

Village of Friendship Heights
March 9, 2026 Meeting Transcript

[00:00:00.00] - Speaker 2

Nancy Klein. Roy Schafer.

[00:00:02.10] - Speaker 1

Martha Zolt.

[00:00:04.23] - Speaker 4

Zic Basel. John Conlin.

[00:00:09.11] - Speaker 1

Thank you all. I hope you're looking forward to spring as much as I am. All of you who were at our meeting in February, I'd like to acknowledge that I did not manage part of the meeting as well as I had hoped. I've spoken to everyone, and we are all committed to discourse here. At today's meeting, we have a number of updates on projects and committees, and we're expecting six votes. We are re arranging our agenda just a wee bit to accommodate our CAC friends. But first, we will hear from our project manager, Jim Wilson on Page Park and the Red House, the first item on our agenda. Jim, I guess we don't see your picture, or do we?

[00:01:07.17] - Speaker 4

I did turn my camera off, if that's okay.

[00:01:10.24] - Speaker 1

No, it's fine. I just was looking for where you were. Please proceed. All right.

[00:01:19.21] - Speaker 4

You ready for me to start?

[00:01:22.27] - Speaker 1

Sure. Go ahead.

[00:01:24.18] - Speaker 4

Okay. I'll start with the Red House. The project is moving along very well, essentially on schedule.

[00:01:34.02] - Speaker 1

Jim, could I ask you to speak a little louder or maybe a little closer to your microphone? Sure. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:01:41.20] - Speaker 4

Is that better? That's better. Okay, so the Red House is moving along, essentially, according to plan. We're looking at finishing the end of March with a turnover and final completion the first week of There are no significant open changes at this time. There was actually no impact to the construction schedule from all the snow and every adverse weather that we had. So they were able to get themselves back inside pretty quickly and have done a great job. They There are no outstanding issues. We're trying to work well with the landlord or the tenant, excuse me, and he's working hard to cooperate with us as well.

[00:02:42.06] - Speaker 1

Thank you. I had read somewhere it was unexpected that we needed a fire sprinkler. Could you just share a little bit about that? Am I right about that?

[00:02:58.05] - Speaker 4

You have a sprinkler in the building, which you don't have, evidently, is any enunciator panel or the ability to call the fire department. So if the sprinkler heads go off, there wasn't anything notifying the fire department that your building is burning. So they're in the process. I don't think, Julian, I don't think I've seen anything. Have Have you seen anything on their proposal for that? Not yet. We met with the fire control company, the same one that we use up here, and they're developing. They're basically doing a design for designing the fire system, and then they're going to come back to us with a proposal, and then they can get it implemented. Something like that can be complicated. It should not have to be complicated. I'll be very interested to see what their response is.

[00:04:02.02] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Are you open to questions now? More questions on the Red House, or are you not finished?

[00:04:09.00] - Speaker 4

Sure. Absolutely. No, I'm.

[00:04:10.28] - Speaker 1

Council members, questions on the Red House? I don't see anything. Go ahead, please. Thank you.

[00:04:20.04] - Speaker 4

All right. Page Park. We have, about a little over a month ago, submitted the settlement erosion control. I have not seen any comments come back as of yet on the permit plans. We are still anticipating a permit to be issued early May, but the county is always very difficult to predict. We had our pre-bid meeting on March fifth with the contractors, and prior to the meeting, Julian asked me, Have you heard from anybody? I said, Julian, it has been complete crickets. I haven't heard a word from anybody. There were nine different people that came up. It looks like there's about six or seven different companies that came interested in bidding on Page Park, which was very, very encouraging. The bids are due on the 12th, and part of their responses is the requirement for them to give us their anticipated construction schedule and duration. The bidders have issued a series of questions, which they got to us on Friday, Thursday and Friday, and we're ready to probably answer all of those tomorrow. I have sent them all to the engineer who are offering most of the... Did all the design work. We should get the responses back by the 12th and within, say, maybe a week or so, be able to make a recommendation.

[00:06:05.20] - Speaker 4

That's all I have on page... The other big project of the demoing of the pergola We've engaged a... Not engaged, there's somebody who I've worked with for years and is just working for helping me out here, finding out what is the county, what seems to be the snag in them being able to issue the demolition permit. They've been asking questions like, they think it's a building that we're taking down. Are there any other buildings adjacent to it? We're We're going to help them understand that we're taking down a pergola, and that's it. We gave them pictures and photographs. So hopefully, we should be able to resolve that here momentarily. But We don't have the county's release of that permit as of yet.

[00:07:07.05] - Speaker 1

Ms. Klein?

[00:07:08.04] - Speaker 2

I have a question. Why can't we just send them a picture of what we're taking down along with the dimensions and the type of material that's in the- Yeah, we've sent them photographs.

[00:07:24.03] - Speaker 4

We've sent them a letter with photographs, and now I have somebody going to people's to try to help them.

[00:07:33.05] - Speaker 2

Yeah, it would seem to me... So you have sent them a photo?

[00:07:37.14] - Speaker 4

Oh, yes, twice. Yes. Several photos from street, all different views and perspectives. I think I would only be speculating of why they're asking questions that seem to be in and Not very well-informed. So I'm not worried about it. I'm not concerned that we're going to have it done and down before the start of any of the other construction. But I would love to be able to tell you that it's gone, but We're not waiting. We're pushing for them to resolve it. But it should be relatively quicker here. I should have thought about it and check today with a permanent expedite or what's the status. I'll find out and send everybody an update as well.

[00:08:38.07] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Other questions from the council?

[00:08:43.09] - Speaker 2

Hi, Jim. Do we have a date yet to take down the pergola? No. No.

[00:08:48.25] - Speaker 4

We won't know. The county is until they release the permit, we can't take it down. Once we get the permit released, it'll come down within a week or so. Yeah. So they have not released the demolition permit for the pergola that they don't acknowledge exists.

[00:09:11.19] - Speaker 1

This is a joint question for Julian and Jim, if the bids are due the 12th and you expect to have recommendations or the evaluation is complete on the 19th, should we have a special counsel meeting so we don't waste three weeks?

[00:09:33.05] - Speaker 4

If we're prepared with the bid evaluation so Jim and I can discuss that offline, but certainly, they don't necessarily need to wait until April. If we could schedule a special meeting just on this one topic.

[00:09:46.22] - Speaker 1

Okay. Could I just get a sense of the council, whether they would want to do that to move this along or rather wait? Faster. Faster. This side. Council member Muller, do you have an Okay. Down this side. I would say move it a while. Okay. If you could just keep me informed on how that's going Then, of course, we'll have to do our normal notice, but we should all plan on having an extra meeting. Thank you. Is there anything else, Jim?

[00:10:26.08] - Speaker 4

No, that's all I have.

[00:10:27.21] - Speaker 1

Thank you very much. I hope it's a nice weather where you're at. Do you want to say something, Jim?

[00:10:34.24] - Speaker 4

Just to say that Jim is going to hop off, and then he's going to come back on a little later with the fountain discussion.

[00:10:41.10] - Speaker 1

Okay, thank you. As I mentioned, we are reordering a little bit to accommodate a schedule for... I'm not going to even try to butcher your last name. Can I just call you Shantel? Thank you. You're going to share, maybe if you go to the microphone, share about the special... What do we call it? New Initiative. New Initiative's project. And this year, the CAC evaluated the proposals. And if I could just pass the floor to you. Thank you.

[00:11:19.27] - Speaker 3

Sure. So I guess everyone's familiar, so I won't bore you all with just recounting. But generally speaking, every year, it sounds like there's a new initiative a budget for a new initiative. And the CAC, the usually evaluates the proposals, and a number of criteria have already been established. This is the same criteria they had last year. So if you have... I don't know if everyone had a chance to get a PowerPoint. There's a couple up there if you need one. So I'll go over the the basic criteria, but you'll note that...

[00:11:59.04] - Speaker 1

Excuse Excuse me, if you could speak directly into the microphone. Oh, sure. Sorry about that. Thank you for sharing the criteria. Then when you get to the evaluations, if you could maybe focus on the top three or four.

[00:12:09.16] - Speaker 3

Sure. Okay. Sounds good.

[00:12:10.26] - Speaker 1

Thank you.

[00:12:11.25] - Speaker 3

Sure. The review of criteria. Criteria to be used are outlined here. I just want to note that don't try to add these. They will not add to 100, but just FYI. But one of the primary, the 40 point criteria was pretty big, which is number three, how the idea will benefit and have a positive impact on residents of the village or village life, including enhanced community engagement or participation in community events. So that was a big one. Another big focus was that the number of residents proposed to benefit from the proposed award. So that was 30 points. Those are two big criteria, but you can see the others here that they wanted to see the The proposal is being put together with some specific information, if possible, regarding how much it's going to cost, who is actually going to execute on the idea, and just providing some relevant background that way. So we did, luckily, get quite a variety of proposals this year. So we got nine to evaluate, so it was quite a few. They did cover everything from public safety to community building and networking to recreational type events and programming for the village.

[00:13:40.06] - Speaker 3

So I will just... Here in the next page, you'll see proposals received and we just outlined the... These are the proposals that we got back. And then on the following page, just put together a matrix here where the proposals appear in descending order. We did have one... We tried to discuss all of it in one meeting, but that didn't work. It ended up being, Thank you for your patience, by the way, and giving us a little extension there. Because there were nine of them, in order to really discuss them, we needed two meetings. We were able to quickly go through the different ideas and have a little discussion. I tried to highlight some of the pros and cons here. I'll just go through the top ones like the chairwoman's asked. The top idea seemed to be the light reflectors and street lights. So this proposal was an innovative idea stemming from the fact that most people, it seemed like there was wide consensus about there not being enough sidewalk lighting. And there was some consensus that a lot of the light was lost to the sky and that it would be better and people would feel safer in the community if the light were directed downwards towards the sidewalk.

[00:15:06.02] - Speaker 3

So this idea, I think most people really did agree on and see a need for this. And the person who proposed the idea, the member, actually had an innovative idea that they would perhaps put a lid on the existing lighting fixtures. And that was the part which was both innovative, but at the same time, we were not sure if that would necessarily be feasible, I think. It was a fun idea, but I think what we can agree on, however, is that this is a good concept, that there be more lighting and that people see a real need for more lighting on the sidewalks. That was definitely the top-rated idea here. The proposal was to do this as a pilot program and just get a few lights and see how it works, get a If it works well and people really think it's addressing the issue, that it could be expanded upon. You can see that was the top idea as far as the scoring goes. I just highlighted the discussion points there, which I've already gone over. The next proposal that was highly ranked, the second most highly ranked, was a training for Smart Salting.

[00:16:27.14] - Speaker 3

This proposal had a compelling argument for why after the snow, it just seemed like everything's covered in the salt. And they provided some information and data that bore out the fact that this salt is very harmful to the environment as well as to human beings. So that was pretty compelling. Now, I guess the cons of this idea was that the council liaison did highlight the fact that the village center Well, I'm sorry, I didn't really go into the idea. So the idea is that the maintenance staff throughout Friendship Heights, the building maintenance staff, could be trained in how to apply the salt properly in a way that would not be, you know, overboard. That would help protect the environment, including the Willard Creek, which we saw that the salt

levels were pretty high and that there's a lot of chemical in these salts, as well as, of course, just would protect pedestrians. So the village liaison did highlight the fact that the village does provide this type of guidance already. Also, in addition, we did find that there is a Maryland Department of Environment already does publish quite a comprehensive open source. You can find it out there on the internet, a smart salt applicator training for parking lots and sidewalks.

[00:17:56.00] - Speaker 3

It goes pretty in-depth. Therefore, I would say this still scored very highly, but maybe some of the folks that were in the second meeting where we did have a more in-depth discussion, I would say some of us maybe didn't score it as high once we realized that a lot of this was being addressed already and that there was material available online that could maybe be sufficient or be utilized for this purpose. So that was the second highest score. Next was a fun idea for community building, which was monthly open houses at the Friendship Heights buildings. So this idea was, again, a It was definitely a new initiative. I don't think there's been something like this before, but it addressed the need for broader social opportunities, really for every demographic. But I would say the young demographic was definitely seem to be very excited about this idea in particular. But all demographics could participate. And the idea is that every month, a building in the village could host a little working social gathering, and that the village center would sponsor the price of pizza or snacks and drinks. So this is a... Again, I think this is a fairly innovative idea.

[00:19:28.17] - Speaker 3

Some people were very excited about the prospect of getting to meet people outside of their own building and just those opportunities for, again, community building and social networking. And that way, also, they're leveraging the building spaces as an alternative to maybe coming to the village center or having to stay open late and have the staff. This way we could leverage the space in those other buildings and just provide an interesting opportunity to see these other places and meet different people that you may have not met before. So this definitely seemed to appeal to a lot of people. We were very excited. There were a couple of folks that were like, I would never do that. It seemed to be one of It was ideas that people were either on one side or the other. But there was a certain... I would say there was a fairly good level of excitement about it. And the last idea, which I'll just highlight, was the integrated support for cognitive cognitive decline. As we know, many village residents are over a certain age and facing the prospect of cognitive decline. This would be a program where they could benefit from just some services, some training on how to deal with this, some resources that are available.

[00:20:55.02] - Speaker 3

And it would also address caregiving responsibilities. So even if you're not one of the the older residents, you could still, I think most people in our society have someone in their life that they're providing some caregiving services, too. So this would also help benefit the caregivers as well. And there were some online, like hybrid in-person, as well as some online possibilities for this type of training. I will say the con that came up was there was no information in the proposal regarding the credentialing of whoever was going to deliver these services. So that would maybe be an important thing to know was the feeling in the discussion that came out. And that's all that I will highlight for now. You can see the rest as you go. But I think it was a fun, very diverse selection of different types of ideas. So I will take any questions you might have. And I noticed one of our other CAC members. I don't know if there's anything you want to add, Carmen, as well.

[00:22:02.11] - Speaker 1

If I could open it up to Council members for questions. John?

[00:22:11.29] - Speaker 2

I just want to make a point that we have a pedestrian safety study that's just getting underway, and that includes looking at how we might increase lighting at intersections. So just wanted to mention that.

[00:22:27.21] - Speaker 3

Okay, great. And that point did come up I think there was a little bit of back and forth because the CAC was just like, Okay, it does address the roads, but the sidewalks was really the point of concern, the point that they wanted to... The focus of this proposal. Just wanted to provide that additional feedback, so I'm not sure how that plays in.

[00:22:52.17] - Speaker 1

Apologies, Council member Conlo, if this is selected, would Do you want to work with this group to integrate it with the other project? Because I don't know how we would do this without maybe working at cross-purposes.

[00:23:10.15] - Speaker 2

Yeah, sure. I think that would make sense.

[00:23:12.20] - Speaker 4

Absolutely. That sounds- Coordinating our efforts.

[00:23:16.20] - Speaker 1

Mayor Schafer.

[00:23:19.07] - Speaker 2

First of all, I want to thank the CAC and especially Shontel for working on this. I know they took it very seriously, and I also want to make the point that the applications The funds were blind to them, so they did not know whose applications they were reviewing, and nobody from the council has had any role in getting to this point. The idea of this program is really to fund one-time items that may not be available or funded elsewhere in the budget. As Council member Conlo mentioned, I don't know that we have to take funds from this to fund lighting since we would do it anyway. That's not I don't say we're not doing it, but we would pay for that anyway.

[00:24:02.25] - Speaker 3

That's good.

[00:24:04.20] - Speaker 2

Yeah. My suggestion would be if we decide to move in this direction to obviously meet with whoever submitted that application and get their input. For purposes of this discussion, I would say, not that we're not doing it, but we don't need to fund it.

[00:24:19.11] - Speaker 3

No, that's good. Okay. You can leverage another budget then.

[00:24:22.04] - Speaker 2

Should I keep going? Now, last year, we did fund the top two point from the CAC. We funded their first recommendation, 100%, which was for end-of-life seminars. The money that was left over, we used to fund file-of-life magnets. That lent itself to prerating because we didn't have to buy all of them. That's what we did. My feeling is I'd like to stick to that approach of following the CAC's recommendation. My suggestion, I make this in a motion.

[00:25:01.10] - Speaker 1

I have more questions. Okay. I would prefer our questions answered and then open to whatever.

[00:25:07.01] - Speaker 2

I guess I'm asking for the monthly open house, is that something that can be prerated also?

[00:25:14.23] - Speaker 3

I think it would be a good idea because I think every month might be a little much. It might just be hard to organize every single month. In my opinion, this is just me speaking, though. I think it would be hard to do it every single month, given the level of organization.

[00:25:30.21] - Speaker 2

My suggestion would be to fund the CAC's recommendation of the salt in its entirety and use the remaining, it would be 1,050 to fund the open houses. And when that money runs out, we can discuss if we want to continue it or discontinue it or whatever.

[00:25:52.17] - Speaker 1

Council member Muller.

[00:25:56.20] - Speaker 5

Thank you again. As layas on, I got to to every one of the meetings they did were very hard. There were some interesting things that weren't mentioned, namely, there seemed to be a difference of an opinion between members, depending on their age groups, on some of these proposals, which was very interesting, a very stark difference. And Shantel was very diplomatic, I think, in pointing out the pros and cons. But the four proposals that you went through right now, there were a number of issues with the light reflectors. It was not really clear who would determine how it could be done. The emphasis of somehow getting more light onto the sidewalks, I thought, also were how they could get more light onto the buildings. The way the lights are up now, they're intentionally not supposed to light the buildings because the people in the buildings might not like it. So I thought there needs to be some additional information as far as looking throughout the village with a lighting expert who someone liked the person that originally told us which lighting was needed everywhere, because we still haven't heard specifically from anyone, at least that I know of, either on the council or on your committee, which areas need the lighting.

[00:27:38.28] - Speaker 5

I just hear, generally, there needs to be lighting. And when pressed, people will often say on Willard Avenue, which is true, but Willard Avenue is not within the confines of the village. So that particular proposal, and all four of these are very close to one another in the ranking, 65 to 59. That's not a big difference. I think that one really needs a little bit of expertise. As far as the training for the salting, the individual buildings have been notified by the manager on what the best way is, the safest way. I think the flaw in having an all day seminar is to somehow have a day or a few hours that somehow all the staff of all the buildings could come to. That is a little bit awkward. I don't know that the buildings would agree to that. As far as the open house, the people that didn't think this was a great idea were rather strong in their opinion. They said something to the effect, Well, I certainly would never go something like this. We have had open houses here at the center for people of particular ages, and that hasn't worked out too well, really.

[00:29:12.25] - Speaker 5

Also, before the This idea needs, before it can go forward, you really need to check with the buildings that have areas of meeting. Four of them are condominiums, and you can't just set up a without permission of the condominium boards, and I don't know how they feel about that. It's a good idea and concept, but it needs a little bit more work. As far as the integrated support for cognitive decline, I think that was identified somewhere in our written material as being FHNN. They have had experience, but I don't know who the caretakers would be, so that would have to be followed up on. Each of these items needed some additional. And the ideas that weren't in the top four, some of those, I think your committee felt the program director could look into to simply have as part of the program. There was a dance program and an art program, and some of those can fall under the program director's purview, which already has a budget.

[00:30:25.11] - Speaker 3

That is true. No, I mean, those are all, I think, very good points to take into account. I do think that thank you for raising those. All very valid. And a lot of the ideas sounded fun that we didn't discuss, but like you said, they were very adjacent to existing programming. But I do think it's nice that they've been highlighted now so that if they want to incorporate any. But to your point, I do think you're right about the lighting. Everyone felt like there needs to be more, but yeah, it needs to get more specific. Perhaps they go around and there could be a group of people that investigate which areas look like they do need that lighting, although there was the prevalent belief that there does need to be more. But yeah, I agree. The training for Smart Salting, I think that is a really good point about the... Is it possible to get everyone together? Is there really a deficiency, or do people just not know the resources that might already exist out there? I do

think those That's a valid... In the monthly open house, certainly, you've got to get the buy-in of the building, so if that can be done.

[00:31:39.22] - Speaker 1

I have a few questions and comments. Thank you again. These are really interesting ideas that we hadn't really come up with, so it's good to hear what our community wants. Many of us have felt there's a lighting problem and haven't known really how to address it, and that's part of what we're doing with the pedestrian safety study, so hopefully we'll move along. I know a little bit about the salt issue, and we have tried and we have tried to provide materials and educate people, and changing people's behavior is really, really difficult, as you could see as you walked around during our periods of snow. Some people have suggested that whatever training is available has to be in Spanish because the people doing this work are Spanish speakers. I'm throwing that out as something to consider. I'm also wondering, you mentioned this Maryland Department of Environment has open-source smart salt applicator training. Is that a video or is it slides?

[00:32:57.23] - Speaker 3

It's a packet. I'm sure if you search it, it comes up pretty readily online, but it's quite a comprehensive packet that goes through the process. I haven't read the whole thing, but it does look like a pretty comprehensive resource. But I think that's a really good point about it being in Spanish.

[00:33:17.18] - Speaker 1

Right. And part of the, I don't know, problem, situation is that the people directing the work generally don't speak Spanish, and the people doing the work tend to be lower education levels and might not understand some of the materials. It's a real challenge. We've even had it here in the village. We're trying to communicate with our contractors, and then we come and see all this salt all over the place. I'm just saying it's a very lovable goal. I think we should do whatever we can, but it's not easy. Just because of, I human nature. I really applaud the monthly open house idea, in part because most of us know one of the biggest problems, not just in our community, but everywhere is loneliness. If there's an easy place, you can go connect with people. You don't have to connect with everybody, but having a place to go might be helpful.

[00:34:21.07] - Speaker 3

I think also another great thing about that idea was some people don't like having to go to an event where it's very conspicuous when they walk in Then if they want to leave or if they have

busy schedules, they can't just waltz out without it being... This allows a non-committal, you waltz in and waltz out as your schedule permits. I think that it allowed the flexibility, particularly a lot of the younger people on the committee said, My schedule is rough. I don't know if I'm going to be able to commit to everything, but it allowed them to the possibility of just going and getting a glass of whatever and a snack. I think it would be fun.

[00:35:01.00] - Speaker 1

Thank you. That's all I have it. I think- Thank you. Are we going to hear some motions from the mayor on this? Do you have more questions? No, not at this point. I'm sorry?

[00:35:16.05] - Speaker 5

I was going to make a motion, but- What I'm saying is we're open for motions now.

[00:35:21.14] - Speaker 1

Okay.

[00:35:24.02] - Speaker 5

I move that we support with a little bit more investigation, as was pointed out by the chair, proposal number one, the integrated support for cognitive decline. I think that has a proven need, and FHNN has been involved for, I think, 10 years, but I don't know who the caretakers would be, so that would have to be discussed with them. But I would make that as a motion.

[00:35:57.24] - Speaker 1

Do I hear a second on that? I'll second it.

[00:36:03.20] - Speaker 2

Would you repeat the motion for me, please?

[00:36:08.25] - Speaker 5

The motion would be- Do you want me to do it? Oh, yes.

[00:36:13.20] - Speaker 1

Thank you. With more investigation, adopt proposal number one for integrated support for cognitive decline for \$3,500. I'm sorry. Now we have to call for the vote, or discussion. Discussion. Any ideas on that?

[00:36:36.26] - Speaker 2

Well, I'm going to vote no, and let me explain why. It's not that I don't support this. I obviously do. But as I said earlier, in the past, and this is our second year doing this, but last year we did follow the CAC recommendations. If we were to vote for this, we would not be able to fund There are first two recommendations. We're skipping from... Assuming we don't fund the lighting, we're skipping to number three. I would like to follow the recommendations that we were... Absent any obvious reason to vote for one of these, I would follow the recommendations of the committee. If we vote for this, it doesn't leave funding to do that. Okay.

[00:37:23.25] - Speaker 1

More discussion? Are you raising your hand to Oh, yeah.

[00:37:30.21] - Speaker 5

If this is discussion part, from the experience that the center has had with invitations to people to come and meet one another And as far as I personally think is likely to happen, I don't think that you're going to find a lot of people of any age that are going to go to another building to meet new people. If for any reason they wish to meet new people, most residents will start with their own building. I think this is just common sense. And if they're not being successful in their own building, I think they'd be unlikely to go to a completely different, strange building. But I have no proof of that. I think this is a a large amount of money and would take a fair amount of coordination for the program director to have to do this. So I respectfully disagree.

[00:38:44.18] - Speaker 1

Any more comments? And I prefer not a lot of back and forth because most people had an opportunity.

[00:38:50.17] - Speaker 2

Okay, let me just point out that in the description for the open houses, it specifically states it's geared for younger demographics. And one of the things I hear constantly is that we need more programs for younger people and not more of the same thing. I think to pull money away from something that the CAC is saying is intended for younger people to put it towards something

that obviously is geared more for an older audience. That's why I wouldn't agree with that assessment.

[00:39:29.14] - Speaker 1

Could I just have an informal question to the council members? Would council members consider upping the budget a little bit and maybe going for proposal one and proposal three? Rather than voting one by one, could people conceive of upping our budget a little bit and going for proposal one and three? No. This is an informal, say what you think. It's not a vote on this. Council member Muller, do you have a thought?

[00:40:12.10] - Speaker 5

I'm certainly accepting of that.

[00:40:14.13] - Speaker 1

Okay, this That's on the side. Could I amend the motion then to add proposal three? Let me get my language right just for a second. Accept the application for new initiatives projects for number one, which is the integrated support for a Cognitive Decline for \$3,500, and proposal three for the monthly open house at the Friendship Heights buildings, obviously the buildings where it's permitted for \$2,400. What is that? How much over our budget? It's only \$900 over our budget. If anyone would like to second that motion amendment, you're acceptable? Okay. It's your motion. Sorry. I guess we can call for... Do you want to discuss or should we call for a vote? How about call for a vote so we get the meeting over with? All in favor of those two proposals, say Aye and raise your... Well, a merge proposal. Yeah, yeah. Aye and raise your hand. It looks unanimous. Thank you very much. Before we move on, I'll wait to see if our secretary has got everything down. Thank you so much, CAC. Would you please pass on our thanks to all your members? So many of your ideas we wouldn't have thought of on our own, so you're really playing a key role, and we would like to meet the needs of All the age groups in the-I think it's a great.

[00:42:03.20] - Speaker 1

Okay. Thank you. And you've got that record of the vote? Okay, great. Okay. Village Manager. We were going to go for the police next. Is he here?

[00:42:29.03] - Speaker 4

I told I'm going to come at 7: 30. Okay.

[00:42:32.10] - Speaker 1

Chair's announcement, I didn't really have anything. Now we go to general announcements from the public. Did anyone sign up? Someone will be sorry to. Clara Lovet. You're the first on the list.

[00:43:14.02] - Speaker 2

I don't think it's a very long list, is it? Clara Lovet from the Carleton. I'm here to share a bit of information that has to do with legislation and practices that the state is discussing and the county are discussing that bear on the question of housing, where to build, quote, et cetera. Before I get to that announcement, I want to thank Julian on behalf of the Board of the Montgomery Parks Foundation. We are looking for new members for that organization that supports the park system. Julian helped me get the word out in village. In fact, I got four inquiries, and two were from village residents, one from Somerset and one from Brookdale. So thank you. The bit of information I want to share is this coming Friday, March 13th, the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County, which is an umbrella organization that includes county officials, people from the nonprofit sector, as well as representatives of developers. In other words, the group that takes the overview of what should happen in the county is having a half-day conference at the Parks and Planning Building in Quitton, 12: 30 to 3: 30. They will have two panels, one that will look at legislation at the county level, what is on the books now and changes that the council is discussing and are likely to be introduced after the next council election.

[00:45:18.17] - Speaker 2

Another panel that is looking at state-level initiatives. You may have heard that just a couple of weeks ago, the governor of our state signed an executive order that is intended to speed up the work of the legislature, encourage the legislature to focus more seriously on issues of the housing supply, statewide in this case. But a lot of it has to do with a more highly populated area of the state, obviously. So it's It's going to be at Parks and Planning in Quitton, Friday afternoon, 12: 30 to 3: 30. I will be happy to send the link to Julian to share it with anyone who might be interested. You have to sign up in order to attend.

[00:46:20.07] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Is it only in person or is it virtual also?

[00:46:23.00] - Speaker 2

It's only in person. Okay.

[00:46:25.27] - Speaker 1

Thank you very much for sharing that information.

[00:46:50.11] - Speaker 5

Bobby Pestrunk.

[00:46:50.25] - Speaker 2

Beginning in January, I brought five issues forward, all related to the Council's final decision to contract for installation of an EV charging station in December. The issues: responsiveness, openness, transparency, better business practices, and an appearance of conflict of interest. I followed village policies passed and newly adopted to obtain information. In addition, I wrote to individual council members to obtain information. All but one council member were unresponsive. Yet responsiveness, openness, and transparency are qualities council leadership has lionized. At subsequent meetings, the mayor deflected, what about it, inappropriately dragged my family into his comments, and has several times opined that my votes last year are somehow relevant. Last month, another council member brought up vegetable delivery and environmental bona fides, also not relevant. What is relevant is recognition and acknowledgement that council practice, and at this point, the mayor's manner could improve. My initial observation was that the motion to contract village funds for an EV charging station supported an amenity limited to very few residents, and it was moved by a council member using an electric vehicle. At a minimum, that's a bad look. A better solution to this problem was to have another council member make the motion and for any other owner of an electric vehicle serving on a council who might benefit from this amenity abstained from voting and offer the reason for that.

[00:48:28.23] - Speaker 2

I observed that other communities had installed stations in a more cost-effective manner and recovered costs through fees. The Council process failed to identify those practices and neglected to install software in its contract to track and use charges. Regarding the It was in the mayor's error that I didn't propose a conflict of interest policy while chairman of the Council, I'm not surprised he forgot the one adopted by Council last term as part of a policy pertaining to millions of dollars of village investments. I sat through very unpleasant negotiations

conversations with him over weeks at the direction of the Finance Committee about a policy which was subsequently adopted by the Finance Committee and council. The mayor's manner in response to this resident's comments these past few months is unbecoming of a public official. It reflects poorly on the council of which he is a part. One council member reflected on this last month, noting its similarity to the nation's chief executive. That argumentative manner and the disrespectful tone helped shut down last month's meeting before business was conducted. On another topic, I'm delighted to see the number of new initiative proposals responsive to an initiative I proposed to the council last term.

[00:49:46.23] - Speaker 2

As I said at the time, the village is filled with smart, creative residents with good ideas about how their taxes might be spent. One council member was quite hostile to the idea at the time when first proposed. Council might also have to formally amend the village budget-I'm sorry.

[00:50:04.23] - Speaker 1

I think your time is up. Thank you.

[00:50:05.29] - Speaker 2

In a separate motion to accommodate the additional funds for new initiatives.

[00:50:09.22] - Speaker 1

Kyle Narsavage. Thank you. Hello.

[00:50:15.25] - Speaker 2

Hello.

[00:50:17.08] - Speaker 1

My name is Kyle Nahr-Savage.

[00:50:20.06] - Speaker 5

I'm the owner of Greensweep Landscaping. Just wanted to come to the meeting to introduce myself and be available for any questions or concerns in regards to the landscape maintenance contract and the annual flowers and everything.

[00:50:32.17] - Speaker 2

We're eager to get going for spring, excited that snow is over with, and it's 75 degrees outside. I'm available if anyone has questions or concerns on anything in regards to the landscaping.

[00:50:44.22] - Speaker 4

I just wanted to come and introduce myself and thank the village and Julian for having me that night.

[00:50:50.20] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Steven Silver. Steven Silver. Not here. Lois Foster.

[00:51:11.15] - Speaker 2

Can you guys follow I did this very quickly, so I'll just go through it with you. Yes, here's the mic. I'm right in front of it. Lois Foster, 4620 North Park Avenue. Please share, run it down there. I tried to do nine and then whatever, running out. But one of the photos in that batch is that I took in January. I've taken other pictures, but it all represents the same thing that I've said, have seen over and over and over again. Back in January, I saw five dog owners and five dogs unleashed, not on a leash, rather, in Page Park. I've also seen the dog owners and their dogs running through the landscape over and over and over again. And of course, last summer, I saw a woman clipping a plant as if she was going to make a bouquet. I think you really need to think through very carefully about how this park is going to be planned if we don't want it destroyed down the road, because these folks are hell-bent on destroying whatever is in front of them. Secondly, the other thing that it photo, and it's pretty disgusting, and I want to apologize in advance, dance, but I picked it up.

[00:53:02.20] - Speaker 2

It was just on our property. I picked up a full bag of dog feces. It was all on top of the snow. A week and a half later, I went back out and checked because I pick up the trash on our property and through the village, but I checked again on our property, another half bag. I think it's time the village think very carefully about what we need to do for the health, safety, and welfare of our residents. Dogs unleashed in the park will not be welcoming to families with kids. It's dogs in the park will not be welcoming for senior citizens' concern that the dogs might trip them or something. Dog feces is not in the public health, safety, and welfare of the community. Because you don't know what little kids, when they're running, walking with their parents might do. And certainly, if it's allowed to go into our stream, I see birds drinking out of that stream all the time.

And great blue heron comes to that stream. So that's environmental degradation at its highest.. All right, there you go. Microphone.

[00:54:32.07] - Speaker 1

Thank you. When you picked up bags of dog feces on your property, did you mean 4620?

[00:54:40.12] - Speaker 2

4620, yes. The three sides, 4620. Yes. Okay. Thank you. When I walked up to the village that day, I saw it all over, just all over, and I was exhausted. I'm tired. I understand. At my age, I shouldn't even be doing this crap. I should be reading and having fun. But anyway, as a land use planner, I work in the- If you could wrap it up in just a few seconds. I'm going to wrap it up. The other thing I passed out was a resolution passed in June of 2023. It was a revised Revised Regulations for the Village of Friendship Heights. On the back side, or that's page two, it talked about it's a regulation regarding dogs running at large, deposit and removal of dog feces. So it's on the books in the Village of Friendship Heights, the regulations. The county has regulations, too, but the village does. I think it's time we do things that I wrote a long paper. Julian has it. I don't want him to misrepresent it. I don't want to stop having dogs in the community. There are folks here in this community with two dogs. We might want to even think about limiting that just to one dog.

[00:56:04.01] - Speaker 2

Nevertheless, it's time for dog signs to be put on village property. Ours are all around our building, yet they ignore it. Yours, too. Then Page Park, something needs to be done about the dog.

[00:56:21.29] - Speaker 1

Thank you for your message. I understand your concern about this.

[00:56:25.21] - Speaker 2

Well, what I want is one of your committees to be assigned this issue and make recommendations to the board on what needs to be done.

[00:56:37.17] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Thank you.

[00:56:39.09] - Speaker 2

Thank you.

[00:56:43.08] - Speaker 1

That's all we have on comments from the public. I believe we have the village...

[00:56:51.11] - Speaker 4

We have Lieutenant Arie Elken here.

[00:56:53.14] - Speaker 1

I'm sorry. I should have somehow out of uniform, I don't make the connection. Yeah.

[00:57:00.11] - Speaker 4

You're on if you're ready.

[00:57:01.26] - Speaker 1

Yes. You have the floor. This is Lieutenant Arie Elken, who is managing and supervising our off-duty police effort.

[00:57:14.01] - Speaker 4

Correct. Hi. How are you doing? Good evening. Good to see everybody. I just want to report out, and I'll report out since January first, a year to date. I think that's probably the easiest, and that was the easiest for me as far as my data and numbers. Overall, I would say that the off-duty patrol has been going very well, pretty successful. They've been conducting high-visibility patrol at most of the intersections. We have made, to date, of the documented stops, 47 stops of cars. I don't have a breakdown as to warnings written, tickets written, but 47 stops, and then 23 separate incidents that were either dispatched into the village during January first and then handled by an off-duty officer. Those have been arranged, everything even this morning from a parking complaint with a crane that had a parking issue down at Shoemaker and Willard to an LPR hit that one of the off-duty officers got on their crews that resulted in arrest of an individual living in the community who had an open warrant for fraud.

[00:58:24.05] - Speaker 1

Could you clarify LPR with that?

[00:58:26.08] - Speaker 4

Yeah, a license plate reader. Okay. Most of our cruises are equipped with in-car license plate readers. It's in the forward-facing camera of their vehicle. So even when the officer is stationary, cars that go by, if they're stolen or there's a wanted person associated with that vehicle, they're going to get an alert onto their computer in their car. And that did, in fact, happen two weeks ago on a Wednesday morning, and that subject was ultimately arrested. But that was the result of the officer sitting at the intersection just monitoring traffic. So that was good. But majority of the incidents have been parking related. Again, then the one offs with an LPR hit, and then a couple of theft reports. But overall, just as a community piece, I know that all the officers have told me that community members continue to come up and engage with them and thank them for being there, including ones that they stop who are still primarily folks that do not live in the community. There are people that are typically going to, as we talked about last time, go in to doctors appointments or late for work. We have had three separate incidents in which officers have stopped and ticketed individuals for going past the school busses when they have been stopped.

[00:59:48.14] - Speaker 4

Unfortunately for those three folks, they got a ticket from the police, and they also are getting a camera ticket mail to them because the busses have cameras on them that will automatically mail a ticket. But that's assigned to the vehicle as opposed to the registration of the vehicle, whereas when they're stopped by the police, there are points associated with that traffic stop. That happened on three occasions since January first. Because in the afternoons, typically. Basically, the officers are going to be parked down here at the corner, Frenchet Boulevard and North Park. That's predominantly where they get the bus stop. Do you see South Park? Right here, right down here. This corner right here. South Park and Frenchet. South Park and Friendship, yes. North Park, South. Sometimes I get a little backwards. Globally speaking, just speaking of the broader Friendship Heights area. I'm sure many of you are aware that we had a series of commercial burglaries that occurred a couple of weeks ago. Miwa, the Chinese restaurant, the beer and wine, were all burglarized in the middle of the night, smashed and Grab. That same crew has hit all over the region to include up in downtown Bethesda, Fairfax County, Prince George's County.

[01:01:09.11] - Speaker 4

We do have leads on that, but that is still an open and active investigation. But that That's separate from the off-Duty Patrol that occurred in the middle of the night. But just I know that has stirred some interest in the community, so I just wanted to report out on that. Then also, globally speaking, when we look at the numbers for this police reporting area since January first, we are still seeing a decent amount of theft calls or identity theft and fraud calls. That is the prevailing crime that is occurring here on a regular basis. Now, with the closing of Amazon Fresh, we don't have the shoplifting calls that we used to have down at that area. But those are the main highlights. We have a couple of one-off assault calls that where the victim, the suspect, was known to the victim. I'm not really feeling like that's something that the community should be concerned about just on a bigger picture. But because in looking at those specific incidents, those were known as to those folks. It wasn't a street robbery or someone assaulted on the street. That essentially is what's happening. I did onboard Officer Sizemore, James Sizemore, who will be starting next month.

[01:02:29.10] - Speaker 4

He actually is the officer that works this on a regular basis for his regular job. Because I had one or two officers that have since stopped working in an off-duty capacity or so, I needed to onboard another individual. So he will be starting in March. Good person. I think he's probably met Julian before and brought himself into the center here. So he'll be a new face to see around the area. But other than that, that pretty much sums it up. But I'm happy to answer any questions. If anyone has anything specific that they want to ask me about.

[01:03:02.26] - Speaker 1

Council member Miller.

[01:03:04.05] - Speaker 4

Hi.

[01:03:04.28] - Speaker 5

Thank you, Lieutenant. I'm interested about the incident at Mewell, the restaurant. What time of evening was that? Were there customers in there?

[01:03:14.23] - Speaker 4

No, it was like 3: 00 in the morning, 3: 30 in the morning. It was a smash and grab. They broke the glass. There was nobody there. It was alarm off. We get there and they had hit. Multiple

businesses along there. Then also same crew then hit about 30 minutes later in downtown Bethesda. On separate nights, the same crew has hit in Fairfax County, Prince George's County. But we're still doing the cell phone data thing where we do the geo fence with the cell phone.

[01:03:47.17] - Speaker 5

Was there any camera coverage that could be helpful?

[01:03:51.01] - Speaker 4

Nothing that was helpful, no. Thank you.

[01:03:56.25] - Speaker 1

Anyone else? Thank you very All right.

[01:04:00.16] - Speaker 4

Thank you. You all have a good night.

[01:04:01.23] - Speaker 2

I just want to thank you, Lieutenant. I find a great deal of comfort when I drive around or walk in the community with the vehicles, and I notice them at different locations at different times of day. I think it's a confidence booster for me, I know. So thank you very much.

[01:04:19.05] - Speaker 4

We have a good crew. It was definitely challenging during the snow to park, and with all this piled up snow, a couple of them were calling me like, Hey, where exactly? It was difficult to not put their car in a place that was just... But now we're with... We pushed forward. So now I think the folks that will be here in the evening is going to feel more comforting, too, because there'll be more people out and about as it warms up. So we're looking at those things as well. But I appreciate the feedback, and they're all good folks. Yeah. Thanks.

[01:04:48.04] - Speaker 5

Hopefully, none of them got a ticket for parking inappropriately.

[01:04:51.29] - Speaker 4

They did not. But yes, they've also mitigated a few parking disputes, but it's all good. So appreciate it.

[01:05:02.25] - Speaker 1

I think now is Village Manager's report.

[01:05:10.14] - Speaker 4

Yes, two brief items. We are about to be We're going to search for Assistant Program Director to fill that position. Alex Benson has resigned from that position as of a few weeks ago, so we're going to be posting the job announcement for that shortly. There is an item on the council agenda this evening, a little later for adding hours for this position, but we will be posting the position shortly. Secondly, the traffic study Council member Conlo referred to earlier is set to get started tomorrow with the installation of cameras and some equipment around the village that you will see for the traffic consultants to begin collecting data on traffic counts and speeds and potential violations and issues like that. So they will be collecting collecting this data, I think, for a period of a few weeks, and then they will begin to use that data to do the traffic study that we will be hearing about and discussing later on. Thank you.

[01:06:14.19] - Speaker 1

Questions or comments for our village manager? Okay. Are you?

[01:06:22.18] - Speaker 2

I just have two quick things. First, it's a save the date. We are having our annual Community Day celebration Saturday, April 11th. That is the second Saturday of April. This is a special celebration to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the village center. We do not have times yet, so just check the village website or the newsletter. 40th. Did I say that? No? Anyway, it's the 40th anniversary, and the time is to be determined, but we're serving We're having lunch there, so it won't be that early. So you can have breakfast and then come over.

[01:07:05.02] - Speaker 1

We're that late.

[01:07:06.15] - Speaker 2

And the second thing I wanted to announce, and this was covered in the Village newsletter, is if you're in the process of doing your tax return, whether yourself or you have a tax adviser, please remember to use, when you pay your county taxes, the code for friendship pites. It doesn't change the tax you owe, but that is our largest revenue line. So it's very important to us that you get that right. If you need some guidance, I would just refer you to the Village newsletter where it's explained fairly well.

[01:07:38.01] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Mayor, would it be good to have a handout for the buildings maybe with that?

[01:07:43.29] - Speaker 2

Sure. What do you think? We could just print what's in the newsletter and pass it out. Okay. Thank you.

[01:07:50.09] - Speaker 1

Something visually catchy, I hope. Treasurer's report, Council member Conwell or Treasurer Conwell. Okay.

[01:08:01.06] - Speaker 2

Thanks, Martha. For February, we're continuing to do pretty well. We have an operating surplus for the month of \$163,000. That's revenues, less expenditures. For the first eight months of the year, our operating surplus totals approximately \$500,000, which is equal to about 30% of our budget, which is pretty darn good.

[01:08:25.11] - Speaker 4

Now, about 237,000 of that is based on income tax revenue, which is higher than we anticipated. On the expenditure side, most of the expenditures are coming in pretty much within budget.

[01:08:45.25] - Speaker 2

So overall, our budget is in pretty good shape.

[01:08:49.26] - Speaker 4

I have noticed, I'll mention again that next year we think things are likely to tighten up, in part because income tax revenues next year will be reflective of the government layoffs and shutdown.

[01:09:02.17] - Speaker 2

So we're expecting that revenue to decline by \$200 plus, \$1,000.

[01:09:09.28] - Speaker 4

However, even with the expected decline in revenue, we're anticipating that next year we'll continue to have a surplus, even though it's going to be certainly smaller than this year.

[01:09:25.15] - Speaker 2

All this will be discussed in greater detail at our upcoming Finance Committee meeting on March 17th, where we'll review our initial budget proposal, which starts in July for FY 27. It's also important to note, I think, that this is the first year that we have a capital budget in place, and we're currently working to review our accounting and budgeting processes to reflect a more robust capital budget and five-year plan going into next year. And so far this year, we've spent approximately 283 \$3,000 on capital projects, including Page Park, the Red House, and the Village Center. Our capital expenses are financed through our operating surplus, which is a good thing since we don't have to borrow money to pay for our capital expenses. Going forward, even if we don't have quite as large a surplus, we still have the ability to finance a robust capital program because our reserves continue to be strong, exceeding \$5 million.

[01:10:29.19] - Speaker 4

So that's my report.

[01:10:31.08] - Speaker 2

Thank you.

[01:10:32.08] - Speaker 1

Questions, comments? Committee reports, Advisory Committee on Development, update on recent meetings. I believe that's Council member Klein?

[01:10:48.00] - Speaker 2

Yes. When you're dealing with development, it goes on for a long time. So forgive me if sometimes I'm repetitive. But the things that we're still dealing with are the draft sector plan for all of Friendship Heights, which definitely has repercussions for us, especially on the site of the medical building and on the Shoemaker site, which is the low-scale buildings, where the current draft of the sector plan would say both of those parcels of land could be redeveloped with high rises. On the medical building, a high rise, and on the low-scale buildings to the west of Shoemaker, a high rise of 375 units. That, of course, would block the Southern exposure, would be a loss of green space. And we've been promised both in the '74 and '98 sector plans that that would remain as is. So that's one issue. Probably more pressing now is what happens on the Geico site, which is being redeveloped. We've had meetings with EYA, which is the developer. Some of you went to the meetings at the school. Then they've been holding smaller meetings with the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights. And also now, the Willabe is going to have a one-on-one meeting, and there will be a town hall later this week at 46 620 on Thursday night, not with EYA, but with Mayor Schafer and Chair Martha Salt.

[01:12:54.18] - Speaker 2

And I'll also be attending to apprise the community community of what's going on with the Geico site. Now, I just want to take a minute to talk about the things that are a big concern. I want to thank my other council members, Al Muller and John Conlo, who were part of the development committee and very interested in these matters and doing work on their own to make sure that we keep getting our position documented and work with the community more widely. We are concerned. The Geico site was supposedly given a split and a half with the Friendship Boulevard portion. We don't have a plan for that yet, but EYA wants to build townhouses and a couple of residential buildings, one a condo and one a rental building on the western portion of the site. And as a community, when Can we talk about it, and I haven't heard anyone say anything different. We're concerned about the loss of all of the trees now on a Long Willard Avenue. We're concerned about the height of the residential buildings that they want to build, which is higher than what was approved in the '98 plan by either two and then three stories.

[01:14:32.05] - Speaker 2

We're concerned about traffic on Willard and North Park, and we're also concerned about how the views of residents at the Willaby, at the Carleton, at 4620, and Willard Tower, towers will be affected. With regard to traffic, one of the things that's concerning, and I've this to EYA and others have, too, is that there is no way out of the property on which they are building townhouses and apartment buildings, condo and a residential rental building, no way out onto Wester. They are having all of the traffic go on to Friendship Boulevard and on to Willard, and they will have a street that connects directly with North Park. And they say that that's not a

problem for us because the traffic won't be any greater than it is now, and that people will leave the property from North Park on their side of North Park, south of Willard, and will then make a right turn and then a left turn on Wisconsin if they want to go north on Wisconsin. I don't think that's accurate, especially if someone puts a light at North Park, if that turns into a highly trafficated area, which I think it will be since it will be a residential community and a residential community, us and them, on both sides of North Park.

[01:16:24.24] - Speaker 2

If you wind up with a light, I think there will be a number of folks who decide, if they've got a green light, that they might as well just cross and come up through North Park and deal with a couple of stop signs and be out on Wisconsin. So all of these things are still things that I like to think we can possibly negotiate with EIA and Parks and Planning. And the spot we're in now is to make sure that all of the condos along Willard, in particular, are coming up with the things that they want to make sure don't happen, and as well as the Elizabeth, which is also a condominium. I know we don't want any more traffic on North Park. That's a main traffic street for school busses. Now, I say all of this, and I ask you, again, if you've gotten an email from Parks and Planning that asks for your comments on the sector plan, you should be responding to that with what your thoughts are. And I think it's important for us as individuals because we respond on your behalf. The mayor has written several letters on these issues, but then the Parks and Planning come back to the individual residents in the community, and we really need to respond that way, too.

[01:18:01.04] - Speaker 2

So that's where we are. We continue to meet with candidates for office, at-large candidates, to see what their ideas on development are, and we continue to talk about the issues among ourselves on the committee. I don't know if any council member has a question. Yes, Martha.

[01:18:22.19] - Speaker 1

Maybe a suggestion that if you've received one of these emails and you'd like to respond, sometimes reading what someone else has done can help jog your thoughts. I really would suggest reading the two letters that came from the village. It can maybe give you more background information than you might have off the top of your head. We could email those to you, or could you maybe, Jason, put them very prominently on our website? I know they're up, but is it easy to find? I'm sorry? Yes.

[01:19:03.02] - Speaker 2

Okay, thank you.

[01:19:04.11] - Speaker 1

Is there any other- No, I like that idea very much.

[01:19:07.25] - Speaker 2

Thank you very much.

[01:19:11.29] - Speaker 5

Council member- I just want to make special note of the fact that Councilwoman Klein, in her role as head of the development committee, has done an amazing amount of work in inviting candidates for the upcoming county council. Those are the ones that will probably make the final decision, not park and planning. And none of us really knew many of these candidates, thanks to Councilwoman Klein. They are speaking and hearing from the committee of about a dozen people, Councilwoman Klein's committee, on our concerns and also giving us some idea of where they stand. So far, their responses have been rather good, I think, speaking just for myself. And they are now getting the feel for the fact that this community represented by the elected officials plus the appointed committees, feel very strongly about this. So my thanks to, and I think you should all know that without Councilwoman Klein, we wouldn't be meeting these people.

[01:20:27.07] - Speaker 2

Yeah. One thing that's good about it is We don't know who's going to win. There are 18 candidates running for the at-large seats, four at-large seats. And then we have the four candidates running for district One where we live. But what's good about meeting them is that they meet us. And so when it comes time to vote at some time in the future, whoever, and we're inviting the candidates we think had the best chance of winning, that when they have time to vote, if they do on the sector plan, they will have already met with our community, representatives on development, and they will understand what our issues are. So I think that's a better place for us to be.

[01:21:16.23] - Speaker 5

And the votes are in the middle of June. They're right around the corner, and they're 99 % likely that the Democrats will win because there aren't any Republicans running in most of these races. So it is important that as many of you as possible, if you get invitations to tease from

individuals or from condominiums or rental buildings, that you go and meet these people and let them know how you feel about potential new large buildings right within the village and across the street.

[01:21:52.19] - Speaker 1

I join Council member Muller in expressing gratitude to Council member Klein for everything you've done on this. I know it's a very heavy lift, very time consuming and important. Thank you.

[01:22:08.13] - Speaker 2

Yeah, I third that motion. Francine has done a fantastic job. Thank you, Francine. Thank you.

[01:22:14.23] - Speaker 1

I think we move on to the Finance Committee meeting of February 20th.

[01:22:22.24] - Speaker 4

Okay, real briefly, the Finance Committee at its meeting on February 20th reviewed initial draughts of both the FY7 operating and capital budgets.

[01:22:34.02] - Speaker 2

A second draft of the proposed budgets will be reviewed at the next meeting on March 17th, with the goal of submitting a recommendation for review at the April Council meeting, if possible. In advance of that meeting, we're also planning to coordinate with policies and procedures on salary recommendations. Also at the meeting on February 20th, we We approved a draft motion on bank procedures, but that motion is coming up for review later on the agenda. That's it. Thank you.

[01:23:10.10] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Policies and Procedures Committee meeting of February 27th.

[01:23:19.10] - Speaker 2

Thank you. The committee has been... I just have a few points to make talking about how busy the committee has been. A contractor has been selected to help bring our website into compliance with ADA. We've been working on contracts and acquisition policy and a parking policy, including enforcement. The committee is attempting to address resident complaints

about how enforcement is currently conducted. The committee unanimously approved a comprehensive nondiscrimination policy and recommends that the council adopt it. The committee is also beginning to review staff compensation. That's my report.

[01:24:11.03] - Speaker 1

We move on to Old Business. Discussion vote on proposals for repairing the fountain and replacing the fountain lighting in Humphrey Park. For Council members, the The red sheet is... Where is it? It's on page 2 of the Friday memo, and the bids are behind tab two, I believe. Would the village manager like to share some information about that?

[01:24:55.04] - Speaker 4

Yeah, I'll swing it back to Jim Wilson, who has joined us again. Yeah, The proposals are shown under tab three. We had four proposals, and we did refer them to Jim for his review and recommendations, so I'll throw it over to Jim.

[01:25:09.25] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Jim. Is he here?

[01:25:19.28] - Speaker 4

Jim, can you hear us? We're not hearing you, Jim, if you're talking. Jim, can you maybe try logging back in?

[01:25:42.05] - Speaker 2

I'm sorry. Who are we trying Can I log in? Jim, our project manager- Oh, thank you very much. Thank you. I just didn't catch that.

[01:25:50.20] - Speaker 4

Jim, we're not hearing you. Can you log? Can you exit the meeting and log back in?

[01:26:29.01] - Speaker 4

We're showing you're on mute, Jim. Jim, did you try to log back in?

[01:26:30.00] - Speaker 1

Julian, maybe you could summarize the report, or do we want another minute?

[01:26:35.13] - Speaker 4

I'm trying to reach him on the phone. Sure. Jim, are you there?

[01:26:49.22] - Speaker 1

Would you like us to move on to another topic and then maybe come back if he gets on, or Sure. Shall we just proceed?

[01:27:02.14] - Speaker 4

Let me just briefly summarize his report, and then we'll see if he can join us. We received the proposals, and Jim's recommendation is for Winkler pooling, and Spa, which is at 27,390. This is the second lowest bid, not the lowest bid. He has confirmed that the proposal includes the work that's described in the scope. There's three main components. It's replacement of the lighting system, replacement of a fill valve and electrical work, and also sealing and repairing the fountain basin itself to fix a leak that's in the basin. Winkler is a specialist in pool and fountain repairs and actually does a lot of work in the village and maintains some pools in the buildings here. Jim has a background with them and is highly recommending them for the work. He has had some conversations with them leading up to this to clarify their scope of work and what they can do. So he does recommend Winkler.

[01:28:12.18] - Speaker 1

Can you make a motion? Sure. Can you make a motion?

[01:28:17.14] - Speaker 2

Okay. So following our project manager's recommendation, I make a motion to give the contract for the fountain repair as specified in the RFP to Winkler Pool Management for \$27,390.

[01:28:33.22] - Speaker 4

Can you keep me on the phone on speaker in case they have questions?

[01:28:37.05] - Speaker 2

Okay. I'll second.

[01:28:43.19] - Speaker 1

Would you like us to wait or should we proceed with the- No, I've got him on the phone if you have questions, just in case anybody wants to ask him anything because there's something wrong. We can't hear another one. Okay. We have a motion and a second. Are there questions or comments? Allison did. Council- Go ahead.

[01:29:02.12] - Speaker 2

No, I was just saying I second it. Go ahead.

[01:29:05.01] - Speaker 5

Yeah, I have a question for Jim. I've already pointed this out to Julian. Jim, the highest bid I know is aware of the fact, but I do not know if the other three are aware of the fact that the lighting which is broken down in the fountain originally had some a filter that It was lit with different colors. I don't remember how many. And you can see at the bottom of, I think, one or two of the remaining malfunctioning bulbs that there is some a color filter. This was not specifically included in the RFP. However, whoever gets the contract, I would appreciate if they were asked about that and informed that the present fountain lights do have the option for color and see what that does, and if the council wishes that to be the case, whether that is something that can be easily remedied. Because right now, I think the only one that may know about that is the high bidder.

[01:30:25.25] - Speaker 2

We can look into it, but I'm not aware.

[01:30:31.17] - Speaker 4

I was not aware of that requirement, but if it is a requirement, we can look into it. But all the bidders bid the same set of documents. So it did not appear that there was anything unique that the high bidder was doing.

[01:30:49.06] - Speaker 5

No, what I'm saying is I realize it's not in the RFP. However, what I'm saying is that the The present system had the option, and I'm asking if that can be asked of whoever the winning bidder is, whether that will be- Absolutely.

[01:31:12.22] - Speaker 4

Absolutely. We could look into that.

[01:31:14.23] - Speaker 5

Yes, thank you. I support the mayor's motion.

[01:31:23.16] - Speaker 1

Other questions or discussion or comments? I'm going to call for the vote, but first say, I am accusing as ridiculous as it may seem. In 2021, my husband was a lifeguard for Winkler, and he was the oldest lifeguard in Friendship Heights, I might add. I will not vote on this. So calling for the vote. All council members in favor of accepting the proposal from Winkler Pool Management for 27,390. Say, Aye. And raise their hand. So that That looks like six, yes, and one abstained. I'm sorry, recuse. Whatever, abstained.

[01:32:09.13] - Speaker 2

No, you're not voting.

[01:32:10.10] - Speaker 1

I know. I said... Are you? Yeah, okay. Yes, that's correct. So the motion passes.

[01:32:16.28] - Speaker 4

Thanks, Jim. All right. Thank you. Thank you.

[01:32:20.16] - Speaker 1

Thank you, Jim. The next item is discussion, vote on proposals for landscape maintenance contract. Again, would you like to initiate this discussion, Julian? Yes.

[01:32:46.20] - Speaker 4

This is the landscape maintenance contract that covers the parks and the open grounds. This is a three-year contract. We did an issue in RFP, and we received We've received seven bids which are summarized in your table on page 4 of the memo. I did send around a revision today that just shows the total three-year cost because the original information was just the annual costs. Now we have an additional column that shows the full cost of the three-year contract.

Essentially, we boil this down to three of the most competitive bidders, which were the three lower bids, Green Sweep, Brightview, and DavyTree. Of those, DavyTree is the low bidder, followed by Green Sweep, and Brightview was the higher bidder of those three. We summarize the references for Davy and Brightview that you see in your pack. It's Brightview is a pretty large company that does work all over the country, but their references in this area were essentially residential, a couple of condominium buildings in the village, the Willaby Highland House, Highland House West, and Ritz Carlton residences in DC. So a little bit smaller than the scope of the work for this project. Davy tree submitted references for Fairfax County Parks Authority, Village of Leesberg, larger entities, but a little bit more in terms of maintenance and not so much in terms of flowers and landscape planting.

[01:34:30.00] - Speaker 4

They had some decent references, some satisfactory references. But staff is supporting Green Sweep. They've just done a really good job here over years. I think this is the third. I'm looking at Kyle, who's in the audience. I think this is the third contract period that we've completed with Green Sweep, so that's about nine years. Their price has gone up about 5%, but it's constant for the three-year period, so it's a fairly small increase. If you look at it for each year from their previous three years, they've held the price. We just think they've done consistently good work with the landscape maintenance portion of the work here. And so we are recommending continuing with Green Thruy.

[01:35:23.19] - Speaker 1

A question about the RFP. It was fairly detailed, right? With very specific number of visits, types of plans, et cetera.

[01:35:36.07] - Speaker 4

Yeah, I should also... Yes. Very specific, detailed planting list. Very, very precise planting list. I should also mention that I went to Green Street before we issued the RFP to talk about the hanging baskets because we've just noticed in the last couple of years, the hanging baskets just looked like they needed a little bit of a redesign, a different view, especially looking at some of the baskets around the area and neighboring communities. We came up with a plan to really spruce up those baskets, which is reflected in this RFP. It's also the reason some of the prices are a little bit higher because the baskets are going to have more flowers in them and probably cost a little more than they have in the past.

[01:36:20.26] - Speaker 1

That was in the RFP open to all the bidders?

[01:36:23.26] - Speaker 4

That's right. Yes.

[01:36:26.10] - Speaker 1

Go ahead.

[01:36:30.17] - Speaker 2

I have a couple of questions. First, I think I heard what you were saying that you've come up with the design for the flowers. Is that true?

[01:36:42.12] - Speaker 4

With some assistance from Green Street. But what I did, I saw some baskets in neighboring areas that I felt looked nicer than the ones we have had here. So I inquired as to what's the makeup of those baskets.

[01:36:57.14] - Speaker 2

If they don't get the contract When we take a vote, will you be working with the new contractor, whoever that is, to guide them on what the landscaping should look like?

[01:37:10.10] - Speaker 4

Yeah, absolutely. This is in the specs. This was in the RFP, the So the revised, the new vision for the flour baskets is in the RFP that everybody has been on, yes.

[01:37:21.26] - Speaker 2

Because I've always been very impressed with what we have, and there's always room for improvement, I'm sure. But it really shows off the community well to have the landscaping we have. Along those lines, one of the beauties of the center property is the trees. I do want to know, because trees are different than landscaping. They're their own specialty. Sometimes you need to go up in a tree and take a branch down or examine the tree and know what might be ailing. Who handles our tree work? Is that the landscaper or someone else?

[01:38:02.01] - Speaker 4

It's generally someone else, but there are smaller trees and shrubs and things that green sweep can handle for us. For instance, the crape myrtles in Willaby Park, there's about 11 or 12 of them. And just a few months A few months ago, Green Sweep came to us and said it would be a very good idea to prune these in the winter, so we had them do that. But the arborist, the village arborist, can assess the large trees, the street trees, and recommend pruning or treatments or removal, as the case may be. So we do that separately from the landscape contract.

[01:38:37.13] - Speaker 2

Thank you.

[01:38:42.05] - Speaker 1

I'm sorry, Council member Moller.

[01:38:48.12] - Speaker 5

Yes. In reading over the references, and this is a public meeting, but I can only refer to the manager's notes. The low bidder is essentially a tree expert company. And the references that are here, having had to give references myself, as I'm sure my colleagues have, I think I can recognize an attempt to be diplomatic. For the Davy tree service, the reference, I will simply read what the manager gave us. The general manager indicates, this is the general manager of the reference, which is a village in Virginia, that although no landscaper is perfect, Davie has been responsive to any work that has been missed or not up to expectations. End of reference. That, to me, is not a good reference. It's an attempt to find something in an otherwise less than perfect performance. I felt that the other references were, for instance, one says, has done satisfactory work, not outstanding, understanding, Satisfactory, and they're satisfied. Again, I didn't think those were strong references. I didn't think they disqualified. But I also think the references from our managers for our present contractor have been excellent. They haven't been Satisfactory. They haven't been responsive when work has been missed or not up to expectations.

[01:40:42.20] - Speaker 5

I personally, unless you wish to wait for later motions, I personally would move that- We're still having discussion.

[01:40:55.01] - Speaker 1

Okay, thank you.

[01:40:55.27] - Speaker 5

Thank you. Those are my comments. Okay.

[01:40:59.11] - Speaker 1

I have Do you have comments? Okay. I read everything. I went online. Davie tree has been in the landscaping business for 40 years, even though tree is in their name. I often say, Hey, why can't we take the lowest bidder? We could use \$58,000 for something else, and we have a lot of other things to spend our money on. I thought the references were fine. The RFP very detailed, exactly how many plans, exactly how many visits, so there's less wiggle room. I have a different view on that. Are there other comments or questions, mayor?

[01:41:52.17] - Speaker 2

Yeah. Just to get back to, as Council members Holt said, the difference between the two contracts over the three years is almost \$60,000. And regarding the name, the name is the Davy Tree Expert Company. But in their website, they state that one of the services they provide is actually commercial landscaping services. Davy is accredited by the Better Business Bureau. They have an A plus rating. Not every one of the other bidders has that. And The other factor, it's the elephant in the room, is Page Park, that the issues around what was done and by Green Sweep have not been settled. Obviously, that's going to be something that we're going to have to deal with and to maybe have that hanging over us while dealing with them as a vendor is not the best position to be in. I don't know if you want a motion now, but I would recommend going Excuse me.

[01:43:00.16] - Speaker 1

Could I see if there are other questions or comments? Are we done and we're open to motions now?

[01:43:07.15] - Speaker 2

Okay. Go ahead. I would make a motion to give the contract to the lowest bidder, which is the Davy tree Expert Company, for a total cost of \$75,473. I'm sorry. Did I read Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't have the update. It was \$226,419 over the three years.

[01:43:41.02] - Speaker 1

Is there a second for that motion? Second. Okay, there's a motion and a second. All in favor... I'm sorry. Thank you. Discussion. Thank you. Comments? Any questions? Council member Miller?

[01:44:06.25] - Speaker 2

Yes.

[01:44:07.07] - Speaker 5

With all due respect, the recommendations were not outstanding, and they may be on a website, have certain credentials, but those are theoretical as far as what they can do, they are still called a tree expert, and we have a tree expert. He's the village arborist. The present company has had a fair amount of controversy over one contract that was separate from the contract we're discussing tonight. And Page Park has a lot of reasons for being so frustrating for everyone. I think that is a separate issue. There have never been any complaints that I know of concerning the maintenance they've given for our Premier Park, Humphrey Park. And of course, they also take care of under that contract Willaby Park. They've performed outstanding service. Our village managers who have day to day or week to week interaction with them have spoken highly of this. I think those recommendations are more important to me, at least, than the theoretical one on a website. I hate to not go with some of my colleagues, but I think the recommendations of the managers and what we've seen ourselves as far as how beautiful Humphrey Park looks and how Willeby Park Park has been watched over carefully, I think, outweigh any problems we've had with a lot of groups, including the county.

[01:46:10.08] - Speaker 5

We're not pulling out of every contract that we have with the county concerning other issues because of the issues we'd had over Page Park, which has been a disappointment, again, in many respects caused by many different entities. I make those comments in addition to the ones I made before.

[01:46:34.13] - Speaker 1

Other comments or questions? I want to make sure discussion is full on this. I don't see any other desires to speak, so I'll call for the vote. All those in favor of adopting the landscaping contract from Davy tree for 226,419 for three years, please raise their hand and say, Aye. Okay, and then all not in favor, if you could say, Nay, and raise their hand. Okay, so two, nos, and five, yeses. The motion passes. Thank you. Secretary, are you ready for the next Okay. Discussion, vote on the nondiscrimination policy recommended by the policies and procedures committee.

[01:47:46.01] - Speaker 2

After a good deal of consideration, the policy and procedures committee would like to recommend that the council adopt the nondiscrimination folder that you find in your booklet. I'll second the motion.

[01:48:06.25] - Speaker 1

Discussion? Comment? It did pass unanimously from the committee, but I would like to add that most jurisdictions have something like this, and we want people to know that we have a desire to be fair to people. I think it's an important thing to do and have, and this was drafted in the most expansive way possible. We want people when they either do business with the village or they come and use services or Can I just come and use the building to feel that they are welcome here and won't be treated differently. That's the motivation that I see. You might add something, Vic, but I think it's important to do this.

[01:49:02.07] - Speaker 2

That says it for me. I'm fine.

[01:49:06.13] - Speaker 1

Council member Muller.

[01:49:07.10] - Speaker 5

I would like to emphasize, along with the chair, that there have been no known instances of discrimination. This is to go on the record to make it clear going forward that this is a policy of the village, not just a coincidence.

[01:49:29.06] - Speaker 1

And in the policy, it provides procedures if anyone wants to make a complaint and how that will be processed. So all those in favor of adopting the non-discrimination policy recommended by the Policies and Procedures Committee, raise their hand and say, Aye. I think that's unanimous. So the motion passes. We have a discussion vote on recommendation from the Finance Committee to designate staff to have transfer authority for the new bank account at People's Bank. Treasurer Conno, could you, when you're describing this, add whether this vote is required by our investment policy, correct?

[01:50:23.29] - Speaker 2

I believe it is.

[01:50:24.26] - Speaker 1

I think we must do this. But yeah, go ahead. Yeah.

[01:50:30.06] - Speaker 2

So the Finance Committee on February 20th approved a motion that staff be authorized to open a new capital improvements fund account at People's Bank in order to comply with the village's investment policy, which limits investments in the Maryland local government investment pool to no more than 50% of the village's portfolio. So because we have a too high percentage in that portfolio right now, approximately 66% of our total portfolio. We need to move capital improvement funds from the Maryland local government investment pool into a new capital holding account at People's Bank.

[01:51:11.14] - Speaker 4

Once opened, Julian, Jason, and Donna would be authorized under the motion to transfer funds from the new capital holding account to the main People's Bank operating account when village funds are needed to pay for capital improvement expenses.

[01:51:29.17] - Speaker 2

So having said that, I move to authorize opening of a new holding account for capital investment funds at People's Bank with staff, including Julian, Jason, and Donna, having the authority to fund the account from Village funds in the Maryland local government investment pool or other village accounts, consistent with village investment policy. Designated staff are also authorized to transfer funds from the new capital holding account to the People's Bank main operating account when needed to to pay expenses related to capital improvements.

[01:52:03.05] - Speaker 5

I second.

[01:52:06.01] - Speaker 1

I move to amend the motion to include the last names of the staff members, to be clear. Will you accept that? Absolutely. I move to add the last names of the staff members in the motion. That's

acceptable to you? Okay. Discussion. I think people I want to leave this meeting, don't you think? All those in favor of adopting this motion, please raise their hand and say, Aye. That looks like it's unanimous. Thank you. Our last item is discussion vote on increasing the Assistant Program Director position from to, I believe, a maximum of 35 hours per week. I'll go ahead and make that as a motion, and maybe somebody can second so we can start discussing To increase the assistant program manager director position from 30 hours to a maximum of 35 hours per week. Did somebody second that? I'll second that. Okay. Allison seconded. Discussion? I'm open to the village manager sharing if he would like, but...

[01:53:43.28] - Speaker 4

Just briefly, that we spoke about this with Anne and felt that this would be for a wider pool of applicants. We did not get quite the number of desired pool of applicants the last time we went through this search research process, and there is an increased need for weekend evening programs, and especially children's programs and things we've been discussing that would benefit from a few more hours for this position to assist Anne. We talked about this with policies and procedures of committee members and the mayor, and there was general support for the position. We would love to be able to announce this as a 35-hour week job. Thank you.

[01:54:26.04] - Speaker 1

Could you say roughly how much more per year that is? Do you know? Do you know, Roy? About 10 grand. Okay. Okay. Comments, questions? All those in favor? All those in favor of increasing the Assistant Program Director position from 30 hours to a maximum of 35 hours per week, raise their hand and say, Aye. Aye. And that looks unanimous. So the motion Any other council members would like to bring up? I think that's it. I'm sorry. We did do the fountain repair, right? Yeah, we did that. We selected Winkler. I abstained, but everyone else voted. Yeah, okay. I believe we can adjour the meeting at 8: 00. Looks like 27: 00 PM. Thank you very much for the stalwart people who stayed till the end. Thank you.