

**Village of Friendship Heights  
November 10, 2025 Meeting Transcript**

**[00:00:55.17] - Speaker 1**

Can we start with this all?

**[00:00:57.29] - Speaker 4**

Allison Alt.

**[00:01:00.27] - Speaker 6**

Francine Klein. Martha Solt.

**[00:01:05.04] - Speaker 5**

Roy Schafer. Zic Baisal. Elma.

**[00:01:08.16] - Speaker 4**

John Conlo. Everyone. People who are listening were both being really trying to work on the sound. So please be patient and if you could somehow let the staff know you can't hear. If in the room there you can't hear, if you could just raise your hand and we'll try to speak loud. I'm going to mention the Exploitation Council of November 10th, 2025. I'm going to ask my fellow council members to speak their names as loudly, and clearly in the microphone, so people can hear your voice and it's easier for the transcribe to hear. Can we start with Alice and Alt? Alice and Alt. Francine Klein. Martha Soltz. Roy Schafer. Zick Baisle. Al Miller. John Conlo. Everyone, and people who are listening about the work that we're trying to work on the sound. So please be patient and if you could somehow let the staff know that you can't hear. If in the room there you can't hear, you could just Please raise your hand and we'll try to speak loud. I'm reminding my fellow council members to speak very closely to the microphone, louder than more than this. Please let me know by calling And perhaps our managers can help remind us to start to roll off.

**[00:01:51.22] - Speaker 4**

So the first item on the agenda is an update on Beach Park in Red House. From our project manager, Mr. Jim Wilson. Thank you, Jim. And we're on for... That means I'm on. Good evening, everybody. Winter looks like it's on its way.

**[00:02:19.04] - Speaker 7**

Thank you for allowing me to be here. So a couple of very minor updates. What we have is for the... It's both Page Park and All right. So Page Park, the permits are in. They're under review. We have evaluated or from our last discussion, had conversations about the removal of the pergola and the For those who don't recall, there were no foundations that were built for the pergola. The county does require foundations and structures. So in order to correct the current situation, we have to take the pergola down down, take the pavers up around every post of the pergola, give it a pudding in a foundation, and pour a foundation, and then put the pergola and the pavers back. We did get a Last time, I gave a... Here's an order of magnitude that I thought it might be just because I wanted people to understand that this is not a \$3,000 or four or \$5,000 thing, and thought it was maybe \$30,000 to \$40,000. The price came in at \$49,000, so \$49,000 500 to be exact. So that's the cost of taking it all down, putting aside, digging the footings, getting everything inspected, and to put it back.

**[00:03:44.05] - Speaker 7**

So we also contacted a landscape... The Civil Engineering firm that's doing all of the modifications for the set of erosion control out there also has a landscape architect in their firm, and they have, at our request, we asked them or I asked them, I said, What would be some of the alternatives if you were going to come and design this space to create an attractive space that could be out there that didn't necessarily have to have a pergola? So they've come up with a couple of different ideas of basically two fundamental one. One turns it into a lawn and with some larger trees, a couple of shade-type trees. But in doing it as a lawn, you have to have a fence around the outside edge because the drop is more than 30 inches. So you can't have... Obviously, you can't have people going over the edge. So you would have the pavers, you would have that be at the same level as the surface as the circle at the top. The other thing that happens when you do raise the elevation, the standing elevation of where the pergola currently is, when you raise it to the elevation of the upper level, you no longer have to build that pathway through the woods that are on the plan, the corrective plans right now.

**[00:05:04.03] - Speaker 7**

What that does right now in the plans, we're going to remove the plan, say that you have to remove a tree. One of the trees is in the way of that path, so that work would not actually have to happen. It was just brought to say, here it was a meaningful number, cost to remove the pergola and put it back and say, are there... Then the question to the landscape architect is, are there things and solutions that they I could recommend. The other solution that they came up with was to basically turn what is currently the pergola into another landscaped area that would not have, because the landscape in the bushes protect you from the edge, you don't have to put

the fence around. Basically, if it's going to be an occupied space, it will need a fence around the perimeter outside the edge. If it is going to be a landscaped area, it would not need that. But that's what they were proposing. And I believe, Julian, I don't know if there was an acceptance of their... They were going to do some renderings. I don't remember. Did that get...

**[00:06:09.29] - Speaker 1**

We have authorized them to proceed with the renderings. It'll take a couple of weeks for them to get the renderings done, but then we will have them and post them on our website.

**[00:06:19.07] - Speaker 7**

So that's where we are there. It's not holding up anything in the permitting process. The county is going to go through their strokes of all the reviews and everything that has to take place, but it is in for a permit. I brought it to the attention just because it is a big number and it's not going to be an inexpensive thing to rework that park.. Correct. But this is a. It's not a challenge. Of course. It was not brought as a recommendation. As much as you brought to you all to say, Here's information and options that would be there. It's a beautiful park, and it would be just painful to have to spend that money anyway. Can you tell me, if I could just get the park in the provide additional options to allow residents to tell us about your pain? Do you think you'd like to share how that would happen?

**[00:07:43.14] - Speaker 1**

We have a Page Park page dedicated on the website. It's under the What's New page. If you go to What's New, and then you scroll down, you'll see a page park, separate page. That's where we've been updating everyone. We'll have an additional update after Jim's report this evening. We'll probably have that page updated tomorrow. But when we receive the renderings, we'll put them on that page, and then we'll indicate a link to provide public input. It'll be a link to our info email address, and we'll receive all the comments that way. That's right. One of the options is replacing taking the purgola with the purgola. Thank you. No, not at all. Yes, sir. A few questions. The option of replacing, taking the purgola off, putting in the correct footings, how long would that take?

**[00:08:55.29] - Speaker 7**

I didn't ask him. It would be inside the total duration. Once we get approval to do the rest of the settlement and erosion control measures at the park, it would happen. It would not take longer then. It would happen inside that same time zone. Question two, thank you. What would remain, if anything, of the base, the stonework that forms the bottom of the project? The construction of

the bottom is the dirt, and then there's a thin layer of concrete that the posts are bolted to. And then on top of that, that cover all the bolts and everything, is the blue stone pavers that are there. And that would come up and that would all go right back. That would go back. So it would look the same. You wouldn't see any difference. So when it comes up and goes down, it will look exactly like it does now. Final question for me. If we did decide that this was just not worth the additional money and time, would we no longer require permits? Could we open the park if we did the things that we were planning to do anyway, which I think we really do need to get those banisters, the railings, and to select the play area for the children.

**[00:10:30.20] - Speaker 7**

We can be doing that, and we should be doing that. But why do we need to deal with the county at all? I've not been very happy with them, let's put in mild re. You do not need any building permits, but you do need permits. You have a Sediment Erosion Control Permit that is a required permit by the county. There are different agencies that issue those permits. The building permit is required for the pergola from Department of Permitting Services. The Parks and Environmentals water in... I forget that actually they've changed their names, and I apologize. I should know them. Working here for 40 years, I I shouldn't learn that by now. But the Sediment Erosion Control is a different entity that has to issue the permit. When you disturb more than 500 square feet of land, you need a permit. You don't necessarily need a building permit, but you need a site and Sediment Erosion Control permit. Because we are disturbing more than that, you will need a permit to do the rest of it. Now, the county probably would not let you occupy that space without the permit just because they would start to lose.

**[00:11:48.17] - Speaker 7**

Now, they start to lose the ability to influence your need to get a permit. If you're out there occupying They don't have a mechanism to make you do that sediment Erosion Control work right now. I think they would not let you occupy the park until you did the Sediment Erosion Control work.

**[00:12:14.04] - Speaker 3**

I thought the Julian, I thought originally they said, essentially once we got the building permit, we could go ahead with stormwater management and All those other things that they've come up with. Is that not the case?

**[00:12:35.26] - Speaker 1**

I think the larger issue is the ADA compliance and the pathway. The pathway is not ADA compliant now. So the stormwater management permit is a separate issue with the rain basins that we have to do. And if there were no ADA issues on the site, I think we could argue to open up the park before the stormwater permit is complete, and potentially that could work. But that's not the case because we have the ADA compliance issues. That's, I think, more what's keeping us from being able to try to open it early.

**[00:13:08.21] - Speaker 7**

They're all intermingled right there. The ADA is not a building permit issue. The ADA is the whole site plan permit. But because you've built all this stuff, you're going backwards. If you were just submitting this, you would not be able to occupy the place until this work was done. So So if it's a new park, if it's a new park, this is not a new park. This is a cold park with improvements. I think we're done there now. The GPS has made it a little bit different. I don't think we're doing that. I'm not asking to fight it. I don't think you would get approval to use it until you mitigate, you correct all the things that were not complied with. I thought we'd agreed and we have a schedule for that. Yes. So when will the schedule without the pergola be finished? The set of erosion control work, we're thinking that it's going to be happening starting in March. So that'll probably take them two months, say two months to do all the work in the park. So that's when the park would When will be done. June? Probably. Probably May. We'll see. It's all about weather at that point in time when you start opening things up.

**[00:14:38.04] - Speaker 7**

Without the purgula, with the purgula- No difference. No difference in time. Just to be clear, whether or not we put the purgula back is irrelevant to the time. Correct. Do other council members have a question? Thank you.

**[00:15:00.13] - Speaker 5**

Quick question. I think I know the answer to this, but you said it's \$2,9,500, including putting the pergola back up. If we don't do that, how much less is it? I don't have the price for the whole park yet. That's what I'd have to figure out.

**[00:15:16.14] - Speaker 7**

Is it substantial? My guess is... Let me just think. That's a really fair question. What options two and three or whatever the other ones cost? I I just saw those plans, so I haven't figured it out. But my guess is those doing either of those plans is a \$10,000 to \$15,000 ballpark of where those other two plans are going to end up. They're not going to be hugely different in the cost.

Okay. All right. So the savings are not putting the pergola back. You think we covered most of the cost of the other option? Yeah. I think it would definitely save you money. And the other question is, what we decide, will that affect the sediment plan? No. So we can go ahead with that regardless of what- The sediment- It doesn't get held up. Once we get our permits, once you get your permits, right. I think Councilman Mullen touched on this, but how much time effectively does it save us to not put the pergola up? None. None. Okay. Yeah, I just wanted to- Because you can't start. It's going to happen in the The longest path is going to be doing all the site work.

**[00:16:33.12] - Speaker 7**

The pergola, if it takes this long, wherever you do it, you're going to do it inside that longest path. Fixing the path to make it actually ADA compliant, for those of you who aren't aware, it's not the way it was built. How big a fix is that? There's a few things. It's the ramp that leads you up to the park that is not ADA compliant. Then there's another walkway that goes to the back that is also It's not ADA compliant.

**[00:17:01.25] - Speaker 5**

And your question is, how much does it- Is it a big project or is it easy fix? We have to rip the whole path out. The walk in the front, because there are two very different answers. The walk, the path in the back is not complicated. It's not involved.

**[00:17:22.14] - Speaker 7**

And we may even actually be able to leave it because we're not forced to touch it. We're not having to do something to it. It was a, say, Why don't we fix that? But that actually triggered another... To you, whoever it was who said the county is not their friend. By doing that area, we were working into a stream valley buffer that triggered another set of approvals. So we said, Don't touch that path. So we talked last time and said, We're not going to touch that second half of that path. The walkway up is not an insignificant piece. You got to pull up all the papers, regrade it for more concrete. It's a mess. And Then it's going to look... But there's room to do it. Yes. You need a very much... Yes. Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

**[00:18:12.02] - Speaker 1**

Just a quick comment, Martha. We're getting some feedback that you're not being heard very well, so maybe if you can- I'll try to see. Get even closer to the mic. Thank you. I don't want to get diseases from this thing, but okay. Any more questions or comments from Council, I don't see any. I think we have time for two or three questions from the audience. If anyone has one, if

they could go to the microphone next to Mr. Wilson. You better think fast. We're going to move on. I don't see anybody. Do you mind moving on to the Red House? Sure.

**[00:18:50.15] - Speaker 7**

The Red House, the permits have been submitted to the Red House, and we do have a change order that we received from the builder. The change order from the work that is, as the architects got into the details of exactly what has to happen to that house to make it be ADA compliant in its totality was it involved probably the two major things. And you know the handicap, actually, the handicap of the lift that was there before. But the work that was when you really pull that thread all the way, it's actually a fairly significant amount of work to make it be totally compliant. And then also the parking lot has to get regraded and reshaped to be accessible. There were some other electrical things that had to take place in the building. Some of the stairs on the back were significantly more. When all the designs got done, there's a change order of \$119,000. Did I get that right? \$119,000 to the original. I've gone through every line item in it. Some of them, they were not part of the original scope, and the contractor could not have known. I went through each one of them and have written a memo for my recommendation that it would be approved.

**[00:20:27.15] - Speaker 7**

Okay. Since this is going to come up later, there's going to be a vote on the change order while Mr. Wilson is here, if council members would like to ask questions.

**[00:20:38.24] - Speaker 2**

I think you also brought to our attention, maybe at a committee meeting, that if we ever do something like this again, it's much better to have architectural drawings provided to bidders. Is that what you said? So it would minimize some of these- Yeah, the hard part is how far do you go in the design to have a contract to actually give you a number that has some harder connection to what they're thinking, what they're imagining.

**[00:21:10.05] - Speaker 7**

So yeah, the process would be, typically, is you figure out what you want to do, you come up with a... An architect comes up with a scope of narrative and maybe even a sketch or whatever. It helps all the contractors understand much more the limits of the scope of what there was. It Because that's just typically good practice to do it that way. As we were talking about whatever this other house is, that's what you do. You come up with a program, you find out what can you

do. You get what you can as clear as you can so the contractors are giving you a number that is still going to be a plus or minus, but shouldn't be a major, major difference.

**[00:21:56.22] - Speaker 2**

Do council members have questions on the change order that's going to come before us later in the meeting?

**[00:22:05.13] - Speaker 5**

Is there going to be much overlap between what we do and what the tenant does?

**[00:22:15.12] - Speaker 7**

I haven't seen what the tenant's drawings. They haven't developed anything. There are different things. There are a handful of items that are in this change order that I would They're a little bit gray of who's they are, and I would be inclined to try to get the developer to pay for a couple. Not maybe five, \$8,000 or \$10,000 a thing of total, but I would want the developer to pay some of those.

**[00:22:48.00] - Speaker 5**

I was asking more about the timing, so maybe we need to talk to them.

**[00:22:52.29] - Speaker 7**

I think not. My recommendation is that we get our work done, get it done, and get out of there, because when they're both going to be there, it's just going to... Okay. In your current estimate of when that work would be complete, would be when again? I got all excited a couple of weeks ago, and somebody sent an email out and said, We got that permit, and got too excited because they said, Oh, no, I'm sorry, I misread. My guess is you're probably a month or two away from that permit being issued, and If the change order is signed, I would get moving right away. So you'd be January, February. Thank you. Any other questions or comments from council members or our managers?

**[00:23:48.10] - Speaker 1**

Do we want to vote on this now while Jim is here, or do you want to wait until he's not here? That's perfectly fine with me. I have a motion.

**[00:24:09.25] - Speaker 2**

I move to accept the change order proposed by managed homes for A red house for an additional \$119,028 to cover new items and increased costs for a total of \$255,28. I second, Madam Chair. Thank you for the second. Do I need to repeat the motion? Does everyone understand it? Is there discussion? No discussion. I'll repeat the motion to accept the change order proposed by Manage Homes for the Red House for an additional \$119,028 to cover new items and increased costs for a total of \$255,028. So all in favor, please raise your hand. I see seven fours. That means the motion passes unanimously. Thank you. Anything else for Mr. Wilson? Okay, great. Thank you. We are now, I think, on our agenda at Chairman's announcement. I have a lot of gratitude to offer to everyone who served on the Ad-Hoc Development Committee, especially Chairman Francine Klein. It's really not easy to fully thrush out the views of community members and develop positions when people have as many various opinions as our community does. So thank the whole committee for their collective It's... I don't know. Can I ask, has anybody walked through Humphrey Park in the daylight in the past few days?

**[00:26:08.13] - Speaker 2**

You might see that it's very much refreshed. Trash cans have been cleaned, and one is being replaced. The benches were stained, the steps were power washed, there's new caulking, and all that is thanks to Julian and Jason for arranging that. It really looks It's much nicer. I'd like to let everybody know, and the President of FHNN is right here to acknowledge the End of Life presentation. It was very, very well-attended. That was funded by our new initiative's budget and hosted by FHNN. So thank you for proposing that and pulling it off. It sounds like it was a very successful event and well-attended. We've already heard from Jim about this decision we have to make. I'm sorry, Mr. Wilson, about the decision we have to make on the pergola, and you'll hear more about that and have options and your ability to offer your opinions. It's not going to be decided in a week, so you'll hear more about that. Excuse me, I have a question.

**[00:27:27.20] - Speaker 6**

Yes. How long will the survey be up on the web, on our web? Do we have an idea of when it will be available for people to start sharing their perspectives?

**[00:27:39.11] - Speaker 1**

We haven't really settled that, so it can be as long as we want.

**[00:27:44.14] - Speaker 2**

But It would have to be before the- It would have to be before the- So they have the visual of what they're actually picking from.

**[00:27:50.12] - Speaker 1**

It would be before the December Council meeting. We would want to have a deadline for public input by then, so it could come back to the Council at the December meeting.

**[00:28:00.17] - Speaker 2**

Right. When did you say those renderings would be done?

**[00:28:03.08] - Speaker 1**

I think they said two weeks from this past week. So- So possibly next week.

**[00:28:10.04] - Speaker 2**

Then theoretically, it could be three weeks and be done by the council meeting?

**[00:28:15.29] - Speaker 1**

Could be, yeah.

**[00:28:17.09] - Speaker 2**

Can we say that's our target? Yeah.

**[00:28:19.23] - Speaker 1**

Then we'd want all the input before the December eighth meeting. Yeah. That would be the deadline. Okay, thanks.

**[00:28:30.11] - Speaker 2**

Now we have comments from the public, and I think that... Okay, I'm sorry. Please Hi.

**[00:28:57.11] - Speaker 8**

This is just a notification. This is Marvin Mostau, and I'm Dick Stoffenberger. We're going to have a gathering to protest the notification of the protest tomorrow, honoring veterans. The purpose of the protest is opposition to the recent cuts to the VA. Eighty thousand people will be

cut back. It's a support your veterans, though. The second part of it is it's also in opposition of the Trump administration misusing the veterans and the military, whether it's invading some of the cities like Chicago and others or taking illegal action against fishermen off the Coast of South America. We're really just hoping that you all will support us, that some of the people in the audience will support us. We're hoping for a good turnout, even though the weather is working against us.

**[00:30:01.12] - Speaker 2**

On the first event, could you clarify exactly where and when?

**[00:30:05.04] - Speaker 8**

It'll be on the corner of Western in Wisconsin under the Trader Joe sign. We expect to have a choral group there, and we expect to have a fairly good turnout, we hope.

**[00:30:22.07] - Speaker 2**

Will you have handouts for people to-It's noon to 1: 00, and Marvin has handouts. About your organizing Okay.

**[00:30:31.08] - Speaker 8**

Our group is called Gray Noize because we have a lot of people who have gray hair.

**[00:30:36.20] - Speaker 2**

Gray Noize?

**[00:30:37.25] - Speaker 8**

gray, G-R-A-Y. We do have younger people, but mostly they're people like... They're senior citizens who are stepping up. There's a very similar group going to be over in Connecticut Avenue also.

**[00:30:51.19] - Speaker 2**

Okay. Thank you for sharing.

**[00:30:53.19] - Speaker 8**

Thank you.

**[00:31:01.26] - Speaker 2**

Mr. Cuceti?

**[00:31:15.00] - Speaker 3**

Roger. Coach Eddie, 5,500 Friendship Boulevard. I think as many of you know, the Montgomery County Planning Board will be meeting next week in an important meeting to review the Friendship Heights plan. And the DC Planning Board will be meeting in about a month to do the same thing on the DC side. I wanted to give a quick summary of the views I will be presenting to both, have presented, and will be presenting to both. I want to emphasize at the start, however, that these views were not supported and rejected by the people who joined the Advisory Committee on Development. In a sense, you could consider this the minority report of the Advisory Committee. In quick summary, my perspective is that every effort should be made to maximize genuine green space in Friendship Heights and minimize the addition of new concrete and steel structures. This not only will help fight climate change and help bring an end to the heat dome in which we live, but it will also significantly improve the quality of life here. I want to quickly comment on five reasons that are normally given for why this is a bad idea. Number one, we live in a Metro area, we need to cram as many people into the Metro neighborhood as possible.

**[00:32:50.28] - Speaker 3**

We are the most densely populated Metro station neighborhood in the system, and certainly in Montgomery County. Number two, this is another nimby. They just don't want the trash in their neighborhood. They want to push it out. We are not Potomac. We are not McClane. We have more than our share of traffic jams already. We don't need more. Number three, this will not appeal to millennials and Gen Z. My belief is that the target demographic we should look for are families, and nothing is less attractive to a family than a high-rise office building, and nothing is more attractive than a park. Number four, I got it. We need to restore destination shopping, and this will hurt Our goal of becoming destination shopping, nothing is going to bring Neiman Marcus and Lord and Taylor back. Amazon, The Wharf, and City Center have put an end to them. Our goal should not be known as a place for destination shopping. It should be known as quality of life. Those are my quick comments. As I said, these were not supported by the advisory committee, but I will be presenting them as my own, and I think they're shared by a number of other people in Friendship Heights.

**[00:34:16.10] - Speaker 2**

Thank you, Mr. Kuchetny. Mr. Niles? The next on the Our agenda is the Village and Managers Report.

**[00:34:35.22] - Speaker 1**

Just very briefly, our new Assistant Program Director, Alex Benson, started last week, and she's working closely with Anne O'Neill, the program director, and she will still have some additional training to do through the end of the month. But she's off to a great start, and we welcome her to our team. Thank you.

**[00:34:57.05] - Speaker 2**

I have two questions for you. Would you mind sharing how the password is changing.

**[00:35:16.25] - Speaker 1**

Okay. So fountain repairs, we are going to go out for bid. We're preparing to go out for bid, which we should be able to do this week to issue an RFP for fountain repairs. We have a number of repairs to do, and including investigating a possible leak, which is separate from the repairs that need to be done. So that will be proceeding. Comcast, we just recently completed a switch over to fiber optic for a dedicated circuit, which should increase reliability. We did have a little outage this morning that we're trying to find out what happened, but the switchover was completed this past Thursday, I believe, Thursday or Friday last week. So we now have a dedicated fiber optic connection. And What that means is that we also have a new guest WiFi login and password for visitors to the center who want to log in to WiFi. It's a different password and it's a different network. We have a sign that indicates what that is, and folks at the front desk can give that information, and we'll also be publicizing that. But that's whichever just was completed.

**[00:36:23.13] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, those of us in the building a lot will have to make a point of doing that, I think.

**[00:36:27.25] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, you just do it the one time, And then it'll find it once you come in in the future.

**[00:36:33.25] - Speaker 2**

Right. So this should improve the reliability of the remote or the online meetings, right?

**[00:36:41.07] - Speaker 1**

Weren't we having some problems? It should improve the reliability of the entire Wi-Fi system. So internet reliability should be improved. And it also should be a stronger signal in this room than it has been in the past. There's actually a device right over the heads of Council member Klein and Alt that That is brand new. That's a Wi-Fi network amplifier that's supposed to improve the signal in this room and on this side of the building where it's been problematic before.

**[00:37:11.28] - Speaker 2**

Questions or comments from council members?

**[00:37:14.14] - Speaker 5**

You I'm sorry. You've probably heard this, but during the movies, that signal cuts out a lot for 5 to 10 seconds at a time.

**[00:37:24.04] - Speaker 1**

Right. It should certainly help with that situation. There's also a possibility that we have a light bulb issue, so we're looking that as well with the projector, which is not an Internet issue. It's a projector issue.

**[00:37:37.17] - Speaker 2**

Other questions or comments? Okay. I think the next on the agenda is the mayor's announcement.

**[00:37:44.15] - Speaker 5**

Thank you. I have two public announcements. On Saturday, November 15th, the shredding truck will return to the village from 10: 00 AM to 12: 00 noon. It will park on Friendship Boulevard, adjacent to the village center. And village residents are entitled to bring the materials for shredding. And the following week, on Saturday, November 22nd, we will once again host the Goodwill Donation Drive. Goodwill will have a truck parked on Friendship Boulevard by the entrance to the Village Center from 10: 00 AM to 2: 00 PM to accept your donations of household electronics, clothing, housewares, and other items. Excuse me. My announcement I want to thank everyone who attended our first of what I hope is a monthly event on a discussion

group for what's going on with federal employees. But it's not just federal employees, it's contractors. It's everyone who's affected. We had some family members of government employees. The next meeting, we're going to keep it the same date. It's the first Monday of the month, December first. It will be an hour 6: 00 to 7: 00. And we intend to follow the same basic format, which is a discussion group for January.

**[00:39:05.28] - Speaker 5**

We're working on having a speaker come to address the group. So if you can make it or have any questions, just please contact me. And the other thing, I just wanted to let people know that I have asked the CAC, our Citizens Advisory Committee, to start to look into ways to possibly repurpose the Artist House. That's the 4602 North Park. It's the uphill side of the yellow house, and we need more space, quite frankly. We have village staff who are working in offices that were literally designing It's going to be closets. Sometimes we have trouble scheduling events here. We do have, as Roger mentioned, our demographics will shift when the new house gets built at 55 400 Wisconsin. We'll also have several hundred more residents. So there are no decisions. There's no timetable. I just ask them to think about ways that we might be able to better use that space. They did tour it with Julian last Tuesday, and I just wanted to put it out there. That's something that has started. Thank you.

**[00:40:27.19] - Speaker 2**

Committee reports. The first one we have is Advisory Committee on Development. I'm sorry. Treasuries. I'm sorry. Thank you. Skipped over one. Treasuries Report.

**[00:40:39.19] - Speaker 4**

Okay. Thanks, Martha. Our revenue and expenses are both slightly off compared to the same period last year, but overall, our budget is still in pretty good shape. Our largest source of revenue income taxes are down by 4%. The likely effects of government layoffs and the shutdown do not appear to have fully kicked in as yet. Property taxes are actually up slightly. Interest income is off by about 13,000 or 24% compared to last year because of the decline in rates. On the expenditure side, expenditures are up about 5% or 45,000, with major increases related to building maintenance, primarily That's what we're doing. We're really related to village maintenance issues at the Billy Center, and a spike in water cost because of the fountain leak, I think was the issue. I think those maintenance costs are likely to moderate going forward. Overall, I think our expenditures are pretty much in line with budget. Based on forecast, we're still on track to stay within budget this year and book a surplus. But the main risk factor remains

income tax revenues, and we'll keep a close eye on that. On the capital side, expenditures totaled 61,000 for the first four months of the fiscal year through October.

**[00:42:14.13] - Speaker 4**

The majority of those expenses related to Page Park. As noted earlier, we have additional capital costs coming our way as part of the Red Hit house project, and the Village Fountain will also likely require some capital work. On the reserve side, we continue to build our reserves as of October 31st. Our reserves totaled just shy of \$5 million, up \$150,000 from the start of the year. The only other thing I wanted to ask Julian... Yeah, sorry, Julian.

**[00:42:47.25] - Speaker 1**

I didn't mean to interrupt you. I just wanted to add one item about income tax revenue just as a preview. Later this month, actually on the 30th of November, we're going to get our first large distribution of income tax for the current fiscal year, we get almost all our income tax in four months, and the first one is November. So that will be a very good barometer for the income tax that we can expect for the rest of this fiscal year, which is, of course, our biggest source of revenue. So it should be a good preview of what we can expect. So we will get that on November 30th, and that'll be reflected in next month's accounting report.

**[00:43:28.13] - Speaker 4**

Thank you. Okay, thanks. Julian, will you also just give a quick update on where the audit report stands?

**[00:43:35.04] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, the audit was filed. We did get confirmation from the auditor. It was filed this past week. They did require an extension. They didn't end up needing much of the extension, but it was officially due October 31st, and they turned it in on the sixth to the seventh. So it has been completely filed, and we will get the final copy sent to us. Okay, thank you. Okay.

**[00:44:04.29] - Speaker 2**

I do have a question. Julian, you said that the first, November 30th payment, income tax payment, would be a good reflection of the rest of the fiscal year. But that wouldn't really reflect the federal layoffs, would it? Because they were being paid through the end of September, most of them. Wouldn't that be a bad indicator?

**[00:44:28.09] - Speaker 1**

Well, it's a reflection of anybody that request an extension on their income tax gets a six-month extension to October from April. So it's a cleanup payment that reflects all those extensions. And that's why it's usually a pretty good barometer, because we typically get whatever we're going to get on November 30th is the same amount we're going to get in February and May.

**[00:44:51.17] - Speaker 2**

But I'm suggesting this year might be different because of these different circumstances. It could.

**[00:44:55.25] - Speaker 1**

But typically, it's a pretty good measure because it captures the late filers that go through, that get extended to October 15th to file their income taxes.

**[00:45:07.02] - Speaker 2**

I suggest we keep an open mind that it might not be typical.

**[00:45:10.20] - Speaker 1**

For sure. It might not be typical. Actually, and I should say, we get an official projection in December. We don't get it November 30th, but the projection we're going to get in December is to a large degree based on what we received in November, along with other trends that they're looking at. So it all goes into that projection. We're we're going to get probably in the second week of December.

**[00:45:34.10] - Speaker 2**

Thank you. Any other questions? Now we have the Advisory Committee on Development. Thank you for being patient with me.

**[00:45:47.13] - Speaker 6**

I'd like to thank everyone who's here from the committee. I see several people here from the committee. I know that for each one of us, it's a labor of love, so I really appreciate your being here. Second, with regard to what Roger had to say, it is true that not every item that anyone I would suggest has been adopted. But I would say a fair perspective on the committee's work is that we are in favor of maintaining green space, and it certainly has been the perspective of the

village council that to really remind the Montgomery County planning staff of our focus on maintaining green space. I've heard that from virtually every member of the committee, so it continues to be a top priority. The thing that I wanted to share with the council today is the fact that the committee had prepared a list of amenities that they wanted to suggest for inclusion in the sector plan. I've shared that list with everyone on the council, and I would like to move that the council accept the Advisory Committee on Development's recommended list of amenities for the Friendship Heights sector plan. This includes a Montgomery County Public Library, a Performing Arts Center, a public park, and children's play areas in dog park, as well as an aquatic center and tennis complex.

**[00:47:39.22] - Speaker 6**

This decision of endorsing these recommendations should be transmitted by letter from the mayor to the Montgomery County Planning Board. So that's my motion. I second.

**[00:47:55.21] - Speaker 2**

Thank you. So we have a motion and a second. Would you like me to repeat the Any other questions before we discuss? Okay, we'll go ahead. Comments, questions, discussion?

**[00:48:10.05] - Speaker 3**

I would simply point out, I think that this was unanimous or close to unanimous recommendation from the advisory group. It wasn't always easy, but I think the ending was very good. The motion is clear that it doesn't say exactly where everything might go. It's addressed to the entire sector plan, which includes also Sacks, the collection area, and 5550. So it's not just a Geico. The sector plan staff is expected to sometime in early next year, 2026, actually published a draft of what they are recommending for the sector plan, which will also include Geico. Once they do that, everyone will have a chance to give input again. We can go through the same process again, and we'll get a little bit better idea of what they are thinking after they've listened to all these people at the various meetings. Thank Other comments?

**[00:49:33.17] - Speaker 2**

I will make a short comment. I'm supportive of this. It seems that these are very important to members of our community, and I think the whole council should endorse this recommendation. Are we ready to vote? Okay, all in favor, please raise your hand. It looks like it's unanimous, seven to 0. Thank you. The next committee report is Parks and Grounds from October 17th. We discussed Humphrey Park, where we learned about this leak that's costing us a lot of money and It's arguably a very expensive fix that the fountain needs to be fixed. We discussed

refreshing the park, which has already been done. I hope you guys will take a look at it during the day because it's really quite nice. We learned much of what you learned earlier in this meeting from our project manager, Mr. Jim Wilson, about Page Park and the Red House. That's what we did at our committee meeting. It looks like we don't have old business, so we move on to new business. The first item is discussion on check signing procedure recommendations made by the Treasurer, Treasurer Konloff.

**[00:51:00.00] - Speaker 4**

Thanks, Martha. A proposed check signing and transaction review procedure was originally scheduled to be on today's agenda for contingent review and approval by Council. Prior prior to going to the Finance Committee. However, at the request of the mayor, I'm proposing to delay the recommendation until next month after the Finance Committee has had an opportunity to review the proposal. Just To get a brief summary here. The crux of the proposal is to reduce the number of council members required to sign checks. Currently, two elected officials review and sign all checks, and the process is a little bit cumbersome. As an alternative, it's being proposed to provide a detailed list of transactions that are prepared monthly and correspond to the profit and loss statement so that all council members will have an opportunity to look at transactions, and then, as well as going forward, go online and review the detail of the transactions if they wish. The part of the problem with the current approach where you have two elected officials, is that it requires staff to be constantly coordinating with multiple check signers. That, in my opinion, and an opinion of as well, clearly distracts staff from their normal bookkeeping and accounting responsibilities.

**[00:52:41.08] - Speaker 4**

Also, the current approach really doesn't facilitate the ability to review all transactions such as receipts, transfers, and direct debits. The transaction list that we're publishing does include all transactions, and as I say, it will be available online council members to review. Then as we go forward, also, council members will be able to go online and review the detail of the transactions if they wish. I think it's important to note that there's really no precedent in government, at least that I'm aware of, that requires multiple elected officials to sign off on checks. It's typically considered an administrative function subject to periodic review and audit. The proposed approach is intended to simultaneously reduce the administrative burden staff and to provide all council members with access to more comprehensive and transparent review process. That's the proposal. Any thoughts or suggestions?

**[00:53:44.15] - Speaker 2**

You're going to bring this up to the Finance Committee, right? Yes. Then you'll be coming, and we'll have another chance to ask questions and so forth. Absolutely. Any other questions or comments now? Thank you. Now, I I think it's you, John, the discussion of pedestrian safety study project. Maybe you can describe what you're doing, and then Roy will talk about the proposed committee. Which proposed committee? To evaluate the bids.

**[00:54:21.19] - Speaker 4**

I don't consider that to be a committee. I thought we were just creating an informal review group.

**[00:54:29.12] - Speaker 2**

Maybe Maybe you can talk about the pedestrian safety study and then- Okay.

**[00:54:34.10] - Speaker 4**

We issued a request for proposals in September to perform a pedestrian safety study of all the intersections in the village. We got the proposals back very recently. There were six of them. The next step is to review the proposals and make a a recommendation to counsel on which of the firms submitting proposals we think is submitting the best proposal. I've asked Francine as chair of the Public Safety Committee and Martha Salt, because of her experience with drafting and reviewing proposals, to join me, Julian and other staff in a informal group to review the proposal to make a recommendation to counsel. Once the review group comes to a reasonable consensus on the firm best prepared to perform the study, the plan is then to prepare a summary of the group's recommendations for council review and approval in December. That's That's the plan.

**[00:55:51.00] - Speaker 5**

To let you know where we are. There's been some confusion on if this needs to be a formal committee or just an informal collection of council members. We're not going to have a formal committee. And the precedent, I know for the Red House, we had an informal group of three Council members, and that worked. So I would just continue using that press, and I would just do it the same way. Council member Klein and Council member Sewell and you, along with the Village Manager, could be that working group. So we don't need to formally form a committee.

**[00:56:44.25] - Speaker 2**

Thank And we're all prepared to help out on this project.

**[00:56:49.13] - Speaker 3**

So it will be on the agenda for December? Yes. Thank you.

**[00:56:56.05] - Speaker 2**

A village manager, would you mind sharing that comment Just to make sure that we're seeing the same thing. Can you talk a little bit more about the taxes that we just exchanged a second ago?

**[00:57:03.02] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, just a footnote on the tax discussion. The furloughed and layoff from all the folks that are having difficulty now with their revenue, that won't be reflected until next year because the tax returns for this year are based on 2024 filing year. We anticipate next year seeing those effects. There could be some effects early, but Most likely it will be 2026 distributions that will be affected by tax year 2025. But what we're about to get on November 30th is based on tax year 2024, calendar year 2024. Thanks.

**[00:57:46.22] - Speaker 3**

Julian, could you remind us of what number of particularly wealthy individuals gave us that enormous boost in the income last year?

**[00:57:57.29] - Speaker 1**

We don't know who the I think it was nine individuals in the top earning category that had a particularly beneficial year for themselves and for village tax purposes. That was last year, and that resulted in a windfall in one month's distributions. But that's a very difficult thing to predict in a very volatile part of our income tax revenue. There's a handful of people at the top of the pyramid whose individual experiences in one year can really affect the total that we get.

**[00:58:33.13] - Speaker 3**

We don't know, of course, if they are still here, but I think it would be fair to presume that the people in that an income level are not the ones likely, sadly, to have lost their positions in the last year.

**[00:58:48.11] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, but they could easily not be making the same amount of income that they had on a prior year. That's very common, too. We already voted on the Red House Change Order, so I think we're now ready to go to our last item on the agenda. Mayor, would you like to discuss the new initiatives budget? Yeah. So this is...

**[00:59:12.29] - Speaker 5**

Sorry. This was an expense that was introduced into the budget last year, it was \$4,000, and it's meant to be a one-time expense. It could be a project, it could be a capital item that is not typically reflected in the budget elsewhere. What we did last year is we put out an announcement, we had individuals submitted applications. The CAC got applications with personal individual identification items removed and scored it. They made a recommendation to the council. We funded the CAC's top two recommendations, which were, as Council member Solt mentioned, In the End of Life seminar or seminars, there were two, right? I think. And a file of life refrigerator magnets. In this year's budget, approved budget, it's been raised to \$5,000. And we want to follow... I'm recommending we follow the same procedures using the same scoring criteria. Julie and I have discussed this. We don't feel, since we're following the same procedures and the expense has already been approved, that we actually need to vote on it. There's There's nothing to approve. So if everyone is just in agreement to do it the way we did last year, I think we can just talk about editing last year's announcement, bringing it forward for this year and releasing it.

**[01:00:45.03] - Speaker 2**

Can I ask if there's discussion and then just informally how people feel about just continuing with what we did last year? So discussion- Yeah.

**[01:00:56.10] - Speaker 5**

And I would point out that our Friday packets included the announcement from last year. Right.

**[01:01:01.01] - Speaker 2**

Council member Mueller.

**[01:01:02.24] - Speaker 3**

We need a summary from the individual organizations that sponsored the last two successful events. That's part of the protocol. We need to know how many people. I don't remember the wording in the resolution, but there needs to be a summary that gets back to us. Number two, I

was a little confused since I was, the mayor will remember, I was the liaison that you asked to be at the last meeting. And there was thoughts from the CAC this year that one of the projects might be a purchase of a bench or benches, the place to be decided, additionally, placed in the village. So it was not clear to me where Where the announcement now is indicating that the CAC was not interested in evaluating the appliances, the applications. There was no discussion of that at all.

**[01:02:13.26] - Speaker 5**

Well, yeah. I've had conversation with the chair of the CAC, and they've agreed to not, as a committee, submit an application and to score it as they did last year. Great. Thank you. And they've been very cooperative that as well.

**[01:02:35.05] - Speaker 2**

I don't see in the write-up that there's a requirement to send a summary after the project was complete. Was that included in our...

**[01:02:50.18] - Speaker 3**

I don't have it in front of me, but I'm...

**[01:02:52.25] - Speaker 2**

It's in the book, but I don't see it here.

**[01:02:55.17] - Speaker 7**

I looked at it before coming here.

**[01:02:59.11] - Speaker 2**

It was a very exact detail description. Oh, here we go. Wait a minute. And I thought there was a report or something. I don't know. Okay. Any award will come with the responsibility to provide a written report to the Village Council by a date specified upon award which describes the project's accomplishments or such other information as the council shall require. Shall we defer to the village manager to speak with the two awardees about what might be expected? Would that be reasonable? Yeah. Is that reasonable? Yes.

**[01:03:37.26] - Speaker 1**

Well, I believe we did provide a summary. I mean, the one initiative was the file of Life cards, which was a pretty straightforward issue.

**[01:03:49.13] - Speaker 2**

And it was by an individual.

**[01:03:51.07] - Speaker 1**

And it was by an individual. And we reported back that the file of life cards were distributed. And I believe we indicated how many were distributed. It was one per household. So that was That was done, and that report was essentially given. The second one was this End of Life program that just occurred. And we put in the Friday packet, Friday memo to the council, the attendees at that event. It was an educational session that we hosted here that people signed up for.

**[01:04:22.01] - Speaker 2**

Okay. Council member Muller, does that meet what you think should be the requirements? Okay. So any other questions or Can we just do a straw vote if we agree to go forward with the project announcement as it's laid out already? If you agree, could you raise your hand? We're not counting a vote or anything. Okay. It sounds like it's a good idea to move forward with the write-up. We're going to have to have a few edits, but yeah.

**[01:04:54.22] - Speaker 1**

And then we will announce this in the December newsletter and website and social media and everything else. Yeah.

**[01:05:01.19] - Speaker 2**

Thank you. Anything else? Otherwise, I think we're ready to adjourn. Okay, we are done our meeting. Actually, Robert's rules of order says you don't need a motion to adjour. Okay. Thank you.