

## **Village of Friendship Heights December 8, 2025 Meeting Transcript**

### **[00:00:33.19] - Speaker 1**

Good evening. People here in person on this cold night, and hopefully we've got people participating virtually in this meeting of the Friendship Heights Village Council of December eighth, 2025. I'd like to ask my fellow council members to please state their names clearly into the microphone, and also when you have comments over the course of the evening, to try to be sure to speak directly in the microphone. I am Martha Solt, and I'm Chair of the Council.

### **[00:01:08.27] - Speaker 6**

Roy Schafer.

### **[00:01:10.28] - Speaker 5**

Rick Baisal.

### **[00:01:12.13] - Speaker 6**

Francine Klein.

### **[00:01:14.18] - Speaker 5**

John Conlo. Allison Alt.

### **[00:01:17.05] - Speaker 2**

Al Mohler.

### **[00:01:20.01] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. We're going to go a little out of order. We do have our project manager on the line, and I know in the past, we could hear very well. Jim, if you can hear me, a welcome to our meeting.

### **[00:01:35.22] - Speaker 4**

Jim, go ahead.

**[00:01:38.29] - Speaker 3**

Good evening. Thank you.

**[00:01:40.11] - Speaker 1**

Okay. To everybody, I hope you all know that opening Page Park safely and expeditiously is our top priority. Our project manager, Jim Wilson, is on the line, and he will be providing us updates on Page Park and the Red House since we met last. Jim, I'm going to virtually hand you the floor.

**[00:02:08.11] - Speaker 3**

Thank you. Good evening, everybody. I'm sorry that I could not be there tonight, but I'm going to go through. I'm going to start with the Red House and then do Page Park. The Red House, we have the building permits in hand, and the general contractor, managed home, is now in the process of completing their subcontractor buyout, which is awarding all of the subcontractors, and they're preparing for mobilization. They need to have their preconstruction meeting with the county, and that will be scheduled before they actually begin the demolition work, which will start on the 11th. So it's going to start... Construction is going to start this week. We have received I'll talk a little bit about schedule highlights and any owner decisions on both of the projects. I have received an email from the architect that Managed Home is using, and they are also the architects that are serving the tenant. And they brought up just a point of interest to us that Julian and I have talked about. And I'm trying to help navigate the tenant, actually, for this a little bit, is that they've requested commercial equipment and the commercial hoods in a way that are triggering a certain level of mechanical ventilation that are going to be probably more involved than I think the tenant understands that is going to happen.

**[00:03:51.01] - Speaker 3**

So I've reached out to them just to say, Look, let me help you. I'm not charging anybody anything for that time or whatever, but I just thought, look, I'm surprised Services like this are not easy ones. And so I've reached out to them and have not heard back as of yet, but we will be doing that. So it's just going to require larger equipment and Dr. Work that probably then they think they were going to have to initially do. As far as our project is concerned, where the schedule highlights is the demolition, we're looking to begin that on the 11th. The major, all the trades, the work is going to progress, and the trades are going to begin doing all of their rough-in work, all the electrical, plumbing. All those trades are going to start doing all the rough-ins in the first week of January. We're anticipating to have county final inspections on the project in the end of March and final completion and turnover the first week of April. We're trying

to do all this work and get it done prior to the tenant coming in there because having two different contractors in the space is probably not a great one.

**[00:05:10.02] - Speaker 3**

At this point, there are no decisions or open or outstanding items for the village to take action on. So any questions on the Red House?

**[00:05:23.21] - Speaker 1**

Council member Miller.

**[00:05:28.10] - Speaker 2**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank Thank you, Jim. If I understand you correctly, the village will complete roughly in early April, including getting its approval by the county permit people, all of what it needs to do for the disability requirements. At that point, the tenant begins their reconstructed areas which they are paying for. When are they expected to be done so that they can actually open and have whatever ceremony that we want for that?

**[00:06:12.03] - Speaker 4**

You heard that question, Jim?

**[00:06:13.20] - Speaker 3**

I think so. When is the tenant going to do their work and be done with their work? Is that basically what it was? Yes. I do not have their schedule. I don't believe they've actually submitted for building permit yet. For their plans. So we will be done before they begin. And so as soon as I can... I wanted to be able to help them understand. They're not from... I think they're from Colorado or whatever it was. I just want them to make sure they understand the timing and all the loopholes they're going to have to go through with Montgomery County and the Health Department. So I don't know that information. When I do, it'll absolutely be It's being communicated to everybody.

**[00:07:02.25] - Speaker 2**

I believe they also are putting in for a liquor permit, which they realize is sometimes a challenge. I believe way back when they first got involved with us, they were hoping we could help them. I don't know that we can, but that is a specific permit that is going to be important for them.

**[00:07:28.19] - Speaker 3**

I don't know that I I don't know that I completely got all that.

**[00:07:31.29] - Speaker 4**

The question was about the liquor permit and whether or not we would be able to assist in that as it's potentially a lengthy process in addition to the health, the food permit from Montgomery County.

**[00:07:44.04] - Speaker 3**

We have not. I do know. They have not asked me to help them with that. It is a lengthy process. Typically, the restaurant, restaurantiers or whatever it is I've worked with in the past, they've taken care of that. But They have not asked me for any help on that. I'm sure there are enough people around that have done it that I would be able to provide some assistance, but they have not asked me for anything for that or was not intending waiting to or wasn't aware that I could or should help them.

**[00:08:20.02] - Speaker 1**

Mayor?

**[00:08:21.17] - Speaker 6**

I'm pretty sure there's nothing in the contract that obligates us to assist them.

**[00:08:29.07] - Speaker 3**

I I would really doubt that. That would be a really bad thing to include in there.

**[00:08:35.12] - Speaker 1**

From the council, any other questions or comments about the Red House? Moving on to Page Park. With Jim's assistance, we got, I guess they call it renderings of three options for Page Park. We solicited feedback from residents concerning those three options, and we had public meeting where we got some more input. We had one person ask a question concerning safety of option number three that does not have a fence, and Jim responded to me that it completely meets the code and it's safe. You only need a fence if the wall height exceeds 30 inches and is accessible to the public, et cetera. He said, The The plans on option three provide a sufficient barriers, so we are okay on that.

**[00:09:37.20] - Speaker 2**

Excuse me, Madam Chair, could you repeat that? I had trouble hearing who indicated that.

**[00:09:45.05] - Speaker 1**

Jim, our project manager. Would you like to add a little more on that, Jim, or explain it in a way that I didn't?

**[00:09:52.21] - Speaker 3**

Yeah, I'm not in. Martha, I'm sorry. I have seen, and Julie and I apologize, I did look around seeing if I saw all the renders. I saw the previous two options, or is option one keeping the pergola?

**[00:10:07.18] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, option one is keeping the pergola. Option two involves a fence. Option three has no fence, if that helps you.

**[00:10:17.01] - Speaker 3**

Yeah. If the wall, and I don't know for certain, I have not measured it myself, if the height of the wall exceeds 30 inches and the public can basically stand at the edge of the wall, it needs a fence. If you have a bush and a landscaped area and shrubs and bushes in the area that is really designed, it's not a public form or public space, if I may. It's landscape, bushes and shrubs and such. It then would not need the fence.

**[00:10:55.09] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. Let's see. So I guess, am I the first one announcing what the email responses on the options were? It looks like our residents emailed, The vast majority prefer Option 3, which is vegetation and no fence, but permanently removing the pergola. Only 13 wanted Option 1, which is retaining the pergola as is. A few more wanted Option 2 with the fence and grass, but most people wanted vegetation and permanently removing the pergola. So that came from emails. And then we had a public meeting where a very few people came, but they were able to explain their positions, shall I say, at length? But yes, in detail. So I was thinking that before we proceed with actual motions on this, if council members would like to share their views and that before we proceed with motions and voting, if people have opinions they'd like to share or

questions, I think that might be a better way to do this, unless people want to strictly follow Robert's rules of Council member Mullen.

**[00:12:36.10] - Speaker 2**

Thank you, Madam Chair. The public hearing that we had did have a very small number of people here, six people, I believe. I think all of them were in favor of option number three. I brought to their attention that that option did not have offense. And despite what the project managers told us for the first time, People have a way of not obeying the most logical rules. And it seemed to me that it was an unsafe situation where people could walk through hedges without too much trouble, especially if they were children, especially if they were disabled, or especially if they were simply clumsy, like myself. If they were to fall, they would be seriously hurt. I don't know where the rule is that 30 inches is somehow safe to fall, but there are rocks below that drop off. I think it would be wise and incumbent not to presume that it is safe. I, for one, don't think it's safe. If something were to happen, having pointed this out, I think the village would be responsible. I would hate to have knowing the way the permit department works, to have us go through all this.

**[00:14:20.20] - Speaker 2**

Then since they seem to have more than one person with more than one opinion, after everything was all settled, come and I say, Oh, by the way, we've suddenly discovered and decided that this might be a problem. I can alert the council, my colleagues, that when the retirement home that was next to us submitted its permit procedure years ago, in 1995 or whatever it was, and everything was all set to go, there was a a last minute concern that their banisters or railings or whatever, I don't remember the details, that had initially been approved were not adequate. The permit was therefore withheld. I would suggest, respectfully, that if the idea of offense is not included, that They check with the permit department beforehand, before submitting, and see what the feeling is for that safety issue. The small gathering of people who heard this concern, I think every single one of them then came back and testified that, well, the simple solution that they were comfortable with was to keep the landscape option of option three, but to add defense. So essentially, the people who heard that for the first time, since this was not an option four, felt that combining The safety measure of option two with the landscape part of option three would be a comfortable solution to the concern.

**[00:16:27.05] - Speaker 2**

I share that with my colleagues and hope that that is something that you can consider in your deliberations.

**[00:16:36.20] - Speaker 1**

Mayor?

**[00:16:37.05] - Speaker 6**

Yeah, thank you. Well, that's a fair point. Presumably, the safety issue has been vetted by our consultant who proposed the options. I'm a little reluctant to start changing them because we gave people three options, and they made their choices based on those options. But what we can do is certainly take this up at the Parks and Grounds Committee because there's nothing that prevents us. If we choose option three as presented, we can still add defense.

**[00:17:05.19] - Speaker 5**

That's something I would say we could take up at the Parks and Grounds Committee and see if there is...

**[00:17:13.24] - Speaker 2**

That is something that people want to do and/or is required.

**[00:17:22.12] - Speaker 1**

I have thoughts on this. At the particular meeting we're talking about, people didn't come out come up and talk a second time at the microphone. I think only one person did that. To say that everyone agreed with this, I think, is not an accurate description of the meeting. That's number one. But number two, I'm really loathing to presume we know more about the code, we know more about safety, than the experts we're hiring. I think we've had trouble with that before. I think we can certainly ask questions. We can certainly ask, as you suggested, Council member Moller, ask our project manager to go do a double-check ask about this, but we are not experts on this, so I really don't want to go too far down this road. I'm open to other comments before we start proceeding, unless there are other comments proceeding with making some Any other decisions here. Okay, so I talk to most people to make sure we're thoroughly addressing all the options. So Thank you, Ms. Harker.. I'm sorry, we're not accepting comments from the audience now, and there was a lot of opportunity.

**[00:19:03.05] - Speaker 2**

I request you to follow your agenda to make a public comment to inform the council before you proceed to vote on.

**[00:19:11.07] - Speaker 1**

I understand your request. We are Accommodating our project manager's schedule. Just like we have previously, we've made all the page park items first. We've had loads of opportunities for comments from people. You sent out all kinds We sent them all out to the buildings. We had a public meeting. I think we've done our share of outreach. We'll be going through all the options, and we're going to need a second on these to proceed. I move to, Reinstall the pergola consistent with all code and engineering requirements for an estimated cost of 49,000. Option one. Is there a second on that?

**[00:20:05.04] - Speaker 2**

Well, for the purpose of-For the purpose of a second on that.

**[00:20:10.10] - Speaker 1**

Okay. Shall we have a vote on that? Or further discussion on option one? Okay. So all those in favor of, and I'm going to say this slowly, Reinstalling the peragola consistent with all code and of engineering requirements for an estimated cost of 49,000, if you could raise your hand. I don't see anyone, so I think the motion fails. Vik, will all those say no? Okay, I'm sorry. No one's abstaining is the point. Yes, we have seven nos. Thank you. We'll move on to option two, which I'm To remove the pergola permanently and replace it with vegetation and a fence for an estimated cost of... I'm sorry. Option 2, to remove the pergola permanently, replacing with vegetation and offense for an estimated cost of \$20,000 to 25,000. Is there a second for that? Okay, we have a second. And is there any discussion on only this option? I don't think so, so I'll call for the vote. I'm sorry. Okay.

**[00:21:38.08] - Speaker 4**

This option is-Microphone, now. Mike.

**[00:21:42.10] - Speaker 2**

This option is offense But essentially a lawn and no additional landscaping. Is that correct?

**[00:21:53.29] - Speaker 1**

Less on the vegetation and the shrubbery with grass, with a fence, in a, shall I say, a U-shaped configuration.

**[00:22:05.09] - Speaker 2**

Thank you.

**[00:22:06.29] - Speaker 1**

All those in favor of adopting option two, if they would raise their hand, and I'm doing that as a demonstration only. So I see one, yes, for option two. All those not in favor of option two, if they would raise their hand. One, two, three, four, five, six, are nos. So that motion fails. So we move on to option three. So I move to remove the pergola permanently and replace it with the vegetation for an estimated cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000. Is there a second? We've got a second. And any discussion on this motion alone? On this motion alone, any discussion? Mr. Mueller? I'm sorry. Council member Mueller?

**[00:23:09.19] - Speaker 2**

I agree with the concern that was expressed at the public meeting that this is an unsafe option. And because it is not defined as such in the regulations, it does not prevent us from putting a fence there as an extra safety precaution. If something were to happen, I don't think the Council could legally say that the consultant is to blame. The Council gets its information from many sources, including consultants, including specialists. They give us their opinions, and sometimes they give us legal advice. But ultimately, it is the decision of the council. I think pretending that a hedge is going to prevent individuals, especially youngsters, who are being encouraged to come to this part, from falling, I think, is a mistake. I think we will be liable both legally and morally. So I would vote no. I think we should have, because it came up at a public meeting, we should have a separate option. We were given three options, but that doesn't mean there were only three options in the universe of choices. This option was suggested not by yours truly, but by at least one. And while the chair is correct, they didn't all come back to the microphone, but they were all shaking their heads in agreement.

**[00:24:54.23] - Speaker 2**

And it was pretty obvious since it was only five or six people there, that they, having heard the option of combining options two and three, felt that that was a reasonable thing after due discussion. The general public, the 70 people that were sending in that did not come to this meeting were commenting and giving opinions on three options. They never had a chance to express their opinion on this option, which is, I believe, the safest one. Thank you.

**[00:25:29.09] - Speaker 1**

If I You could ask my fellow Council member if he would feel more reassured if we amended that motion to include a clause after a safety review by the village's project manager. Would that help your concern?

**[00:25:45.29] - Speaker 2**

Yes, thank you.

**[00:25:47.12] - Speaker 1**

Okay. I'd like to amend my motion to adopt option three, removing the pergola permanently and replacing it with vegetation for estimated costs of \$10,000 to \$15,000 after a safety review is completed by the village's project manager. Is there a second on that?

**[00:26:11.18] - Speaker 2**

I will second that.

**[00:26:12.22] - Speaker 1**

Okay, thank you. Any discussion on that motion alone? Okay, ready for a vote. All those in favor? If I need to read it again, I will, but we're just adding the safety review component. I'm sorry. Yeah, it's the original motion, comma, after a safety review is completed by the village's project manager. I can hand you the words if you want. So all those in favor, raise their hand, please. It looks like seven yeses. That would mean zero nos and zero abstinent. Thank you very much. I mean, this This was a very difficult issue. We really didn't have a choice. We had to change the design of the pergola. Do you have any other comments, Jim, that you would like us to know about related to Page Park?

**[00:27:21.04] - Speaker 3**

No. We can do the study on what safety would require.

**[00:27:29.22] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, we can talk offline about that.

**[00:27:31.17] - Speaker 3**

We can do that. I appreciate the thoughtfulness and the care associated with it.

**[00:27:39.19] - Speaker 1**

Okay, thank you. I don't know where you are, but enjoy your trip, and thank you for calling in. You're welcome.

**[00:27:48.13] - Speaker 4**

Okay, thanks, Jim. We'll follow up offline. Thank you.

**[00:27:53.25] - Speaker 1**

As noted, we're going back to our agenda, which is the chair's announcement. Over the last several months, residents who participated in our virtual meetings have reported that they simply cannot hear. It's either broken up or the quality of the sound is so bad that they can't successfully really participate in our meetings. And I just want you to know that is not acceptable to us. We know that needs to change. We're working on it. Our village manager will report some of what efforts have been made, but we won't stop until it's actually fixed. That Yes, that's it for me. Now, do we have a sign-up sheet from the public? Thank you. Mr. Pestronk.

**[00:29:16.27] - Speaker 2**

Thank you. Bobby Pestronke, 4701 Willard Avenue, Village of Friendship Heights. Just to reflect on my request earlier in the meeting, it has been the consistent practice of the chairperson to reorder items on the agenda, which is the prerogative of the chair. Having been the chair and done it myself, I understand that. But tonight's meeting had under old business, after a number of other items of business, the discussion on the pergola. I had some questions that I wanted to ask, whether they would have changed the vote or not. Hard to say. But first of all, I didn't hear the chair, either herself or ask the village manager, to report on the actual number of people who voted on each of the options. I would have requested that ahead of time. In part, I would have done that because of the chair's comments a couple of years ago when we had 400 residents responding to a particular survey on the quality of life in the village. There were live protests from the chair about whether that was representative or not, or whether anybody should listen to the results of that survey. It sounds as though there are very few people who responded, and I was curious to learn what the responses were and the numbers for each option.

**[00:30:55.02] - Speaker 2**

On a separate issue, which is the EV charging station, which will come up. I hope that during the discussion, we'll be able to hear whether all of the money that's needed for the project is currently in the 2025 budget. If it isn't, where those expenses will be charged and how that will be handled since the budget was adopted last year. Also, third, whether those who use the charging station will be charged for using it. Then on Red House, I wondered whether union labor will be doing the construction and all of the work on the Red House, and I hope that at some point that will be addressed. Thanks very much. That's the only comment here. I don't recall exactly what was put on the website, but the council, as of this evening, does have responses, and Mr. Pastrunk is welcome to have it.

**[00:32:08.05] - Speaker 1**

Thank you, Council member Mueller. I think we'll put this on the web. We'll open it up and not make it behind the hidden part of the web when we... Yes, mayor.

**[00:32:18.24] - Speaker 6**

There was a question if the charging station is in the budget. I'm fairly certain we did include money for the charging station in the budget, which should cover the cost.

**[00:32:29.09] - Speaker 4**

Yes, the budget was \$25,000. Okay, thank you.

**[00:32:36.28] - Speaker 1**

Okay, I think we're moving on to the Village Manager's report.

**[00:32:44.22] - Speaker 4**

Several items. Well, first of all, the sound system for the live stream we think is already improved. We've got some feedback from this meeting since it just started. There has been a fair amount of testing and back and forth with the contractor that installed the system and operates the live stream, and we did some additional testing this past Friday, and then they did some more testing over the weekend and today. There were some complications with the internet feed going out in the building, which is a separate issue, and we We had a Comcast technician out here this evening, late afternoon, just before this council meeting started to try to figure that out. We got that straight. But the sound system for live stream, there were some adjustments made on the end the contractors in their part of this. We think that's been improved already, and we hope to continue that, and we will keep monitoring it. There was a fire today at

Highland House on Wisconsin Avenue that you may have seen. A tremendous response of fire trucks and roads closed and traffic diverted for a good portion of the day. It was on the 15th floor, we are told.

**[00:33:58.14] - Speaker 4**

Apparently, nobody was hurt. Thank goodness. Certainly some damage to the unit. The residents were not allowed back into the building for some period of time. We did get a call asking if they could come to the village center for shelter. We said, of course, and a few people did that, but most of the folks stayed near the building and in the lobby. There's no official word on what caused it. There will be a fire investigation, and I was told probably two or three days we'll get some type of report as to what it was. But fortunately, at least from the report we were given, there was nobody hurt in this fire. Last issue is we're proceeding with repairs in the garage of the village center. We just finished the garage column work that had to be done based on a prior leak that had entered into the garage and caused some deterioration in two of the columns. Now we're addressing the leak itself, which is going to be a little more complicated and a little more involved, and most likely will involve replacing a waterproofing membrane in the courtyard outside of this building behind the classrooms, and will probably be somewhat expensive and involved.

**[00:35:14.05] - Speaker 4**

We're going to get a scope of work and a recommended scope of work from the structural engineer, and we will likely have to advertise for bids to get that work done. So that is in process right now. Thank you.

**[00:35:27.24] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. It seems like everything is It's quite expensive, isn't it? I'm wondering if you can share with us what steps we can do to detect these problems earlier or prevent them, like the water leakage. I mean, how long has it been going on, et cetera?

**[00:35:46.18] - Speaker 4**

It's just very tricky. We've had leaks on and off since this building was built. We've had a history of leaks in this building that we've addressed in various parts of the building, and as Dr. Mullen can attest, even more so than than I can. It's very tricky to find the source of leaks, particularly when it's down in the garage. It can be coming in from different spots, and you can't necessarily isolate the one spot. So it involves usually some exploratory work. But basically, you just try to pinpoint the location as best you can above where you're seeing it enter. And there's a variety of

different ways to attack it depending on what is the surface conditions outside. We have another leak in the corner of the building that's outside the library that's a little easier to remedy, so we're told, because it's in a landscaping area where they can inject some type of substance to keep the leak from penetrating into the garage from there. But when it's an issue of a membrane underneath a brick courtyard, that's more involved. And the membrane there is coming up on 40 years old, which is, I'm sure, beyond the normal life of a waterproofing membrane.

**[00:37:05.13] - Speaker 4**

Usually, they get to be replaced even before that.

**[00:37:07.28] - Speaker 1**

To my knowledge, almost every condo in Friendship Heights has got a membrane problem of some form that turns out to be very expensive to replace. So the sooner we can detect problems, I think the cheaper it will be when we actually fix them, hopefully. I think we're on to Mayor's comments.

**[00:37:32.08] - Speaker 6**

Thank you. I just have one announcement on Wednesday, December 17th at 1: 00 PM, the Montgomery County Police's Financial Crimes Division will give a presentation at the Village Center on Fraud Prevention. Learn how to protect yourself from frauds and scams during the holiday and year round, and registration is required to reserve a seat. And beyond that, I have very little to say. I just want to wish everybody a healthy and happy holiday season. Thank you.

**[00:38:06.06] - Speaker 1**

Treasurer's report. This time, I didn't forget. Third time is the charm for me.

**[00:38:12.29] - Speaker 5**

Thanks, Martha. As Julian noted in the Friday memo, staff from the Maryland Controller Office provided us with income tax revenue estimates for the remainder of 2026 and 2027. And The good news is that income tax revenues for this year are expected to come in at approximately 1. 8 million, which is well above the budgeted amount of 1. 5 million. It's important to note, however, that the FY 26 revenue is from calendar year 2024 income tax filings, which is mostly before Trump took office, and so it doesn't reflect really the impact of the government layoffs and shutdown. In 2027, the controllers' office estimates are that income tax revenues will decline to about 1. 57 million, which represents about a 15% decline from this year's estimate.

And that does, in fact, reflect the likely impact of layoffs in the shutdown. But I think the good news is that most of the forecasts are that Montgomery County will remain reasonably resilient despite federal workforce reductions, with the county currently estimating total revenue growth in FY 27 at 3.5 %, and then declining to 2.3 to 2.6 % in subsequent years through 2031. Starting with this, state's income tax estimates, I've done some very preliminary budget forecast for the village for the remainder of the fiscal year and next.

**[00:39:51.07] - Speaker 5**

And it appears that even assuming higher inflation and cost increases and slower economic growth, we are still in good financial shape with an estimated surplus in both '26 and 2027. So this puts us in a good position to handle the economic uncertainty that we're facing, although obviously we got to continue to keep a close eye on things going forward. But I will say this, that even in the likely event that we're hit with a recession, which some people say is a possibility in the next year or 18 months or so, we build up strong reserves that will to enable us to weather any economic storms that come our way. And so our reserves currently total 5.3 million. At the end of November, up more than I guess, 500,000 from the start of the year. And so that's really good. So we're in pretty good financial shape going forward, even with the uncertainty that's facing us. Thank you.

**[00:40:57.26] - Speaker 1**

Thank you, Treasurer. We are moving on to a very timely topic. Chris Nauer from our Climate Change Committee is going to talk to us about salt, which we have seen a lot of in the last few days. If you could go to the microphone. Thank you. Did I skip something?

**[00:41:23.13] - Speaker 7**

Hi, Chris Nauer, Willard Towers.

**[00:41:26.23] - Speaker 1**

I'm sorry, I did this out of order, but just go ahead. I apologize.

**[00:41:29.20] - Speaker 7**

I was I was wondering about that. I was looking at the agenda. I had to screw something up. It's okay. I'm ready. Okay. Here we go. I would like to hand you each a flyer from the Maryland Department of the environment with guidelines for safe salt use on our streets this winter.

**[00:41:50.28] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, there you go, Julian.

**[00:41:53.26] - Speaker 7**

Sure, that would be great. Bobby, do you want one? I got a different one. Okay. Okay, the handout I just gave you is called A Pinch of Salt: The Recipe for Winter Salt Perfection. It's from the Maryland Department of the Environment, and it talks about how to use salt safely and wisely in this upcoming season for the winter. Walking up here, I do have to say, I came up North Park from Willard Towers. I was on the side with 4620. They did a great job. They have salted their sidewalks exactly in accordance with this, which is 12 ounces of winter salt per 10 sidewalks. It doesn't seem feasible, but it is.

**[00:43:03.10] - Speaker 1**

It works. Do you think that has something to do with one of our committee members' works in 4620?

**[00:43:07.08] - Speaker 7**

I do. Okay. We have a committee member who works in that building, and it looks like she got her maintenance people to actually do it right. I'm reporting, this is the second time that I've reported to the council on this issue. I reported last fall. Was it the same council or a previous council, it doesn't matter. Anyway, we were concerned. I'm with the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee of Climate Change and the Environment. I'm representing that committee here tonight. We are concerned, once again, about the bad effects of excess salt use on the sidewalks of our village. We can't do anything about the streets. The county does what they do, but we can do something about salting our sidewalks. Basically, what we're trying to do this year is educate the public, the residents, as well as the village managers. Last year, We gave handouts to Julian, who met with the village managers and said, These are the guidelines from Maryland and Montgomery County for the application of salt. It was totally disregarded by the managers. They threw out hands full and buckets full of salt. I'll tell you why it's bad for those who might not have heard about this.

**[00:44:41.27] - Speaker 7**

First of all, it's damaging to the sidewalks and the vegetation next to the sidewalks. It's also damaging to dog's paws because it's very corrosive. But the thing that we're most concerned about, it's very damaging to the creek, the waters of our Creek, because if we flow downhill, so

anything that's put on the sidewalk and that's still sitting there or melts after it has melted becomes water, goes down the curb, down the street into Little Falls Creek, which is right adjacent to where I live. I know that Bobby has been very active in testing for salt in this creek, and it was outrageously high last year. It was way beyond not only what it should be, but what's safe. We're basically, in effect, polluting the Potomac River, which provides our own drinking water. Maybe we're polluting the people downstream in the district, but people up in Somerset and Rockville, et cetera, are polluting our water because it's not taken up our water treatment facilities. The salt just stays there. There's no effective way for WSSC sea water to remove this salt. The whole Potomac River is getting saltier and saltier, which has become a health problem for people with heart problems and other health issues.

**[00:46:15.08] - Speaker 7**

That's why it's bad. We're trying to figure out a way that would be successful to prevent this happening. Now, what we did in November was I put a small piece in the mayor's corner telling residents about the salt issue and how there's been excess salting of village streets in the past. Now, I read the mayor's corner and I read the whole newsletter from you, but I don't think a lot of people in my building read that newsletter. What we have to do is reach out more extensively to get the residents on board about this issue because I know what is happening. The minute there's a snowfall or ice, the residents are saying to the building manager, Come on, throw more salt on. I don't want to fall. I don't want to slip. Not understanding that it doesn't work and that they're actually contributing to a big problem, and it is also not effective. This document that you see is Maryland's recommendations for the use of salt. Here, the ingredients. Twelve ounces of salt per 10 sidewalks, a snowy sidewalk, a snow shovel, a broom, and a dustpan. Okay, using the shovel or broom, remove as much snow as possible, fill a twelve ounces mug with salt, spread it so that you...

**[00:47:53.07] - Speaker 7**

I think it's the management people actually doing this type of... Oh, yeah. No, they're not. But the residents are holding the management liable if anything happens. I think it's possibly a liability issue that the residents think that the more salt that's out there, the safer they are, and The managers are afraid of being sued because they didn't put enough, not understanding that it's not effective. Oh, wow. Look at this. Because Bobby actually goes out and measures the salt in the creek. That would be Phil 10 sidewalk squares because it's supposed to be the grains this far apart. Those are the guidelines.

**[00:48:37.07] - Speaker 1**

In essence, what we're doing now isn't working. That's right. We need to do more from residents. I know Julian, you approach the building managers, and if you could make a special effort at 5550, it's terrible.

**[00:48:50.05] - Speaker 7**

Really?

**[00:48:51.12] - Speaker 1**

They put so much. It's shocking.

**[00:48:53.07] - Speaker 7**

Well, I can tell you what else our committee has done before you ask questions.

**[00:48:57.08] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, we have about a minute more. Okay, yeah.

**[00:48:59.07] - Speaker 7**

We are Our committee is planning in-person visits to each building's manager or owner's board. They have these flyers in hand and we're planning to meet with each of the building managers, hopefully two people from each building, so it has an impact, two residents from the building. We're also hoping to find a way to train maintenance and contract crews on safe salt use. We hope that you can help us to contact nearby towns and villages such as Somerset to discuss how they're dealing with this issue because I know they have a big problem with it, too. I just walked up there today. So thank you very much.

**[00:49:44.05] - Speaker 1**

Yeah, okay. Thank you very much for representing the committee and bringing this very important issue to our attention. Council member Muller, do you have a comment or question?

**[00:49:52.29] - Speaker 2**

Thank you, Chris. I would suggest that in addition to everything you've As I said, you might want to find a way to address the condominium boards because it's the boards more than the poor managers who hear this from residents, as you correctly pointed out, When they come out and they begin slipping, they will say, not just to the manager, but more easily to one of the 5-7

board members, Why aren't you getting this done? I I think everything you've said is very important, but it's hard to argue with what looks like needing more salt.

**[00:50:40.10] - Speaker 7**

That's right. It is very hard. First of all, you're talking about condos I'm also in a rental building, and their Highland house is rental, and so does 4615. So we don't have condo boards. We have managers.

**[00:50:54.19] - Speaker 2**

But the Hill has the Carlton 4620 and the Elizabeth.

**[00:50:58.18] - Speaker 7**

I know. I understand. The There will be.

**[00:51:00.05] - Speaker 2**

There will be.

**[00:51:00.28] - Speaker 7**

Right. No, I understand that. We've got members in our committee from many different buildings, so they have agreed to approach their condo boards in the case of a condo or the manager in the case of a rental. We're going to see how that works.

**[00:51:18.22] - Speaker 1**

Thank you very much. You're very welcome. Thank you for bringing this really important issue to everyone's attention. Very welcome. Now, I apologize. I went out of order again by accident. I should have brought up committee reports, the first of which is the Advisory Committee on Development and Council member Klein.

**[00:51:37.02] - Speaker 6**

Well, actually, Madam Chair, I would prefer to just combine the report with the two letters that I'm going to be bringing up for a vote, one on parcel six and the other on both of them recommending letters from the mayor to the library officials of the county and to the planning staff. Sure. Thankthank you.

**[00:52:00.28] - Speaker 1**

Treasurer, do you have a report on the Finance Committee?

**[00:52:08.14] - Speaker 5**

Yes, I do. Thanks, Martha. The Finance Committee met back on November 18th, and just by way of a little bit of background, I've been working closely with staff to help upgrade our accounting system as well as streamline the transaction review and check signing procedures. In my opinion, good financial management really heavily depends on efficient and transparent accounting systems and procedures. We've made some significant progress over the past several months by creating a monthly list of investments and transactions, both now included in the monthly accounting statement, and also by clarifying some investment management procedures. But more work needs to be done. Our current accounting system is somewhat cumbersome and outdated in that it requires dual entries on some transactions. We don't have a process in place that makes it easy to periodically review revenue and expenditure transactions. Although the transaction list included in the monthly accounting report is a good start with that. And we have a check signing procedure that requires two elected officials to sign all checks. And I believe that this process is difficult and time consuming for staff to administer and needs to be streamlined. I also believe that the village manager is the person with lead responsibility for managing village finances, should be the primary signer on checks.

**[00:53:40.13] - Speaker 5**

So as a next step at last month's Finance Committee meeting, I propose that we streamline the check signing process by designating the village manager as primary check signer and the treasurer with the treasurer required to review and cosign check. Committee members discussed the issue at and questioned the need for the new procedure. I noted that there is no precedent that I'm aware of for multiple elected officials being required to sign checks. It was agreed we would follow up with nearby municipalities to better understand the processes they use, and consideration was also given to bringing in a consultant to provide a recommendation, although we're holding off on that for now, pending further review and discussion. So we'll review the issue again at the next Finance Committee meeting currently for January 20th, before developing a recommendation to present to Village Council. Thanks.

**[00:54:38.05] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. Council member Conlo. Council member Muller, do you have a question or comment?

**[00:54:45.16] - Speaker 2**

Yes. Village manager, has any information been received from other local governments on the systems they use?

**[00:54:57.25] - Speaker 4**

Several, yes, but not fully. We I haven't fully received all the information, but we've heard from several.

**[00:55:04.20] - Speaker 2**

Have any of them followed the system that Treasurer Conlo has suggested?

**[00:55:12.07] - Speaker 4**

Two so far.

**[00:55:15.03] - Speaker 2**

Madam Chair, with all due respect, this has gone back and forth for a couple of months now. I think the fact is that the Treasurer has suggested something that he feels strongly about. It's borne out by other local governments that use it. It has a council member and a staff person. As I understood listening to this proposal, which was not mine, that it's easy for any other council member to question anything. The reports have become much more detailed. I personally think the council is the ones that it's going to have to finally come back to, Let's get it over and done with in this year. The fact is, Madam Chair, that January, by the time that meeting comes, then we have to come back to the council again. We're using up-time that could be better spent on a lot of other things, both by the staff and by the council members. Everything doesn't have to go back and forth to the committee. This is not the United States Senate, really. I move, therefore, that we accept with the Treasurer's suggestion and allow this to finally be solved and let this be a new system for 2026.

**[00:56:40.29] - Speaker 2**

We can begin a new. So I so move. And this is a surprise, I will point out.

**[00:56:48.11] - Speaker 1**

He didn't move. Would you mind stating it very slowly so that our secretary can record the motion?

**[00:56:57.10] - Speaker 2**

Well, the motion is very simple, that the Treasurer's recommendation for the signing of checks be accepted. What that is, the Treasurer can explain it better than I, but it's Basically, as far as the actual details, it allows the manager and the treasurer with backups if one of them is not available.

**[00:57:28.05] - Speaker 1**

Is there a second to the motion? Pardon? Is there a second to the motion? I think the committee will continue to deliberate on the issue. To delay. Thank you. Council member Kana, I think you keep your microphone on to talk about pedestrian safety.

**[00:57:55.25] - Speaker 5**

Got it. Okay. We've received a total of six proposals in response to the RFP we put out in November to do a two-phase pedestrian safety study of a total of 10 intersections, half of which are fully within the village, the other half are on boundary streets, including Willard and Wisconsin. Of the six proposals that we received, one was from a company that was primarily in employment recruiting, not traffic engineering, engineering, and so de facto was not qualified. So basically five proposals that were reasonable. I think all five were pretty good in their own way, but the experience cited by many of the firms, and this is my opinion, tended to be more broadly focused working primarily with large government entities, where the emphasis is often on transportation planning and data-driven analysis such as vision zero and that thing. In my mind, one of the firms stood out. For a very detailed proposal that was well tailored to our needs, the firm had a lot of experience working for smaller towns such as the village. The firm is the traffic group. It's a Baltimore-based company that has done work for Somerset, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase View, Martin's Edition, and Rossner Park.

**[00:59:26.17] - Speaker 5**

Pardon me, I may have mispronounced that. But I believe the traffic group's proposal stood out because it recommended we do the project in one phase we had originally proposed to at a cost of 83,500 versus 91,000 in two phases. And it provided a very detailed list of deliverables, including an emphasis on video analytics, community outreach, proposed improvements tailored to senior citizens, including signal timing adjustments, coordination with the county on recommended improvements at boundary intersections, which is really very important if we hope to get anything done. I just want to reiterate that this is a proposed capital project funded through our reserve funds with a study recommending specific improvements and estimated

costs that will be subject to future review and approval by Council. The proposals were reviewed by an administrative group, including Martha, Francine, Julian, and myself. At In a meeting that we had about a week or two ago, Martha and Julian both confirmed, concurred that the traffic group was the preferred choice. So having said that, the recommendation is the traffic group. Anybody else want to make any comments? Normally, we have a motion a second, and then we have comments. Sorry. Can we make a motion?

**[01:00:56.08] - Speaker 5**

Yes. Okay. I make the following I move to adopt a proposal from the traffic group for a single-phase study totaling \$83,500 submitted in response to the village's RFP for a pedestrian safety study. I'm seconding that. I can serve on that..

**[01:01:21.09] - Speaker 1**

Do I need to repeat that? I'm seconding it. I did serve on the committee. I don't think, and I think we talked about, there wasn't really a close second. This was really by far the most appropriate for our community. I thought it was interesting that they noted the actions that have been taken so far in the village were ad hoc and not part of a coordinated effort. That's what we're trying to get at now. I thank you for working on the RFP and getting these proposals. I think it's really necessary for to do this sooner rather than later. Any other comments or questions? Council member Muller?

**[01:02:09.29] - Speaker 2**

I will be supporting this, but I believe that it is very unlikely that we will come up with any exciting new proposals. Yes, there have been ad hoc attempts to address a very serious problem. There are a lot of cars that don't stop, and it endangers our pedestrians. Unfortunately, there have not been but a few accidents, but even a few are too many. But there have been a number of things done. Yes, one at a time. That's true. There have been speed bumps most recently. There have been those signs that keep proving how unsafe it is because they keep getting knocked down. There have been review with the county on whether there could be stoplights Those have been deemed inappropriate by the county and not appreciated by a number of residents over the years that we've proposed this. There is at least one blinking light, and there can be more of them. There are now police officers who stop people and give them warnings or tickets. And despite that, there are still people that don't obey common sense and the law. I think to get this finally resolved, to have a consultant is the last best thing we can do.

**[01:03:38.19] - Speaker 2**

And maybe, hopefully, there will be some thing or a combination of things that will help. I It's not about it, but I think it's worthwhile doing it once and for all, because no matter what has been done, just because it's ad hoc, Madam Chair, doesn't mean that it's a bad idea. But once and for all, let's have I have some consultants who have a good record, and I certainly appreciate what the committee has done in reviewing this. It's a very complex and specific set of proposals, and I'm delighted that they've gone over this to save us the time. With that hope rather than expectation, let's just do it and not send it back to committee, Madam Chair.

**[01:04:28.26] - Speaker 6**

Madam Chair.

**[01:04:30.23] - Speaker 1**

Council member Klein.

**[01:04:32.14] - Speaker 6**

Thank you. Well, I did read their proposal, and I think it is excellent. I do hold out hope that they will come up with improvements. I think that in recent years, I have noted different technologies being used to actually notify you when there is someone who is at the crosswalk about to enter it. I see that up and down Wisconsin Avenue. It's not a light. It only goes on when someone is close to or in the crosswalk, I think it has a salutatory effect. I've seen many cars stopping when those lights go off because they know it means there's actually a person in the crosswalk or about to enter one. And that was one of the things that they were recommending. They also pointed out that certain assumptions about the way people cross streets are not the same as we get older. As when we're younger and that there are things you can do about that as well. So not to improve our speed, but to deal with the cars that need to cross as well. So I am hopeful, John, and I thank you for your work on this, and I think it's a great proposal.

**[01:05:51.05] - Speaker 1**

Any other comments or questions before I call for the vote? So all those in favor of adopting the traffic group proposal, if you could raise your hand, and it looks like unanimously for this proposal. I, too, thank John for his lot of time you spent on this, and I think All of us appreciate it. Thank you. Now we're moving to the EV charging station proposal. I'm going to hand some of this to Julian to explain why this is our We're second time up at bat with this. Two times we get it right, and then we can answer some questions. But we did vote on these funds coming from the capital budget in the prior council, and if you could share anything you know on that also, Village Manager.

**[01:06:54.01] - Speaker 4**

Yeah. So originally, we were contemplating two EV charging stations, and that was actually what was considered in the budget of \$25,000 that was approved for this current year. As we went through the process, we learned that the charging station has to be ADA compliant, which means it has to be considerably wider than a normal parking space, a regular size parking space, such that there's only room in this location for now one ADA accessible charging station. This is behind the house that the village owns at 4602 North Park, where the artists are there, and the police field office is also in that property. There's a small lot behind that building that is not regularly used by either the tenant or by the police. We thought that would be a good location for the charging station. We did issue a revised RFP, and we received the five proposals that you have in front of you, and only one of them is at the budget level. The other four are considerably higher.

**[01:07:59.04] - Speaker 1**

This idea originated from the Climate Change and Environment Committee. It was brought to the prior council that approved allocating funds from the capital budget, if I recall correctly. The way the decision was left was that our committee would work with the village manager to find an appropriate place in the appropriate implementation and installation of this charging station. I believe that at this time, the decision is not to charge for it. Correct. The actual electricity charges are extremely low, and sometimes the cost of actually charging exceeds the cost of the electricity. This would be the only charging station available to anyone in the village.

**[01:09:00.00] - Speaker 4**

Within the village, yes.

**[01:09:01.20] - Speaker 1**

That's what I meant, but yes. Is there anything... Council member Miller?

**[01:09:13.28] - Speaker 2**

Manager Mansfield, how is this going to be coordinated once we have this set up? How do people sign in? Does the staff here know who's using it and how long they will use it and how is it monitored? How do people line up to get it? Fill us in on some of that.

**[01:09:40.14] - Speaker 1**

When we were talking with the village manager, we decided to start out with low or no restrictions. If we need to impose restrictions or monitoring as time goes on, we can do that. But we decided We're ready to start with an open system like they have over at Freshfields. Anybody can use it, plug it in. It's, as I said, very low cost on electricity. If that turns out to be a problem, then we can put signage, we can start setting rules. I think that's what your suggestion was, if I recall, Village Manager, and you can answer it further.

**[01:10:22.14] - Speaker 4**

Yeah, and also just to speak to the issue of how people know it's there, that there is an app. I mean, it will be searchable and findable for people with EVs who are looking for charging stations. It will show up on an app that shows the location of where these are, so people will find it that way. I do think we may need to do some monitoring just periodically, or we could even have the off-duty police monitor it as they're around the village to make sure that folks aren't leaving their cars there for excessive amounts of time. That is something that we've heard can be an issue. Somebody leaves it there and considers a parking space and goes away for hours and hours.

**[01:11:02.20] - Speaker 2**

How long does it take to recharge the car?

**[01:11:07.26] - Speaker 4**

I think it depends on the battery and the type of car.

**[01:11:10.16] - Speaker 1**

It depends on the battery and the type of car. Like my car, it takes three hours.

**[01:11:17.10] - Speaker 2**

Well, and what if someone else wants to recharge?

**[01:11:20.05] - Speaker 1**

How do they- They have to wait until you're gone, one at a time. Two can't do it at the same time.

**[01:11:26.21] - Speaker 2**

It seems very loosey-goosy to me. One charging A charging station for a village of 5,000 people.

**[01:11:33.17] - Speaker 1**

All 5,000 people don't have cars that need EV chargers either.

**[01:11:38.14] - Speaker 2**

Yeah, but there must be at least 10. How do they determine when they're going to use it? And if someone's using it, how do they know when they can come back?

**[01:11:50.28] - Speaker 1**

I'm not sure I understand. The same way they know it. What do we call it? Amazon Fresh, when to come. If it's available in Also, there are apps that say, Oh, this one's open. You can look on an app and find that no one's using it.

**[01:12:08.18] - Speaker 2**

It's a village app or it's a county-wide app?

**[01:12:12.12] - Speaker 1**

No, it's... Actually, it's nationwide. But I think we understand that we may need to tighten up, but we decided to start at the lowest level.

**[01:12:22.16] - Speaker 2**

I have questions because I don't know how this works. So excuse my ignorance.

**[01:12:27.08] - Speaker 1**

No, questions are fine.

**[01:12:28.20] - Speaker 2**

How How do we know that they are our residents using this?

**[01:12:34.25] - Speaker 1**

We don't know that.

**[01:12:36.19] - Speaker 2**

So this is a community service that we're providing?

**[01:12:41.08] - Speaker 1**

Right. Many governments do this.

**[01:12:44.19] - Speaker 2**

Really? Which one's in this area?

**[01:12:46.26] - Speaker 1**

Oh, Gaithersberg. I think there's charging stations at the Bethesda. Well, all over Bethesda, every parking.

**[01:12:52.10] - Speaker 2**

They're not a government.

**[01:12:54.01] - Speaker 4**

Town of Kensington.

**[01:12:55.15] - Speaker 1**

Kensington. The Bethesda Library has charging stations. They have one or two at their town.

**[01:12:59.20] - Speaker 2**

Is it Chevy Chase Village to Somerset? Do any of the tax districts or municipalities in our area do it? Because if they don't, I would think that people with electric cars will drive over here.

**[01:13:14.25] - Speaker 1**

Most people with electric cars already have a way to charge their cars, or they wouldn't be able to get over here.

**[01:13:23.13] - Speaker 2**

Well, if that's true, why do we need an... That doesn't read true with me. It helps. If they already have a way, why Why do we have another- There are people in our village where their primary method to charge the car either breaks down or people can't use their garage for a while or there's a visitor. The Elizabeth does have a number of stations. I don't know how many are used. I think the system's working very well, and Councilwoman Klein will know exactly how the system's working. Those are within the building itself.

**[01:13:56.29] - Speaker 1**

I know that, but these would be for the I don't know how you measure success or failure.

**[01:14:07.17] - Speaker 6**

Well, I think we'll see if it's being used and if it's being used appropriately. Many people will charge the car and remove it because they need a charge to go someplace. I understand that it's a token effort to bring EV stations to the village, but it's It's been budgeted for and we're ready to move it forward. It seems like a good idea at this point to proceed with the project. It's my way of thinking.

**[01:14:48.24] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. Are there any other questions or comments?

**[01:14:53.29] - Speaker 6**

I just have one comment. The recommendation said that this company has has done similar work in a nearby commercial residential area. So has anyone from the village just taken a look at what they did?

**[01:15:08.29] - Speaker 4**

They sent us a bunch of photos. It's from Sumner Village. It's nearby. It's a residential commercial community on Mass Avenue.

**[01:15:17.02] - Speaker 6**

Okay, but does anyone just physically gone over there and taken a look at it?

**[01:15:22.11] - Speaker 4**

Not at this particular location, but they sent a lot of photos of what it would look like. And it would be similar here. The charging station itself is pretty standard.

**[01:15:33.26] - Speaker 2**

How many places do they have at Sumner Village? How many places? How many charging stations?

**[01:15:40.27] - Speaker 4**

Two, I believe. Two.

**[01:15:43.14] - Speaker 2**

Summer Village was the first community in Friendship Heights that had condominiums, if that helps.

**[01:15:52.14] - Speaker 1**

Any other questions or comments? I can't even remember. Did I make a motion or not? Can I repeat my motion just in case? I move to adopt the proposal from Electrical Connections for an ADA complaint EV charging station for 25,780, which is their bid.

**[01:16:11.07] - Speaker 6**

Second.

**[01:16:12.04] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. Got a second. Any more discussion or comments? All those in favor raise their hand.

**[01:16:20.03] - Speaker 2**

One, two, three, six. I abstain.

**[01:16:23.26] - Speaker 1**

Six and one abstain. Thank you. The motion passes. We're moving on to Council member Klein's two topics related to the development committee.

**[01:16:38.17] - Speaker 6**

Yes. Thank people from the committee who are here tonight. We continue to meet on a weekly basis. We're having excellent discussions about the development of Friendship Heights and Friendship Heights Village in particular. There are two letters tonight that I'm bringing forward, asking approval by the council for a letter from the mayor to Montgomery County Library Board in support of a public library and performing arts center in the revised Friendship Heights sector plan. The Advisory Committee on Development is very much supporting a library along with a performing arts center in the Sector Plan. We believe that a library will help with branding efforts for Friendship Heights and is really emblem of the importance the community places on education and the availability of resource materials. So I move. The letters are in your packet. The letter to the library, Julian, needs to be modified so that it reflects it's coming from the mayor to the library.

**[01:18:11.21] - Speaker 2**

I second.

**[01:18:14.14] - Speaker 1**

Any other discussion or comments? I think we're ready to vote. I'm happily voting for this. I fully support the idea behind it. All those in favor raise their hand. I think it is unanimous at 7: 00.

**[01:18:28.19] - Speaker 6**

Thank you. And I want to thank Cameron Moody and others on the committee who really worked hard to get a letter that reflected the consensus of the committee. Next, I have a letter that we're proposing for the mayor to sign to the Montgomery County Planning Department explaining the village's concerns with the development on parcel 6. Parcel 6 is the A parcel that sits between Willard and North Park, and it's to the west of Shoemaker Lane and next to 4620 on the south side of North Park Avenue. Based on conversations that we've had with the planning staff and a review of the parcel by members of the council, walking on the parcel and a review of the height of the buildings on the parcel, none of which is more than 40 feet high. If you look at the light that the parcel provides to the Willaby, the Carleton, the 4620, 4615, and the Elizabeth, there's a tremendous amount of light that flows from to North Park, and the residents along Schumacher, along the West Side of 4620, the fronts of Elizabeth, and 4615. It really keeps the North Park from becoming a canyon and gives tremendous amount of natural light.

**[01:20:21.23] - Speaker 6**

I know many people have selected their apartments based on the light. And in the last two sector plans, both in 1974 and then in 1998, the sector plans called for keeping small-scale buildings on parcel 6 for visual relief to keep a canon-like effect from being created on North Park Avenue and for green space. There's a lot of green space on the parcel, not necessarily along the perimeter, although there's mature trees along the perimeter on North Park, created on both sides of the street because of all the light. But also in the middle of the parcel, there's a lot of green as well that's visible. And we think that keeping Seeping at small scale also meets the missing middle piece that the county is looking for, the missing middle housing that the county is seeking of 40 feet or less. That letter has also been provided to members of the Council. I want to thank John for the work that he's done, and Al as well, in helping to edit it. Mayor Schafer as well, your comments. Thank you very much. So at that point, I move to approve issuance by the mayor of a letter to Montgomery County Planning Department explaining the village's concerns with development on parcel 6.

**[01:21:57.00] - Speaker 2**

I second.

**[01:21:58.23] - Speaker 1**

Question Questions or comments? Council member Miller.

**[01:22:04.16] - Speaker 2**

I want to thank the Chair lady. Francine has done an enormous effort in researching and summarizing and distributing and getting comments from everyone on the committee and even not on the committee. The bottom line is it's a wonderful statement of balanced growth. I emphasize it strongly favors increased housing, but of a very moderate nature. At the same time, balancing this with continued green space and open air. It's a magnificent effort, and I thank the Chairlady because this is the heart and soul of the present sector plan that I hear again and again from people, Well, that's an old sector plan. Well, we We still need to conserve. We still need to have green open space. I don't care if it's 25 years old. We have always had in this village, as long as I've been here, a fair, balanced plan, having more housing, having more amenities, but keeping as much open space and green space and protected space as we can. I thank the chair. She's done a magnificent job, and it's taken a A lot of time and effort.

**[01:23:31.26] - Speaker 1**

Other comments or questions? I also echo my thanks, and it's really an outstanding argument for what we need. I appreciate your work. All those in favor of the motion to approve issuance of

that letter by the mayor raise their hand, and it looks like it's unanimous. Thank you. The motion passes. We have only one more item for the mayor to initiate.

**[01:24:00.00] - Speaker 6**

Yes. I nominate Michael Cooperman, who is the President of the Willeby, to serve on the Development Committee.

**[01:24:11.02] - Speaker 1**

Okay, since that's a nomination of the mayor-Second. I'm sorry, we don't do a second on that. Sorry. I'm sorry. That's okay. All those in favor of Michael Cooperman's serving on the Advisory Development Committee, raise their hand. I guess that's also unanimous. Thank you very much. The motion passes. No, we both have to leave at 8: 00, so we're rushing along here. But everyone, thank you very much. Have a happy holiday, safe and happy New Year. I know you won't slip on the ice because you'll be watching out for the salt. Thank you very much.

**[01:25:02.25] - Speaker 6**

Yes. I'll be circulating the letter once you get it out the door. Yes. Hi, Ken. You deserve it.