway. The new

development at the corner of Wisconsin and South Park may ultimately settle the issue. But it is clear the speedhumps are helping to slow traffic. Previously, non-residents were using intersections in the Village as short cuts. There will be additional safety features incorporated once the Geico site redevelopment project gets underway; this project is part of the area's Sector Plan. One item for Council consideration and community input is whether and where additional speedhumps should be located.

One priority at the meeting was to talk about the mission of the Committee given the addition of a Development Committee that now reports to the Council. The CAC was occupied with the Sector Plan for the better part of a year. Committee members believe the CAC can continue to make suggestions to be forwarded to the Council, especially since many of the committee's suggestions were incorporated in the Sector Plan. In addition, the CAC might address the following:

- The concerns of—and programs and activities directed at—younger residents, including those in their 20s and 30s and (separately) those of families;
- Village quality of life, including but not limited to compliance with construction noise, traffic, and trash regulations; and,
- Pedestrian safety and enhancements, including lighting and additional seating (i.e., benches) for pedestrians and visitors.

The committee discussed Village lighting. Years ago, experts were engaged to replace Village lighting, which consisted of cobra lights. Village pathways were dark, and the goal was to keep light out of apartments. Geico helped fund the effort in exchange for being severed from the Friendship Heights municipality. One committee member noted that it would be nice for us to have our streetlights updated to help to diminish light pollution. Lighting at 5500 and the Collection serves to reduce light pollution by directing light downward. Those lamps are hooded. Committee members noted that lighting on Willard is terrible, but it is not in the Village's jurisdiction and is a county road. Could we perhaps partner with a developer on this? It may be possible for the CAC to undertake some preliminary work to determine where the need is greatest. One question is whether the Council is open to bringing on a consultant to evaluate Village lighting.

Attendees provided updates concerning their buildings. One comment concerned mice, which represents a common challenge in Village high-rises. Bill Corey, who is slated to re-join the CAC in the fall, provided an update concerning assessments at 4620. That building will have another crane installation in August related to boiler work being done. Cameron Moody said the Elizabeth is also undergoing boiler work, which should be finalized within a year's time. David Churchill said the Willoughby has a new manager on board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.