Village of Friendship Heights
October 13, 2026 Meeting Transcript

[00:00:00.06] - Speaker 1

Bring the, uh, meeting to order. Hi everyone. Um, I'm going to call the meeting to order. It's 7:30 on Monday, October 13th, 2026, and if everyone can just go down the line and say your name. Allison, starting with you.

[00:00:30.17] - Speaker 2

Allison Ault.

[00:00:32.01] - Speaker 3

Vic Basil.

[00:00:33.05] - Speaker 4

Roy Shafer.

[00:00:34.07] - Speaker 1

Francine Klein. Yes, Your Honor.

[00:00:39.20] - Speaker 5

Julie Anderson.

[00:00:41.09] - Speaker 6

John Conlow.

[00:00:42.23] - Speaker 1

Al Mohler. This is the first time that we have Julie Anderson sitting with us. She's a new member of the Council, and at the last meeting we voted to ask her to come on to the council in place of Martha Salt, and she actually was sworn in. Where were you sworn in, Julie?

[00:01:15.18] - Speaker 5

Montgomery County Courthouse.

[00:01:17.16] - Speaker 1

At the Montgomery County Courthouse after having been approved by the County Council. So she's now a full-fledged member of the council. And can you tell folks a little bit about yourself very briefly?

[00:01:32.18] - Speaker 7

Sure.

[00:01:32.26] - Speaker 5

Happy to. So I have lived in Maryland actually for 17 years previously, but I've since been to California and Atlanta and New York City and now back here for— this is my 4th year. I teach at American University. But I've had over a 30-year career in finance. I started in municipal finance, and I think probably the most notable thing for this appointment is that I didn't own a car since 2016. I walked to all of my corporate jobs in Atlanta and in New York City and here. And so before this opportunity came up, I have walked probably every square inch of this village. So I'm very passionate about It's accessibility and the community and everything. I use public transit, both the bus system and the Metro, so I'm passionate about the quality of life that we have here, and that's why I wanted to join.

[00:02:34.16] - Speaker 1

Well, thank you very much. Our first order of business is to discuss and vote on selection of a council vice chair. I was the vice chair. I'm now the chair. So we need a member of the council to serve as vice chair. Do I hear any nominations for vice chair? Yes.

[00:02:59.22] - Speaker 4

Okay. I nominate Julie Anderson for vice chair.

[00:03:04.06] - Speaker 1

A second? Al Muller had his hand up. A second for vice chair?

[00:03:13.08] - Speaker 2

Any discussion?

[00:03:18.29] - Speaker 1

Well, I'll say something. I think you're going to do a wonderful job as vice chair, and I've had the opportunity to speak to you, and I know that you're also teaching now at AU, and you have a PhD and are able to teach the rest of us quite a bit. So thank you very much for joining us. Any other comments? Hearing none, all in favor of Julie Anderson being vice chair, raise your hand and say aye.

[00:03:52.16] - Speaker 2

Aye.

[00:03:53.00] - Speaker 1

That was— Julie did not vote, so it was— she abstained from voting. So we have 6 in favor and 1 abstention. I will take for the record any nays, just to check. I've been told I should do that. Hearing no nays, it's 6 in favor and 1 abstention. Julie, you are now vice chair. Our next agenda item is to— I'm going to reverse it and have Page Park first because that's something I think we can do pretty I'm going to turn it over to you pretty quickly, Jim.

[00:04:38.04] - Speaker 9

Good evening, everybody. Welcome, Julie. So Page Park, I was going to talk a little bit about the current status of the inspections and construction, and then we have one decision topic that we did want to talk about, I guess. And is that going to be later, or is that— Hearing right now.

[00:04:58.27] - Speaker 1

Yeah, I think that we're going to put that off a little later, but the discussion topic is not going to be resolved. I believe it's going to be referred to committee for further discussion with a temporary fix. That's, that's the motion that I'm expecting.

[00:05:18.26] - Speaker 9

Okay. The planting and walkway and pavers concrete work has been completed. I believe there— I do believe there are some trees that are missing, and we're— but we have not had a final inspection from the landscape architect and the civil engineers. We're waiting for the contractor to notify us that he feels that, that he is completely ready for inspections and for us to do our punch list. The stair railings have— there was an issue with the stair railings, a couple of

different things. There was issues with the stair railings that they feel like he didn't make them quite correctly. There were a couple— there were 4 different locations where the pavers were needed to be removed and placed and leveled out a little bit for accessibility purposes. So we are hopeful that we're going to hear back from them shortly on when they're going to be able to correct— make those corrections. The issue, and I'll mention it here if that's okay, is the large circular planting and circular area in the center of the park or the back for the back portion of the park was originally designed as a play area. And if you recall, we had to lay— we raised it up so that it would be at an accessible level for everybody.

[00:06:40.22] - Speaker 9

And there, when all the landscape and everything is done around the back, there's about a 1-foot drop-off off the back edge of the ring around the play area. And so there's been a good bit of discussion about is that the best final solution and the best approach. So we did get, there were 4 different, actually there's 5 options. There was one basically creating a planting screen around the back so that nobody would be inclined just to wander off and kind of stumble off the back. We had a, one of the solutions was to actually raise the whole wall up a little taller. Around so that it created more of a concrete stone bench around the circular area. The other one was basically just to put a low railing around it just to keep people from just knowing that there is a slight drop and it is the edge of something. And then we also looked at putting benches around. And the last one is, you know, just leave it as it is. So the plantings was about a $9,000 increase to raise the, The entire wall was just under $50,000 because the wall was not— it was not a structural wall that was built.

[00:08:03.16] - Speaker 9

So they had to— they were going to have to reconstruct the wall. So that was a bit of a shock. Then the next one was putting the decorative rail around it, which was about $30,000. Then to put benches was anywhere from $8,000 to $13,000 to do that, and then to leave it as it is is zero. So those were the, you know, kind of the range of ideas that were approached in—

[00:08:31.02] - Speaker 1

Yeah, I don't know that those are the only ideas, and we're going to have to send it back to committee, as I said, in order to come up with a final solution for that.

[00:08:40.04] - Speaker 10

Yeah.

[00:08:40.19] - Speaker 1

But it shouldn't delay opening the park.

[00:08:42.26] - Speaker 5

Right.

[00:08:43.15] - Speaker 9

Yeah, we are— We are pushing to, so in the meantime, we are gonna have them finish the wall as it is designed. And so we're not looking at raising the wall, the cost of raising the wall after we finish it and after we put all the mulch in and everything would change again. So that's, but we are looking to finish, have them finish the wall and raise the bed, putting all the mulch material in. for the playground. The, uh, the red house is okay. Do you want to have further discussions?

[00:09:17.10] - Speaker 1

Yes, yes.

[00:09:18.25] - Speaker 8

I brought this up numerous times, so I sound like a broken record. Before the park opens, it would be nice if this council finally made some decision. I don't care what it is, what type of children's playthings go in there. And secondly, long ago, going back maybe a previous council, it was brought up and pointed out that people have raised appropriately concerns about dogs that are unleashed. And at least a few people, including myself, have pointed out that in an area with children, there's not supposed to be smoking. We haven't come to grips with what I thought was a simple thing: signs. If the council could vote on what they want to not have in the park, we could be making them. And just so people know, there is a law—not the village council law—there is a county law: smoking within 25 feet of a playground area. And this children's area, it's not a full playground, but it's a play area on privately owned property. We own it. That has a primary purpose of serving residents of more than one dwelling unit. That must have no smoking posted. That is a county law. And I know this came up to the previous committee, and Julie is perhaps inheriting this committee.

[00:10:55.13] - Speaker 8

But I think we have to come to grips with this, and I'm not sure we have to pass it back and forth to committees. The whole council really should be able to decide what we want to prohibit and what the signs look like and let the village managers go out and get some. And the same with

the furniture. The, the community advisory group has looked at all of the things that over the years have been accumulated as options. And they said, we think wood looks better. And I think this council's agreed with that as a concept. Now we have to pick out the specific things. It's not too many that will fit in there, but we have to do it. Thank you. And we should do it before the park opens.

[00:11:46.13] - Speaker 1

You said thank you, Al. Jim, anything else?

[00:11:50.04] - Speaker 9

On the park, no, but I do have— then if you want to talk about the red house, Yes. But I do believe there's conversation later about how to decide on the play, 'cause it does need to get decided. The red house, the porch permit, if you recall the porch underneath, when they were replacing the deck, the structure underneath was not adequate, was not at all a safe condition. Let me just say that. It wasn't just that it didn't quite meet code, it wasn't a safe condition. And so we've got designs to fix that. The drawings are in and the contractor's been pushing the county to get those permits released. As soon as they do, they will update their schedule of exactly when they're gonna finish it, but they're ready to go and they historically have moved very, very quickly. But once they get that, they will be able to complete that work there. The there was a there was a leak that happened in the basement area, and we think we've found the the the cause, and that was mitigated. That was corrected as well. So it was a it was a very simple one.

[00:13:08.24] - Speaker 9

There was a number of downspouts came into a gravel area where the water had no place to go once we built the basement entrance. So the the contractor Connected all the downspouts and took the water away from that gravel area, and it seems like if it if it didn't take on water in the last couple days, it probably is just fine. So, and then the the last thing is just kind of update you know again the signage of what's going to happen there. I've I've seen the language and so forth, but that that still is I don't believe has been resolved exactly what where and what the sign. is going to be, but that's further discussion as well. I guess that's a committee that's going to do that. But those are the only open items, and that's all I have.

[00:13:54.18] - Speaker 1

Any questions for Jim? Yes, Roy.

[00:13:59.22] - Speaker 4

If you can just estimate, once the tenant starts their work, how much time do you think they'll need to finish?

[00:14:06.00] - Speaker 9

The tenant? I couldn't answer that, Roy, just because I haven't seen their finished plans, but from when I go in there and exactly what I see what they've done, they're not doing too much. So it's, my guess is they're probably 4 to 6 weeks.

[00:14:24.01] - Speaker 3

Okay.

[00:14:24.18] - Speaker 9

And it's all around the kitchen equipment getting hooked up and connected and everything, so.

[00:14:28.19] - Speaker 4

Okay, thank you.

[00:14:32.24] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Our next— excuse me? From the audience? Okay. Are there any comments from the audience?

[00:14:48.12] - Speaker 2

Questions?

[00:14:49.00] - Speaker 1

It's a comment or a question? Yes, yes, sir.

[00:14:51.15] - Speaker 10

Well, we signed up to make comments.

[00:14:54.19] - Speaker 1

Okay. You want to wait? Is it about what Jim Wilson just discussed? Is it about what Jim Wilson just—

[00:15:02.16] - Speaker 4

was it a question?

[00:15:05.10] - Speaker 1

I— well, if it's a comment and not a question of Jim, then we'll wait, please, sir. Thank you very much. Yes, ma'am. Yeah, okay.

[00:15:22.08] - Speaker 2

Hi, Jim. I thought I read in a past newsletter when I wasn't able to come to a meeting, uh, that they will have, um, um, fan for cooking odors, um, exhaust for the kitchen. Is that the case for in the basement area?

[00:15:44.02] - Speaker 3

Uh, they'll have to—

[00:15:44.19] - Speaker 9

yes, they'll have to have something.

[00:15:45.25] - Speaker 1

We can't hear you, Jim.

[00:15:47.04] - Speaker 8

If you have to—

[00:15:48.23] - Speaker 1

you'll have to answer by coming up to the microphone.

[00:15:52.12] - Speaker 2

Okay. And the concern is how close it is to our building, which is 4620 North Park, and will the smells create an issue for residents who, like, live— use their balconies, things like that?

[00:16:13.19] - Speaker 9

I hate to say I don't know, but I haven't seen their final plans, but they will be having stoves. there are— there is some equipment that's going in there that will require exhaust. So I don't, you know, typically those kinds of things are, you know, if they're frying greasy foods or whatever, those tend to be the worst offenders. But I don't know what their menu is, so that would be— I would— that would probably be the first place I would start is what is their menu, because that's going to, um, help. That should help you. But I don't know.

[00:16:45.22] - Speaker 2

I, I don't live on that aside that I do the— I do landscaping for— I mean, I'm chair of our landscape committee, so I'm back there a lot. So I'm sure we'll hear about it, just so you know, and pass it along.

[00:17:00.03] - Speaker 7

Thank you.

[00:17:01.02] - Speaker 1

Thank you.

[00:17:03.00] - Speaker 8

Madam Chair, there have been restaurants in that building before, at least 2 that I know of, and I think before they get a permit from the county, we know that there are a number of steps for them to go through.

[00:17:26.26] - Speaker 1

Yes. Is it a comment or is it a question? Thank you.

[00:17:37.25] - Speaker 12

I just wanted to ask about the red house because you talked about the porch. having problems. What about the stairs for ADA compliance? Are they going to be changed to a ramp or—

[00:17:54.20] - Speaker 9

There is a—

[00:17:56.02] - Speaker 12

I mean, in the front, because I know there's—

[00:17:59.06] - Speaker 9

Yeah, the, the, the, um, they were only required the one access for accessibility, and there is a, there's a wheelchair, there's a lift around the back, around the side, on the side. That is the accessible entrance.

[00:18:11.24] - Speaker 1

So anybody who's walking who has issues is going to have to go around to the back?

[00:18:16.22] - Speaker 9

To the side, yes.

[00:18:20.07] - Speaker 11

Yes.

[00:18:20.29] - Speaker 12

And that's what the county says?

[00:18:22.18] - Speaker 9

Yes.

[00:18:23.15] - Speaker 4

Okay.

[00:18:23.24] - Speaker 1

I just have a comment on page 4. If it's a comment, would you hold the comment, please?

[00:18:34.05] - Speaker 2

Oh, not a comment. Not a comment, but a question. I mean, I guess a question.

[00:18:38.04] - Speaker 1

I'll pose it as a question.

[00:18:40.23] - Speaker 3

Okay.

[00:18:41.05] - Speaker 4

Thank you.

[00:18:41.17] - Speaker 2

You don't have to answer. I'll pose it as a question.

[00:18:44.10] - Speaker 1

I can't hear you, ma'am.

[00:18:46.09] - Speaker 2

Can you hear me now?

[00:18:47.06] - Speaker 11

Yes.

[00:18:47.21] - Speaker 2

There. Thank you. I'm Lois Forster. I'm sorry. At 4620 North Park. And I brought this issue up before, but Al brought up the issue of the dogs. So my question is, I hope the council will have a plan. It's a comment, plan question. Has, has plans to keep an eye out on the dog issue? Because I plan to take photos when they go in the rain gardens and so forth. I've had those photos in the past which I've shared with the board. So keep in mind, please.

[00:19:28.00] - Speaker 3

Thank you.

[00:19:28.13] - Speaker 2

the dog issue destroying plants in Page Park. And don't look exasperated, um, because it is an issue in our garden. I, I can't keep the dogs out of our garden anymore. It's, it's hard. So they will destroy Page Park like they already did before.

[00:19:51.27] - Speaker 1

Thanks for your comment. The next presentation we're going to have is on pedestrian safety by Paul Doerr of the Traffic Group.

[00:20:07.12] - Speaker 13

Do you want to move the map? Apology for the overhead. Yeah, that's good.

[00:20:25.11] - Speaker 8

Just—

[00:20:29.17] - Speaker 13

Just so we can follow along. So my name is Paul Doerr. I'm with the— I'm Director of Engineering at the Traffic Group. And we conducted a pedestrian and traffic impact type study here on the site looking at the GEICO development on the south side of Willard. And I just, I had a quick PowerPoint just to go over all the items that we looked at and studied. And we made some recommendations at the end of the study. So first, we conducted traffic counts and speed studies throughout the site for a week-long period. And based upon those counts and speed studies, we really didn't have a whole lot of cut-through traffic, and we had fairly reasonable speeds, and I think that's mainly because your road lengths are short. You have a lot of small intersections. We looked at all your signing and pavement markings, and we made a list in our report of, of those signs that were damaged, cracked, faded, dirty, and we made recommendations in that study for which ones should be replaced or fixed. And there is a 7-foot height Minimum requirements, so no one hits their head as they walk near the signs.

[00:21:48.18] - Speaker 13

So we also listed those signs to be either raised or replaced at the proper height. Part of looking at the Geico site again on the south side of Willard Avenue, we were asked to look at the hawk signal that's basically at the end of Hills Plaza at Willard. to see if that would someday meet a full signal warrant. So you have to meet volume, pedestrian count, accidents. There's a lot of things that go into if a traffic signal is warranted. So we looked at the existing one, and we also

looked at the western end where North Park Avenue comes out at Willard, which will be the GEICO development side main access. And it was our understanding early on that that was going to be a hawk signal, but I believe now it's going to be a full signal because of operational needs. So, so that's a good thing. Again, all the proposed pavement markings— a lot of your pavement markings are well faded. Your double yellows are, are almost missing. Your crosswalks do not have reflective white lines, which is required. So technically, legally, none of your crosswalks are legal. And I'm afraid liability-wise for the for the village if someone does unfortunately get hit in those crosswalks.

[00:23:12.13] - Speaker 13

We need to get those white lines down as soon as we can on both sides of those crosswalks. As you said, you spent a lot of time in the vicinity here. I've also walked the site on multiple occasions and did nighttime studies looking at all the streetlights and all the pedestrian pavement markings to see if they were actually reflective. So I've outlined those things in our report, things that should be fixed. There's a— there was, again, it could have been fixed since, since our report, but there was an existing streetlight on the south side of Willard Avenue, and there was one on the east side of 355 up near Somerset Terrace. And we can request those streetlights to be repaired. And, and actually, when I leave, I'll confirm if they've been fixed or not. Pedestrian walk times. Because your community is mainly older folks, we really wanted to get the county and the state to look at providing more walk time across the intersections. I personally did the pedestrian— the timing studies, and I provided a spreadsheet in the report that basically said the county and the state is really not providing enough clearance times.

[00:24:31.02] - Speaker 13

So a pedestrian who's on one side of the street, when that starts flashing, it should provide enough— this— enough timing for that elderly person walking slower to get to that other side. So we've made recommendations, and I— once you give me approval, I can write that letter to the county and state just asking them to come out and evaluate it And maybe add more time. So that's something that we did and made recommendations.

[00:25:02.16] - Speaker 9

So let's see.

[00:25:04.25] - Speaker 13

So two of the major intersections, Friendship Boulevard and North Park Avenue, and then Friendship Boulevard at South Park Avenue, we're proposing bump-outs. The the existing

intersection at Hills Plaza and Park Avenue. Has bumps out today, at some point in the past someone said, hey, we really need to do this to make this intersection safer. And the bump-outs really helps provide sight lines to those pedestrians crossing. On multiple walkthroughs, I've seen where vehicles don't really yield to your pedestrians. And some of your pedestrian signs will be replaced, especially the ones that are out in the middle on a double yellow. How's my time? I'm sorry, I can talk all night about this.

[00:25:50.14] - Speaker 12

Good.

[00:25:51.15] - Speaker 8

Good?

[00:25:51.24] - Speaker 13

OK. So those proposed 2 intersections, we provided concept plans. And what we do is we run auto-turn simulations. So we actually drive our tractor-trailers through and make sure that they're working for the design. I personally did the construction estimates, give you how much it's estimated to cost. And once again, we get approval on that, we'll put it out and have contractors price it, actually give us a proposal to build the bump-outs. And I did it 2 ways. One, if we construct concrete out in the roadway like your existing intersection at South Park and the Hills Plaza. But I also gave you an option where you can put planters in. I've used these really robust planters. Even if they get hit by cars at 20, 30 miles an hour, they just get moved. They're very heavy. And you can plan them really nice with landscaping. But it's up to you if you want to do the higher cost bump-outs like you have at the other intersection. So yeah, so the final recommendation was update all your signing and pavement markings to code. There's a Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices that is kind of our Bible that you need to follow.

[00:27:11.25] - Speaker 13

So we made those recommendations. Installing the 2 bump-out intersections. And also, a very important thing is when GEICO develops on the south side of Willard, the traffic group really believes you're going to have some cut-through traffic. And if you can follow along here. So— I'm sorry. So again, south side of Willard, their main access is going to be opposite North Park Avenue, and you're going to have heavy traffic coming up through the site because of that that alignment opposite your entrance. So what we're really recommending is we're there's an existing bump. It's one of those abrupt bumps that if you hit it fast, it'll it'll really mess your car up. But what we're proposing is three new humps. It's a more gradual or twelve feet. It's it's a

Montgomery County standard hump that's more gradual, and it really does keep speeds at fifteen miles per hour. Hour. Today you basically have 500, 600 feet where cars are racing to that one bump mid-block, and then they have the stop control. So that's another recommendation. So I'm happy to answer any questions, but overall safety-wise, again, slow speeds you have today. You don't have a whole lot of cut-through today, but we really believe once the GEICO development does come in, you will have some cut-through.

[00:28:38.22] - Speaker 13

And there's some stuff happening on the other side of Maryland 355 that I just became aware of with some development between 355 and Chevy Chase Village that may impact you in it, but I haven't looked at those things yet and haven't been tasked to do that yet. Any questions? Any questions from the council?

[00:29:06.02] - Speaker 2

Yes.

[00:29:06.27] - Speaker 8

I'm a little confused. You say there's no cut-through traffic? There's lots of cut-through traffic. Every morning, people going one way, and every 5 to 6 o'clock, they come down Hills Plaza, they turn on South Park, and they go down past the Willoughby, and then they turn right again. In the evening, they go the opposite way. There's definitely cut-through traffic. So I disagree with that.

[00:29:36.09] - Speaker 3

Okay.

[00:29:36.14] - Speaker 8

I like the report, but I completely disagree with that. I also disagree with something that we've had some discussion on the council, and that is when you showed why you thought there was going to be cut-through traffic when GEICO opens, because there's going to be an entrance on the GEICO side. That connects up with North Park near the Willard Towers.

[00:30:00.11] - Speaker 13

Correct.

[00:30:01.04] - Speaker 8

Show us again how you saw that cut-through traffic going with your pointer.

[00:30:06.11] - Speaker 13

Sure. So anyone coming down 355 that doesn't want to go down to the main intersection to make a right on Willard, they are going to cut through. And again, going back to your first comment, I didn't say there was no cut-through traffic. I'm telling you that we did traffic counts all through your site, and based upon the amount of residential homes and businesses and everything that you have, yeah, there's some cut-through, but it's not substantial that it's creating a lot of traffic.

[00:30:42.16] - Speaker 8

But there is cut-through.

[00:30:43.23] - Speaker 13

There is cut-through. I do agree with that. But there's no way for me to know exactly unless I do a license plate study, which is very expensive. And I do understand there is cut-through traffic.

[00:30:53.14] - Speaker 8

It's certain hours. It's coming to work and leaving work.

[00:30:57.02] - Speaker 12

Yes.

[00:30:57.10] - Speaker 13

OK.

[00:30:57.26] - Speaker 8

But trace that cut-through then.

[00:31:01.19] - Speaker 13

So in, in both directions, I mean, if, if Willard Avenue is jammed up because something's happening at— Sure.

[00:31:08.24] - Speaker 7

Right.

[00:31:09.01] - Speaker 8

Go slow enough for me to follow, please.

[00:31:11.04] - Speaker 13

OK. Sure. So let's pretend that 355 and Willard's, this whole intersection at peak hour, morning peak hour, evening peak hour, something's occurring here and people are backed up And again, I monitored during our counts that there wasn't a backup for this particular 7 days. But if you have any traffic backups here, I would naturally— and I don't really know the community— but I would naturally be guided through the neighborhood, whether it's a map program or just me knowing the neighborhood cut-through.

[00:31:47.09] - Speaker 8

If you are going up If you're going off Willard Avenue or coming across from GEICO.

[00:31:54.27] - Speaker 13

Yes, up North Park Avenue.

[00:31:56.19] - Speaker 8

Going up North Park.

[00:31:57.24] - Speaker 13

Yep.

[00:31:58.11] - Speaker 8

And then you go along North Park.

[00:32:00.23] - Speaker 11

Yep.

[00:32:01.19] - Speaker 8

You can't go through there, so you have to go south again.

[00:32:05.16] - Speaker 13

No, you, you can make a left on Friendship Boulevard and go up to Somerset Terrace.

[00:32:09.12] - Speaker 8

No, you can't. You can't. There is, there is a fence. A drawbridge, I call it.

[00:32:17.27] - Speaker 13

You mean a gate?

[00:32:18.08] - Speaker 8

You can't go through there.

[00:32:19.17] - Speaker 13

No, I've done it. I mean, there's gates on the west side of the intersection of Somerset and Friendship Boulevard.

[00:32:27.22] - Speaker 7

No.

[00:32:28.09] - Speaker 13

There's not?

[00:32:29.01] - Speaker 8

On Friendship Boulevard, it is a dead end unless you live in Somerset House.

[00:32:35.02] - Speaker 13

Okay.

[00:32:35.16] - Speaker 8

You can't go through there. You can only go through to Somerset Boulevard If you come back, go south on Friendship Boulevard, and then make a right— a left turn on South Park Avenue. So you don't really save any time. It would be just as easy for you to go up Hills Plaza or Friendship Boulevard and South Park and then go up to Somerset.

[00:33:00.20] - Speaker 13

So again, just to avoid the traffic delay on Willard, I'm thinking people are going to Venture into your neighborhood and they're gonna work their way over to 355 however they do it. If they have to go south on Friendship Boulevard, South Park Avenue, and then up to Hills Plaza, which I was thinking—

[00:33:18.09] - Speaker 1

Al, folks who live in our neighborhood go that way. I go that way. I make a left onto North Park, then a right onto Friendship Boulevard, then a left onto South Park, then a left onto Hills.

[00:33:31.27] - Speaker 8

That's—

[00:33:32.05] - Speaker 1

People do that who live here, so I have no reason to think they won't do it. And EYA has also estimated that there will be an increase in cut-through traffic at various points into our neighborhood. And it, it is— it's a comment about whether there's going to be through traffic. We all agree there will be some through traffic. How bad it gets remains to be seen, and we're some years away from having Any residential property built there, a year, a year and a half, absolutely. So having said that, are there any other comments from— yes, Roy?

[00:34:13.08] - Speaker 4

Yeah, so I don't see anything in the recommendations about possible camera enforcement. Is that something you considered or going to consider?

[00:34:22.17] - Speaker 13

Uh, in, in the manner that you would issue tickets?

[00:34:25.27] - Speaker 4

Tickets or maybe a warning for a period of time, just any kind of camera enforcement?

[00:34:32.17] - Speaker 13

No, we did not recommend that.

[00:34:35.21] - Speaker 4

Is it something you considered and are not recommending, or you didn't?

[00:34:38.27] - Speaker 13

Yeah, so typically it's related to a school crossing. It has to be fairly close to a school. I know there's some new rules about it that you could, but that's a substantial study in order to justify that. I mean, it's something that you could look at, but it wasn't tasked in our study. Um, again, that our recommendation for North Park Avenue was to put speed humps in to basically deter people from cutting through.

[00:35:10.02] - Speaker 12

Yeah.

[00:35:11.06] - Speaker 1

Um, anything else, Roy?

[00:35:14.00] - Speaker 5

No.

[00:35:15.04] - Speaker 1

Okay, I have a couple of comments. First, with regard to traffic time for the lights, I heard you say that as soon as we approve it, uh, you can take that to county officials, correct?

[00:35:28.23] - Speaker 13

Okay.

[00:35:29.10] - Speaker 1

And so that's something, uh, that I would suggest that we approve as a council right now because there's no, uh, additional effort on our part to have his study results taken to the county so that they can determine whether the traffic lights need to be longer to permit pedestrians to cross. Is that something you're okay with, Roy?

[00:35:56.17] - Speaker 4

It's not something that I thought we'd be voting on.

[00:35:59.16] - Speaker 1

Well, it's, it's just as simple. We, we don't know what the answer from the county will be, and why hold it up to have them examine the question?

[00:36:08.29] - Speaker 4

Are you asking me?

[00:36:09.29] - Speaker 1

Yes.

[00:36:10.16] - Speaker 4

I'd like to get some clarity on what wording is being proposed.

[00:36:15.05] - Speaker 13

I can get you a draft letter and you can vote on it later. And as soon as you say go, I'll send it to the county attorney.

[00:36:21.23] - Speaker 1

Why don't you send us then a letter of what you propose to send to the county, and then we can take it up that way.

[00:36:30.06] - Speaker 7

Sure.

[00:36:30.13] - Speaker 1

Okay. Julian.

[00:36:33.19] - Speaker 9

Thank you.

[00:36:34.01] - Speaker 3

2 quick questions. One, Paul, you mentioned on the issue of painting the crosswalks and how we're not in compliance. Can you give us, uh, specs or detail or help us develop that? Because that may be an RFP we need to issue unless we can get it done for, uh, for the right amount, um, to be able to, to put that out and, and get that done. Because that should be—

[00:36:57.09] - Speaker 13

I'll get that to you tomorrow.

[00:36:58.13] - Speaker 3

And then the second question is the 7-foot height for the signage, that's to the base of the—

[00:37:04.10] - Speaker 13

It's to the bottom sign. The bottom of the park.

[00:37:07.04] - Speaker 3

So the signs have to be 8, 9 feet?

[00:37:09.25] - Speaker 13

Yeah, a signing manufacturer can come out and add another piece of U-channel and just raise them, especially because a lot of you think we're going to need new posts or extensions or something.

[00:37:20.10] - Speaker 3

Okay, if that's the case. Yeah, thank you.

[00:37:23.06] - Speaker 1

Yeah, I had one more comment.

[00:37:24.15] - Speaker 8

Sure.

[00:37:25.01] - Speaker 1

It's about the humps along North Park. Yes, I, I feel that we need to have a council tour of where the humps would be exactly, because I see it on your little map. It's hard for me to visualize. I live on North Park at the Elizabeth, and I'm very well aware that there are— there's a circle in front of the Carlton, uh, there's a circle in front of the Elizabeth, there's a circle in front of 4620, uh, there are garageways from 4615 and from 4601, the Elizabeth. that come into the street. And so exactly where you would put the bumps is something that's of interest. For instance, if you're a resident of the Elizabeth and you're making a right turn, uh, going west on North Park, you don't necessarily want a speed bump that keeps you from pulling out of what is a Hill. You're coming up a hill, you're crossing a sidewalk with traffic going both ways, pedestrians, and then you're dealing with, uh, traffic, uh, on North Park itself, vehicular traffic. So you really need a way to pull into traffic and pick up a little speed to deal with, uh, the, the safety situation, and you don't necessarily want to hit a speed bump right away.

[00:38:59.19] - Speaker 1

I find the speed bump that's there annoying as it is for that purpose. And looking at your diagram, I think you want it even closer to the driveway of the Elizabeth. So these are the things that I think we should see for ourselves.

[00:39:16.28] - Speaker 8

Sure.

[00:39:17.11] - Speaker 1

In a little tour.

[00:39:18.15] - Speaker 13

Sure. We did provide dimensions, but I'm happy to meet out there and show you exactly where we—

[00:39:23.24] - Speaker 1

I think it should be an opportunity for the entire council to come along.

[00:39:27.27] - Speaker 13

We typically don't want them close to a driveway or access point because when you turn out, you don't want all 4 wheels hitting the speed bump or hump at a different time. You want to straighten out. And where we recommended them, it's on a straightaway. But I'm happy to meet.

[00:39:44.17] - Speaker 1

OK, well, that's good.

[00:39:46.24] - Speaker 2

Al? Yes.

[00:39:49.13] - Speaker 8

Where exactly on the crosswalks are you suggesting the reflective? On the borders?

[00:39:55.20] - Speaker 13

Sure. So you have a decorative crosswalk, and then you have a concrete ribbon. In the old days, everyone thought the concrete ribbon was doing the job of the manual. But you can either paint it directly on the concrete ribbon, which is a maintenance issue because the paint doesn't stick to concrete as well as the asphalt. So we recommend painting it on the asphalt and giving it a little bit of separation. And I'll provide that to Julian.

[00:40:21.25] - Speaker 8

So it would be the borders?

[00:40:23.15] - Speaker 13

The borders, yes. White borders for sure.

[00:40:25.13] - Speaker 8

The only other— it's a comment because the bump-outs seem to be getting approval for everyone. That was actually an initiative of the managers. Council members had never come up with that. So the kudos go to them.

[00:40:44.08] - Speaker 1

Good.

[00:40:45.00] - Speaker 2

Okay.

[00:40:45.17] - Speaker 1

As I understand it, John, this matter is still going to go back to committee for further detailed discussion so other members of the council, Julie and others who are getting up to speed on this, can have a more—

[00:41:00.23] - Speaker 6

Absolutely. It's coming back to the council as a revision to the capital budget.

[00:41:05.14] - Speaker 1

Okay.

[00:41:06.09] - Speaker 6

So it will be discussed in detail including the costs.

[00:41:09.19] - Speaker 1

Okay, thank you very much. Is there any other comment from the audience? Not comment, questions from the audience? Yes, can you step up to the— I'm sorry, but we can't hear you otherwise.

[00:41:30.02] - Speaker 11

My name is Glenda Lewandowski. We live in 4620. We do not use Garage 1 out of 4620, which goes onto North Park, but a lot of people do, a third of our population. Coming out of that garage is straight up for them to that drive, the door. So as soon as they hit that door, they're underneath the door trying to get onto North Park. Everything y'all are saying about all this traffic, I don't know how those people are going to get across the road, get away from all these people coming out of GEICO. I mean, that is just accidents waiting to happen. They only have

like 15 feet to try to make a left, which apparently is going to already be backed up on North Park from garage number 3 while garage number 2 is trying to get across Willard. So I just hope when you do your walk down North Park, I'd like you to look at that garage on 1, which is the one that goes out to North Park, or really right at the light, and envision that they are coming straight up from that garage and barely get level before they're supposed to be heading out on that street and kind of think about that.

[00:42:53.07] - Speaker 1

You know, it's— your points are very well taken. And we will— I think we will be getting a traffic light at North Park and Willard. And one of the things that we might consider there, John, in talking to our friends at the DOT, MCDOT, is whether or not like a right-turn signal on North Park might help ease the traffic that's going onto Willard. And the red light across the street would keep the traffic from coming onto North Park. So there are things that we might be able to do, and I'm not a traffic engineer, but just thinking out loud at streets that I've come to, because I agree with you, that is a problematic entry for the garage, and we should be thinking about it.

[00:43:47.25] - Speaker 13

If I could I'll just add to that. So the new traffic signal is going to stop the Geico traffic for more than half of the cycle of the signal. So you won't have northbound traffic coming towards the garage entrance. And while Willard traffic is moving east and west, you'll have plenty of gaps to get in and out of the garage. Well, no, you don't.

[00:44:11.19] - Speaker 3

Not even now.

[00:44:13.24] - Speaker 1

When I come out of Garage 3, which is on North Park near the Elizabeth, immediately—

[00:44:19.24] - Speaker 11

first of all, half the time I have to try to get through trucks. Immediately turn left, half the time someone's coming around that corner about to hit you. Then you turn to get to the corner and we're already backed up.

[00:44:33.25] - Speaker 13

Yes.

[00:44:34.11] - Speaker 11

There's nowhere for Garage 1 people to go.

[00:44:37.10] - Speaker 7

Yeah.

[00:44:37.10] - Speaker 1

I take your point that it would be good to be able to clear the right left-turn traffic coming off of North Park onto Willard. That's what I would see as an ideal situation. Remember, we also have to deal with Willard Towers because they also have a garage there as well. So it— there are a lot of equities involved, and, um, it, it needs— yeah, it needs some—

[00:45:05.10] - Speaker 10

North Park, people exit visiting the tenant garage at Willard Towers are taking a left turn and they'll come to the traffic light immediately. It's going to back up people trying to exit Willard Towers.

[00:45:20.01] - Speaker 1

Yeah, it's, it's, it's a work in progress, you know. We'll have to figure it out. Thank you. Another question?

[00:45:28.10] - Speaker 9

Yes, Terry Lewandowski, 4620. Uh, the bump-outs that you're referring to, is that similar to the one that's East— or excuse me, west of Willard Towers that just got put in. What is a bump-out?

[00:45:41.29] - Speaker 13

So the Hills Plaza and South Park Avenue where the officer is, yes, that has bump-outs all the way around. So they're extended out into the parking lane. It reduces the crossing for pedestrian time and provides better sight lines to people waiting to cross.

[00:45:58.14] - Speaker 9

Okay, I'm familiar with that one. It's, it's, it's like a Rubberized or—

[00:46:03.03] - Speaker 13

Uh, they're concrete. They're raised concrete.

[00:46:05.19] - Speaker 8

It's hump.

[00:46:06.20] - Speaker 9

It's a, it's a hump on the—

[00:46:08.01] - Speaker 13

They may be mountable, yes.

[00:46:09.02] - Speaker 6

Yeah.

[00:46:09.10] - Speaker 9

Okay. All right.

[00:46:10.28] - Speaker 1

Do you have a question?

[00:46:13.05] - Speaker 2

Just a quick note. Um, since I'm the chair of the Landscape Committee, when you take that turn around that curb around there, we are going to take those huge shrubs out. this next year simply because in our building I have been hearing that both garage tree level onto, onto, uh, park and then level 1 where I come out, the cars literally from somewhere race around that curve and you cannot leave. You cannot get on the other side. So we are doing our part this next year of getting rid of those huge shrubs because sight, the sight coming out of those garages, you can't see. Thank you.

[00:47:05.19] - Speaker 1

Okay. Well, this was a good discussion. Do you have anything else, sir?

[00:47:13.27] - Speaker 13

Just to answer any questions. No, thank you very much. You're very welcome. Thank you.

[00:47:20.23] - Speaker 1

Okay. Now comments from the public.

[00:47:29.04] - Speaker 3

Mr.

[00:47:30.29] - Speaker 8

Dorsey.

[00:47:32.21] - Speaker 7

Yes, Mike Dorsey, 4620. Madam Chair, I want to thank you. I attended the meeting last month, and you're— the opportunity you're giving the residents to ask questions during pieces of business that are important to them is nice to see. We haven't seen that in 3 and a half years. I would say to— with the exception of Dr. Muller, most of you didn't attend meetings or were appointed to the council. And so you wouldn't have really any knowledge of how council meetings were handled. It was an open back and forth, comments such as this evening here, and I'm very glad to see that you're doing it now, and I really hope that you will continue that. Every piece of business on this, on this document here is important to someone, and they're taking the time out to come here, so I applaud you for what you're doing. And again, for 3 and a half years, we haven't had that. So thank you.

[00:48:45.21] - Speaker 1

Thank you. Mr. Cohen.

[00:48:57.16] - Speaker 10

My name is David Cohen. I live at Willard Towers where I have been for 23 years. I'm here because I was simply astounded to read in the last newsletter that after all this time, there was yet another issue with Page Park with water lines that hadn't been identified that now had to be moved and now yet another permit had to be requested. And then on top of that, There was the

announcement that the porch at the Red House had to be rebuilt. I don't know whether you realize what a laughingstock you have created in this community with Page Park and to a lesser extent with the Red House. We have been watching this comedy of errors. I think it's going on now close to 3 years. We have not been able to use the park. And problem after problem has arisen because inadequate planning, poor selection of contractors and consultants has resulted in incompetence. And we are taxpayers and thousands of dollars have been wasted, maybe millions. I don't know what the total amount is. Let me just mention some of the things that have been failures. There were not proper permits, so a lot of work was done without permits and then had to be stopped and redone until permits were properly approved.

[00:50:54.08] - Speaker 10

There was a lot of obvious inadequate communication with Montgomery County during this. ADA, Americans for Disability Act requirements were not met so that entrance to the park had to be ripped out and redone. And I don't think you guys on the council have provided adequate oversight of this process because Time and again, things have not been done properly. It seems to me that the basic problem is from the very beginning there was inadequate study of what had to be done, selection of the right consultants or contractors to do it right, to get the permits done, and to do it. But instead, it was a A slip, you know, one mistake after another, and a lot of money was spent that had to be undone by ripping out the construction that was already completed. Now, why in the Red House are we just learning now that the porch had to be rebuilt? Why wasn't that identified as an issue Right at the beginning, if there had been an adequate study of what had to be done. And now we're told there's going to be a kitchen in the basement. You want to bet that when they start to do the kitchen, they're going to find that maybe the electrical system or the plumbing system is not adequate and has to be redone, and maybe more permits will have to be applied for?

[00:52:51.07] - Speaker 10

So it's a comedy of errors, but it isn't funny. And I am outraged, and I think that hundreds of people in this community feel the same way. We have not been able to use Page Park, I believe it's now 3 years. I used to walk through there all the time to go around behind 4615 and down into Somerset. Can't do that anymore. And of course, can't relax in the park, have, you know, a picnic or whatever. So we've been denied that facility and there's no excuse for it. So what I think is necessary at this point is to hire— it sounds funny to hire yet another consultant. But to hire a reputable management consulting firm to do a history of this whole process, to see what happened, what wasn't done properly, who's responsible, what is necessary so that we won't repeat this process the next time you take on a new project. And I believe that there probably is some legal right for the council to sue some of these contractors who proceeded without

permits, without doing proper analysis of the situation that required you know, re-ramping things out and starting all over again. I think we're entitled to an apology from the council for being so ill-served for this number of years, and it's really outrageous.

[00:54:55.14] - Speaker 10

And, you know, I was thinking, is there some way I can withhold my tax money? You know, on our income tax, we And then you have to put in the local municipality at the— and I'm thinking, you know what, maybe I should not enter Friendship Heights Village there because my money is being wasted and I'm not getting anything in return.

[00:55:26.20] - Speaker 1

Well, sir, thank you for those comments. I think you get a lot in return. I think that with regard to Page Park, uh, there has been discussion of the errors along the way, but that's not the only thing that we do here in a village. We have this building, we have the many—

[00:55:45.29] - Speaker 10

I know, I know, you do a lot of fine things.

[00:55:48.19] - Speaker 1

Yes, so when you say it's— when you get a little unfair when you say you're getting nothing for your money, we are all very aggravated with what's occurred with Page Park. And I know I have a grandson at home who was born about 4 and a half years ago, almost 5 years ago, and Page Park was open for a time and I took him there. So you're right when you say that it's been about 3 years that we haven't had use of the park, and that includes me and my family. We've been taking trips to the park. We see that it's very close to being finished, and we'll be discussing the way forward to open the park as part of this meeting. So I thank you for your comments. I think they're important to hear. I appreciate that you made them.

[00:56:38.02] - Speaker 10

Do you think— do you think there's some value in having a legitimate study of the process that has been done, that we've gone through over the past What's your advice to the people who have been in this for 3 years?

[00:56:52.23] - Speaker 1

Well, I say this as someone who worked as counsel to the Inspector General at the Department of Commerce and Treasury and gave advice to audits inspectors and investigators. At this point, I think that along the way we have certainly talked about the problems and we've all had to deal with the fact that there are multiple multiple jurisdictions and decisions that were made to keep the park moving along the process. And it didn't always work out the way we hoped. But I truly don't see what the point would be of looking at it again.

[00:57:36.04] - Speaker 10

But I think it's important to know good intentions are not acceptable just like that.

[00:57:42.05] - Speaker 1

Yes.

[00:57:42.22] - Speaker 10

It's important to know why it didn't work out.

[00:57:47.27] - Speaker 1

I think there are many points at which different people have been involved, people of goodwill, including yourself, sir.

[00:57:55.25] - Speaker 13

I have not been involved.

[00:57:57.19] - Speaker 1

No, you're involved.

[00:57:58.13] - Speaker 10

I have not been involved. I have no responsibility.

[00:58:00.27] - Speaker 1

Oh, you have been involved as a critic, and I thank you for your criticism.

[00:58:06.05] - Speaker 10

Well, you thank me and you're going to ignore it.

[00:58:09.00] - Speaker 2

Good evening.

[00:58:09.17] - Speaker 1

I'm not ignoring it. I've given you my response.

[00:58:13.02] - Speaker 10

What do you think about my recommendation?

[00:58:15.24] - Speaker 1

I don't—

[00:58:16.16] - Speaker 10

That there be a study of the history of this fiasco so that it is not repeated?

[00:58:21.27] - Speaker 1

Why don't you undertake it, sir? I don't have time to do it. I'm dealing with other things right now.

[00:58:27.18] - Speaker 10

Well, then maybe you should step down.

[00:58:30.19] - Speaker 1

I don't think you want me to do that.

[00:58:32.26] - Speaker 10

Are you not the chairman of our Village Council?

[00:58:36.03] - Speaker 1

I am the chair, and I'm dealing—

[00:58:38.03] - Speaker 10

You have to give the time Yeah, we're all volunteers here, sir.

[00:58:43.08] - Speaker 1

We're all volunteers. Thank you. Your time is up.

[00:58:46.29] - Speaker 10

Thank you and fuck you. Right.

[00:58:55.22] - Speaker 1

It's so easy to say that you want to do a study. It doesn't work out the way you think, Bobby.

[00:59:16.23] - Speaker 14

Hi. Welcome, Dr. Anderson. I'm Bobby Pastron, Willard Towers. First, I'd like to compliment John Conlow for his focus on transportation issues. This has already borne fruit. And second, I'd like to suggest 3 future areas of focus, all ripe for Village Council consideration. With regard to John, despite private and public reservations by some members of Council, and the failure of one Council member who lives at my end of the Village to champion it, John gave priority to the construction of a new pedestrian crossing across Willard Avenue. just west of 4701 Willett Avenue, an often neglected end of the village. The crossing, now completed with bump-outs, slows traffic at a dangerous curve and improves safety. Pedestrians, those with walkers or pushing baby carriages, use it regularly and understand it as a welcome and safety-oriented addition to the streetscape. Thanks, John.

[01:00:26.27] - Speaker 1

Thank you, John.

[01:00:28.08] - Speaker 14

Second, having spent several years as a citizen attending Village Council meetings before running for Village Council and then serving for 2 years as chairman of the Village Council, I reflect on 3 issues in the same spirit with which I recommended formation of the council's Development Committee. This proved prescient. Much attention, time, and effort has been spent by this committee. The 3 issues. First, the renaming of Page Park. The projected opening of the park this summer did not happen, but it is just one of the embarrassing moments, costs,

and pronouncements associated with the park over many years. as we just heard from Mr. Cohen. Rename the park before its official opening and let the park begin a new life without the drag of its longstanding and unfortunate saga. Second, the Council might examine its bylaws. They are silent in important areas and need revision in others. Given the interest of this Council in transparency and policy, Current bylaws deserve revision so that residents and council members themselves will know the rules for council behavior. Finally, the village should be a real municipality. It isn't now. It's a special taxing district under Maryland law, unlike most publicly elected governmental units in Montgomery County, including.

[01:02:08.16] - Speaker 14

many of our less densely populated neighbors. A reclassification with which would come additional authorities and responsibilities has been attempted before. Yet much about the village, its composition, politics, and leadership has changed. It's time to consider a reclassification while a present member of the council and current village staff have personal history and useful insights to share. This might precede a revision in the bylaws. Thank you.

[01:02:47.27] - Speaker 1

Thank you. The village manager's report, please.

[01:02:57.29] - Speaker 3

Just 2 quick items. There was some brief mention of the pedestrian crossing on Willard Avenue, so I just wanted to touch on that, that that has been completed. completed, and we were very thankful to see that done in a relatively quick period of time by the County Department of Transportation. So it connects the GEICO side to the other side of Willard Avenue near the entrance to the Willard Avenue Park, just on the other side of Willard Towers. And it is a bump-out. It has bump-outs on both sides, so the curb is, is wider and the crossing is narrower. So we, we're Very pleased to see that happen. Second item is just a reminder about Election Day. It's Tuesday, November 3rd, and the Village Center once again is a polling place. So the Village polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Tuesday, November 3rd, and we do have the ballot drop box right outside the front entrance for those who are doing mail-in ballots. They can drop their ballot right here. Thank you.

[01:03:57.14] - Speaker 1

Thank you, Julian. Next we have the mayor's announcements.

[01:04:03.26] - Speaker 4

Yeah, I'll, I'll— I just want to respond quickly to a couple of the comments we just heard. The village did support that pedestrian crossing by Willard. In fact, we wrote a letter that I signed on behalf of— I don't— I think it was the council supporting that. And again, I do commend Councilmember Conlow's efforts, but we, we definitely supported that, not only me personally but the council. And as far as renaming Page Park, I, I agree. I think that is an appropriate thing to do. It's something we've discussed at— during this council term at a previous Parks and Grounds Committee. I expect it's something we will take up again. Thank you.

[01:04:51.25] - Speaker 1

Next, we go to the Treasurer's Report.

[01:04:54.28] - Speaker 7

Okay.

[01:04:55.01] - Speaker 6

Thanks, Francine. We just finished the first quarter of the current fiscal year, July through September, and so far it looks like we are in pretty good shape. Revenues are up 1.8% compared to the same period last year, and that is an improvement over our approved FY '17 '27 full-year budget, which assumes a decline of 6% in year-over-year revenues mainly due to government layoffs and a slowing economy. So, so far, so far this year at least, revenues appear to be moving in the right direction, although our 2 major sources of revenue, the income and property taxes, go through Montgomery County and funds are not transferred to the village in significant amounts until the next quarter. So we won't get a fuller picture of where things are headed on the revenue side until at least December. On the expenditure side, spending so far this year is up 4.1% from the same period last year, but that also compares favorably with our budget estimate that spending for the full year was likely to increase by 10% year over year. So it's— bottom line, it's still a little early in the year to accurately forecast where things are likely will likely wind up by the end of the year, but so far at least, the trends are looking pretty favorable.

[01:06:17.11] - Speaker 6

Our preliminary estimate is we should finish the current year with a somewhat higher surplus than the $15,000 estimate in our current budget. On the capital side, spending from July through September totaled approximately $144,000 over the past 3 months for projects including the

Red House, Page Park, the Village Center and Humphrey Park improvements as well as pedestrian safety. Our total capital budget for the year is currently $775,000. So we will have a ways to go to meet our budget goals, but we're making progress with a lot of work underway at Page Park, the Village Center waterproofing project, and completion of the Red House. The main capital budget issue coming up is what we talked about earlier, is finalizing the budget for pedestrian safety. We had an administrative review committee that included Martha and Julian and myself. And we looked at the options. And we all believe that the concrete bump-out option is the preferred one because putting planters in is not quite as safe and requires a lot of ongoing maintenance. So we're going to finalize cost estimates and recommend the planner option at an upcoming council meeting. And our reserve funds currently total $4,510,000 as of the end of September.

[01:07:53.05] - Speaker 6

That's down about $17,000 from last month. The slight reduction primarily reflects A $66,000 operating surplus offset by $83,000 in capital spending for the month of September. So that's it for me. Any comments or questions?

[01:08:13.22] - Speaker 8

Mr. Treasurer, thank you for the report. I think it's important that the public hear emphasized again that we have in the capital budget $871,000. That is more than enough to cover all the capital improvements that presently are on the table. And in addition to that, in addition to the capital fund, we have a general fund of $3.6 million that we can draw upon for both the operating budget And for the capital budget if we needed. So I think, as I have said for the last few years, we are in good shape. And despite the reasonable conservative approach the treasurers now and previously have taken, that we must be cautious, we must be careful, the fact is that the staff has handled the money very well. And despite what we've heard tonight by one Disgruntled resident. Despite the mistakes that have been made, the overall picture of the village is excellent and continues to be excellent.

[01:09:31.10] - Speaker 1

Thank you. We're now going to committee reports. The first one is the— oh, I'm sorry, I, I did miss one. Um, Roberta Linker. Please, I— my apologies. She was on the list of people who wanted to speak, and I, I just went over that name.

[01:09:51.24] - Speaker 12

Can you see me?

[01:09:54.07] - Speaker 11

Yes.

[01:09:54.29] - Speaker 12

Always start out with a joke, right, Roy? Um, I'm just bringing the village shuttle bus to your attention because I don't think any one of you sitting on the panel rides the bus? You do?

[01:10:13.00] - Speaker 6

I do.

[01:10:13.24] - Speaker 12

And you do? Okay, so I'll keep it personal and say when I first moved here, I didn't need to ride the wonderful bus, but I thought it was a terrific feature for our community and helped people who had less mobility. Then I found myself through adverse health conditions that I now needed to ride the bus. So we have this new bus, freshly painted, with wonderful drivers who are very considerate. However, in the design of the new bus, which you may not be aware, the step-up is exceedingly high. And it means for someone like myself, they have to pull down the ramp or release the ramp, which is a metal ramp with 3 sections in it. And I call it the killer ramp because when it comes down, if you're in the way, you're going to get killed. So I'm just bringing this problem to the attention Of yourselves. I did attend a bus committee meeting, which is about once every 3 months, and they corrected some of the original problems, errors with the buses, but they cannot or don't seem to come up with a solution for this ramp. Now tonight, in coming here, the ramp was not operational.

[01:11:52.11] - Speaker 12

And the very kind driver took out this little stool and put it at the edge of the bus. He said, is it okay if I hold your hand? And I said, absolutely. And he helped me on the bus and off the bus. Surely this is not safe. And we have to find a way of getting the bus company to rectify this problem that city buses don't have. So with that, I leave it to your good intentions. Thank you.

[01:12:29.26] - Speaker 1

Yes.

[01:12:30.10] - Speaker 4

Yeah, so Roberta, thank you for that. I would, um, just ask if you could put that briefly in a letter because that helps, and I will send a copy to the chair of our— of the shuttle committee, and the village manager can also forward it on. But there's nothing brief about me. However you want to do it, it's fine. Thank you.

[01:12:53.02] - Speaker 1

Okay. Committee reports. The Advisory Committee on Development. As you know, we have a case pending dealing with the GEICO site and the failure to follow the binding elements. Now the board, the The planning board has made its decision and they approved the plan that does not comply with the binding elements. Additionally, the plan that they approved, in our opinion, is not in substantial conformance with the sector plan from '98. For that reason, we're starting and filed today, and our filing was accepted, a new lawsuit Just against the board that complains about the failure to implement the binding elements, and also the fact that there has been substantial non-compliance with the sector plan of 1998. And as a result of filing that lawsuit and having it accepted today. We will be dismissing the original lawsuit, which was a lawsuit for declaratory judgment. This lawsuit allows us to attack the decisions of the board on more different grounds. So that's what the committee is involved in, dealing with the sector plan. Dealing with the sector plan, we're coming up with briefing papers for the different county council members. I've written a letter to some of the candidates, and we'll continue to deal with the issues that we believe the board is going to create for the village with regard to increased density.

[01:14:50.28] - Speaker 1

Our 2 biggest concerns are Parcel 4, where the medical building is located across the street from the Village Center, and also Parcel 6, the Shoemaker's parcel, which is next to 4620. And we're trying to keep the heights lower. Right now they're talking about 200 feet on each site, and we think that would be highly detrimental to the neighborhood. So we'll continue to fight against that. Any questions from any members of the council? Thank you. Next we have the Finance Committee meeting.

[01:15:36.10] - Speaker 2

Okay.

[01:15:36.23] - Speaker 6

Thank you, Francine. The meeting was held virtually on September 22nd and was largely focused on a review of the current operating and capital budget and 5-year plan, as well as the committee process and procedures over the next 6 months through April when next year's budget is expected to be put forward for council review. So specifically, we reviewed a preliminary Finance Committee schedule with draft agendas through April. We reviewed a proposed format for integrating current year and next year revenue and expenditure cast into our monthly meeting agendas. We discussed the need to better define the process for developing salary recommendations, including improved coordination among committees such as Finance and Policy and Procedures. And we also discussed the need for a more structured transaction review process, and we recently developed a draft first quarter transaction report, which will be reviewed at our upcoming meeting on Tuesday of next week, October 20th, at 6:00 PM in the Village Center. Thanks.

[01:16:51.18] - Speaker 1

Thanks very much, John. Any comments or questions from the—

[01:16:57.13] - Speaker 14

no one?

[01:16:58.10] - Speaker 1

Oh, good. Thank you. Old business, a discussion on revised Page Park planting plan and border of play area. Roy, I'm going to turn it over to you because I think you have a motion that we want to consider at this point.

[01:17:18.21] - Speaker 4

Okay. All right. And, and Jim, correct me if I say something that's wrong. So, um, the circular play area in, in the back, there is a drop-off of approximately 12 inches. And that, to be clear, that's well within what is allowed under the Montgomery County Code. I think we're allowed 30 and we're at 12.

[01:17:40.06] - Speaker 1

I have a different opinion on that.

[01:17:41.25] - Speaker 4

I'm just, I'm just stating what the code— is that factually correct?

[01:17:45.20] - Speaker 8

Yeah.

[01:17:46.04] - Speaker 4

Okay.

[01:17:46.24] - Speaker 13

Yes.

[01:17:47.03] - Speaker 4

I'm not, I'm not saying that—

[01:17:48.22] - Speaker 1

I, I— Roy, the reason why I object to that being— that statement is that it is on the side of a children's play area where we're going to have young children, and a drop of 12 inches is more than a single step. I do not see how that, that can— but what you're saying is we don't have to put a railing there for that. But right now, that fall is not visible to someone. No one realizes that that is there when you fill it up to the head to the level of the existing concrete. So while I'm willing to accept the fact that people didn't see it as a problem and continued to pass through it, I really don't want to continue to say that it's within the law to allow that to be. I think it's I don't even know what that means. I haven't seen an inspector say that it's a safe place to have a drop-off.

[01:19:00.16] - Speaker 8

Okay.

[01:19:01.02] - Speaker 4

All right. So as Jim mentioned, we are and have been looking at several alternatives. I think he mentioned 5 of them. However, we do want to get the park open. So as an interim, I'm suggesting that we open the park, and that's why I was making the point that we're complying with the code. It's not a cause for necessarily delaying an opening. So what I'd like to do is propose opening the park and adding just sort of some very visible barrier along the back while

we discuss alternatives. So this is my motion. I move that Page Park be opened at the earliest date possible after receiving approval by the Village's project manager and in compliance with all Montgomery County regulations. I further move that orange cones be placed along the rear perimeter of the play area for up to 60 days while the council considers installing a permanent barrier in that location. And it's not part of the motion, but I'll add that I think there is an intention to have a Parks and Grounds Committee meeting prior to the next council meeting and, and have this on the agenda.

[01:20:12.18] - Speaker 1

I second the motion. Is there any discussion of the motion? Al?

[01:20:23.25] - Speaker 8

I agree with the motion, Roy, but the county requires that within 25 feet of a play area there be signs that indicate that there's no smoking. for the sake of the children. And I think we need to do that. I agree with you that we should open the park and still work on finding appropriate furniture, which has taken far longer than it should have, which is not the fault of the present committee. But that needs to move apace also. I'm not hearing any movement there.

[01:21:06.01] - Speaker 11

Thank you.

[01:21:07.19] - Speaker 8

Mr. Mayor, and I think when we open the park, it would be nice to have more of it functioning that we can than just say we're going to wait yet another 3 years. Nothing has been done specifically to decide what will go in that play area for the 3 years since the permits were inadvertently not ordered. Let's look forward. Let's move ahead. Let's look at— I'm talking basically to the new committee. I'm sure they can move fast once they focus on it. The last committee head, for whatever reasons, did not. And if we're going to open the park, we have to have something that says no this, This, this, this. We simply have to. No unleashed dogs. Are we going to get into that again?

[01:22:05.07] - Speaker 1

Al, if, if it is a requirement to have a sign up, then we will put a sign up, no smoking. That is in the motion. The motion says that we— it needs to be in compliance with the requirements of the

county. So Jim will check if there is a requirement to have a no smoking sign up in that area. We will put it up because otherwise we can't open it.

[01:22:29.07] - Speaker 8

Okay, but if we're going to put up a sign that says no smoking, if there's anything else the council thinks shouldn't be there— I think there— the, the law also requires no unleashed dogs. But if you want no skateboards or whatever, I don't know, but we don't want a whole bunch of different signs saying different things.

[01:22:49.28] - Speaker 1

The no unleashed dogs is a requirement everywhere in the county. You're not allowed to have unleashed dogs everywhere, anywhere in the county.

[01:23:00.23] - Speaker 8

And we can't—

[01:23:01.08] - Speaker 1

So I'm, I'm content with not— unlike the no smoking near a child's play area, the unleashed dogs is already a requirement. We're talking about getting the park open again so that we can have people enjoy it.

[01:23:18.06] - Speaker 8

I just want signs there, that's all.

[01:23:20.19] - Speaker 1

Well, the sign for the smoking will go up if they're under the current motion, if there is a requirement for such a sign.

[01:23:31.15] - Speaker 8

What about the unleashed dogs? There are complaints constantly that the dogs are going through the park until they walled it off, and once those barriers come down, the dogs are going to be running free again. They have been.

[01:23:45.16] - Speaker 1

That's a separate motion. If you want to make a motion that we put up such a sign, I'll entertain it after we vote on this motion, which already includes the no smoking provision if it's a requirement.

[01:23:58.04] - Speaker 8

I was trying to just have—

[01:23:59.11] - Speaker 1

I understand, I understand. Any other discussion? I'm going to take a vote on Roy's motion. All in favor of the motion say aye. Raise your hand and say aye.

[01:24:16.22] - Speaker 5

Aye.

[01:24:17.13] - Speaker 1

It's 7 votes in favor as I read the hands. Are there any nays? The motion carries unanimously. Thank you. Al, do you have another motion?

[01:24:34.12] - Speaker 8

I, I think there needs to be some indication That no unleashed dogs, if it's expressed in a different way—

[01:24:42.13] - Speaker 1

You're making a motion that we put up a sign, no unleashed dogs?

[01:24:47.08] - Speaker 8

Something that indicates there is a county law. I, I haven't thought of the wording, but we all know, we all know and agree the law should be followed. I don't, I don't have a preference.

[01:25:00.25] - Speaker 4

Would, would you be okay if we discussed this at the next Parks and Grounds Committee?

[01:25:05.28] - Speaker 8

I see no reason to delay. The whole council has to decide on this.

[01:25:11.10] - Speaker 4

At this point though, we're not sure what the requirements are, so it would be hard to vote when we're not informed as to what we're actually approving.

[01:25:19.02] - Speaker 8

Mr. Mayor, the law in Montgomery County is no unleashed dogs. That is the law. It doesn't have to go to a committee to decide that it is the law.

[01:25:30.10] - Speaker 1

What is the law?

[01:25:31.29] - Speaker 5

There is no law that requires you put signage up with that respect. And I think we still know— I'd like to ask the people developing the park because we know that there's going to be 2 stations that have the dog bags at both entrances. And it could be that the model that we purchase for those to have those bag stations have a plaque that you can put with it. But I think that it should be brought up at committee so that we know, but it's not a requirement that you restate every county law, including dogs off leash.

[01:26:03.02] - Speaker 8

I, I agree, but previously there were dogs and we got frequent complaints.

[01:26:08.08] - Speaker 5

I, I understand.

[01:26:09.22] - Speaker 8

Especially from people in your building.

[01:26:12.20] - Speaker 5

I under— I understand. I, I just— I would agree with Roy that we should bring it up at the next Parks and Grounds to have a fuller discussion.

[01:26:19.22] - Speaker 1

Excuse me, with all due respect, I'm sorry, but there were. There often is.

[01:26:26.29] - Speaker 5

I think the question also is that we might want to have more research as to the utility of a sign. Does it actually prevent anything?

[01:26:38.05] - Speaker 2

Prevent the dogs?

[01:26:41.01] - Speaker 1

I do like the idea of putting a sign, no unleashed dogs, on whatever putting up for the, um, for the bags, uh, the poop bags. So, uh, that, that's fine with me. Or do we— are we coalescing around putting a little sign on that stanchion which is already discussing dogs and then that need to clean up after your own dog?

[01:27:08.10] - Speaker 8

Sure.

[01:27:09.10] - Speaker 1

Sure. Okay, so I make a motion that In getting the, uh, poop bag poles up, we attach a sign that says that you must clean up after your own dog and that all dogs need to be leashed. Is there a second for that motion? Al seconds it. Is there any more discussion? All in favor of the sign, say aye.

[01:27:47.20] - Speaker 7

Aye.

[01:27:47.24] - Speaker 1

Aye. And raise your hand. Al, are you in favor? Thank you. 7 votes in favor of— we're losing this. Okay, so now we'll have a sign, and I'm sure we'll wind up with a sign for the smoke as

well, since we should not be smoking in the park in general. Is there any other business? Nominations for council committees?

[01:28:22.16] - Speaker 4

Oh, okay, okay, thank you. So, uh, according to our bylaws, the mayor nominates people to council committees, uh, subject to to advice and consent by the council. So I'd like to do this in, in 3 votes. Councilmember Solt was the chair of the Parks and Grounds Committee and also a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee, and I'd like to ask Councilmember Anderson to, to fill those roles. So I'll break this out. My first motion is to appoint Julie Anderson to the Parks and Grounds Committee.

[01:28:58.02] - Speaker 7

Second.

[01:29:00.08] - Speaker 4

And that's it. We don't, we don't need a second. It's just a straight vote.

[01:29:04.02] - Speaker 1

We just take a vote?

[01:29:05.05] - Speaker 9

Yeah.

[01:29:05.11] - Speaker 1

Yes. Okay, all in favor of Julie Anderson joining the Parks Committee, raise your hand and say aye.

[01:29:12.05] - Speaker 9

Aye.

[01:29:12.19] - Speaker 1

Okay, that's 6 votes in favor. Miss Anderson, member or chair?

[01:29:20.06] - Speaker 4

Well, that's the—

[01:29:20.23] - Speaker 1

we're doing it in 2 things. Yeah, 2 things. Uh, Miss Anderson abstained because she was the person being voted on. She's now a member of the Parks Committee.

[01:29:33.09] - Speaker 4

Okay, so welcome. And my second nomination is to appoint Julie Anderson as chair of the Parks and Grounds Committee.

[01:29:44.19] - Speaker 1

Okay, we're gonna— any discussion? Take a vote. All in favor? Say— raise your hands and say aye.

[01:29:51.25] - Speaker 4

Aye.

[01:29:53.05] - Speaker 1

6 votes in favor. Uh, anyone against? No. Um, there was one abstention from, uh, I'll say Dr. Anderson, who, um, who will now be the chair. Congratulations.

[01:30:14.10] - Speaker 4

And I have one more nomination to appoint, uh, Councilmember Anderson to the Any discussion?

[01:30:25.27] - Speaker 1

Let's take a vote. All in favor of Ms. Anderson, Dr. Anderson, and Councilmember Anderson being on the committee for procedures, policies and procedures, say aye.

[01:30:40.29] - Speaker 5

Aye.

[01:30:41.22] - Speaker 1

6 votes in favor, 1 abstention. That finishes the council committees, correct, Al?

[01:30:56.24] - Speaker 10

Al?

[01:30:57.04] - Speaker 1

Oh, excuse me, Roy.

[01:30:58.29] - Speaker 9

That—

[01:30:59.17] - Speaker 1

I'm sorry.

[01:31:00.02] - Speaker 4

Yes. Yeah.

[01:31:01.12] - Speaker 1

Okay. Thinking of Al. Discussion and vote on the Red House sign. Who has this for action? You do, Al?

[01:31:16.19] - Speaker 8

Just a little background. When, when the Red House was initially discussed for possible purchase, the mayor and I were designated to be the negotiators. The Estrada family representative was the son of Mrs. Estrada, and the son made clear that he was interested in selling the house, but only if it would be in some way recognized the work that his mother did in saving the house, which was in poor shape. And so after a price was decided on, that had been agreed upon by the council and given to the negotiating team to discuss.

[01:32:16.26] - Speaker 14

The—

[01:32:17.13] - Speaker 8

a draft was submitted, and Mr. Estrada went back and forth a few times over the phone, and in the version that I think you finally saw, which was draft 2 or draft 3, whatever it was, and it essentially described the house, a paragraph describing the house which was built in 1906. That description came from the historic society. The village had initially tried to make the house a historic landmark. A historic site, and I believe the historic commission had 7 members. I think the manager was at the hearing. 3 of the commissioners felt that the county should make it historic. The 4th commissioner felt that it should be historic, but the village should buy it and make it historic. So it essentially failed to be historic by the county, but the village then continued to negotiate with Mrs. Estrada. A price was determined, and this draft of what would go on a plaque memorializing the house which had been built by this 24-year-old Joseph Pyles. The house remained in his family until 1976 and was deteriorating until it was acquired by local business owner Joan Estrada. All of this paragraph was specifically edited and approved by Mr. Estrada.

[01:34:11.29] - Speaker 8

The Pyles house remains as As a familiar and visual reminder. The reason that phrase was used was because one of the things that makes something historic is in the county's description, if it's a familiar and visual reminder of how the village was originally. There is an error, there is a typo there, which is my fault. It wasn't caught all the These years, this is a memo from '23. It should be 105 middle-class homes, not 125. That paragraph was essentially taken from the original history of the village by Mr. Shoemaker, written in 1959. And so that is essentially the draft. It never got to the full council because the mayor, who was the head of the negotiating team, felt that the plaque might need to be decided based on what color the plaque was going to be, and the village was still discussing what color the street signs were going to be. And then there was an election and the 2 members of the negotiating team were no longer on the council. So the draft has remained there and for protocol purposes, the full council has— had received this. The Parks and Grounds Committee had received this.

[01:35:56.25] - Speaker 8

But the chair had really not done anything with it, and I think it's personally best if the whole council looks at it. So there there it goes, and I'm happy to answer any questions. But I would simply to move it into a discussion. I would simply move that the the draft of the description of the piles astratic astrata. historic house be accepted. And if I have a second, that can then be discussed.

[01:36:33.07] - Speaker 4

I'll second.

[01:36:36.05] - Speaker 1

We have a motion and a second. Discussion?

[01:36:42.23] - Speaker 4

Um, well, first, uh, Councilmember Muller, I'd like to clarify something. You, you said that both members of the negotiating team left the council. Mayor White, you said, was one of those 2 members, right? It was you and Mayor— and she remained on the council?

[01:36:56.28] - Speaker 7

Yes.

[01:36:57.11] - Speaker 4

Okay.

[01:36:57.29] - Speaker 8

She left the council before this had been discussed with the council.

[01:37:03.01] - Speaker 4

But she was— she served from '23 to '25 after these discussions started?

[01:37:09.01] - Speaker 8

Yeah, but it was— okay, as far as I remember, it was not discussed.

[01:37:13.13] - Speaker 4

Okay. So I oppose this motion, and, and let me give a little background here. As Councilmember Muller said, in 2022, the village applied to the County Historic Preservation Commission to add this property to the county's locational atlas and index of historic sites. The staff compiled a very comprehensive report, and they determined that the property did not meet any criteria for inclusion. So it's not accurate to say it's an historic house. And that— what they looked at includes historic, cultural, architectural, and design. The cultural part includes looking

at prior residents. So they concluded the property is not the site of a historic event nor associated for purposes of this motion with a person or group that influenced society.

[01:38:05.13] - Speaker 7

Thank you.

[01:38:06.16] - Speaker 4

And what this sign— excuse me— seeks to do is just to sort of randomly pick out a former resident who happened to live in that building and for some reason put a very, very large permanent sign on village property. I don't think that's appropriate. I don't think there's a justification for doing that. It's also problematic, as Councilmember Muller said, the fact the plaque was written by a descendant of the resident and has not been fact-checked. And I did review the text and I found several inaccuracies. The text misstates the current design features of the house. It misstates the role of the person the plaque is for in restoring the house. Even the year of construction is wrong from what the staff report said. And as far as the village making a commitment, there's never been a commitment. There have been discussions, but the idea of a sign was never included in the contract. It was never approved by any council vote or any committee vote. So there's never been a commitment. I would support a modest plaque on the house that presents verifiable facts, like who built the house, the year it was built, So that sort of thing.

[01:39:27.20] - Speaker 4

But this proposal, it's just not an appropriate thing for us to do. Thank you.

[01:39:33.12] - Speaker 8

Madam Chair, may I respond? I don't understand where you think there's an inadequacy. And in fact, I think the manager was there at the Historic Commission's— 3 of the commissioners did say they felt the county should make it historic. And a 4th commissioner did say that he felt the house was historic, but he didn't feel the county should make it historic. He specifically said, if you, the village, agree it's historic, then I think you should purchase it. So, there technically was support in the Historic Commission. I don't understand where you're saying there's facts. The first paragraph, which is The factual description of the architecture was taken from that very report of the county that reviewed the house. And yes, we did rely on Mr. Estrada for the birthdays, the age of his mother, when she came here, and I mean, that I believe is accurate. I don't understand why you— it is historic. It is the oldest remaining house that was built in 1906 by a 24-year-old workman from the District who built the house for his new bride. But that's a

fact, and it really is the only surviving house of what was essentially a suburban village built on the basis of a trolley.

[01:41:21.28] - Speaker 8

It was historic. It wasn't approved as historic, but it is a historic house. And it was purchased with that as the feeling of the council and the village. And a fair amount of money was spent for it. So I don't understand the reluctance. There's nothing personal in that that's gained by any member of the council, past or present.

[01:41:52.10] - Speaker 4

So as I said, I would support a plaque with some of those verifiable facts, a small plaque. But the idea of putting up a very large sign That for the most part features a biography of someone who just happened to live here. That's really my objection.

[01:42:08.03] - Speaker 8

She didn't just happen to live here. She restored the house.

[01:42:10.06] - Speaker 4

Well, actually what the staff report said is she restored the house to the condition it was in when we purchased it. She did not restore it to any kind of historical site. She just fixed it up after she bought it.

[01:42:22.24] - Speaker 8

Well, if you look at the 2 pictures, the house looked— look old and dilapidated, and she restored it to the way it looks now. And the Commissioners themselves came down and visited, and they said, this is a lovely little house. I don't know why you want to bring it in.

[01:42:39.21] - Speaker 1

I'm going to call on John now. John, you have your hand up.

[01:42:43.27] - Speaker 6

Yeah. It seems to me— I mean, I support the idea of a plaque. I think the Red House is an historic building regardless of what Montgomery County has to say about it.

[01:42:56.03] - Speaker 1

I—

[01:42:56.04] - Speaker 6

but I think this needs more discussion at the committee level before we move forward on a vote for this. So I would suggest we postpone this, try to reach a consensus, and then come back to council at a later time.

[01:43:08.10] - Speaker 1

I agree. We still have work to do on the Red House, and we have a new chair for the committee. And so I move that we— Yes, the Okay, thank you. You're right, of course. Al, can you withdraw your motion?

[01:43:26.13] - Speaker 8

Yes, Madam Chair.

[01:43:27.24] - Speaker 1

Thank you very much. So we'll move this to a discussion of the committee.

[01:43:32.04] - Speaker 8

Madam Chair, might I suggest also that because Mr. Estrada contacted me, I guess within the last year, and wanted to know when the building was going to open, uh, And when he would know, he would like to come. I think he should be made aware when we're discussing this, because he had a great part in writing this, I must say.

[01:44:00.02] - Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, I think it would be okay if the chair wants to, to invite him to a committee meeting so we can get his input on it too. Where does he live now?

[01:44:12.13] - Speaker 8

I don't— he lives somewhere in the vicinity, but I don't know how. I only have a phone number.

[01:44:17.19] - Speaker 1

Okay. Thank you very much. All right. So is— does anyone oppose sending this to the committee? No. I see no opposition to that. Is there any other business? I don't have any on my list. No. Is there a motion to adjourn?

[01:44:34.25] - Speaker 8

I so move.

[01:44:36.13] - Speaker 1

Second. We have a motion and a second. John moved. Al seconded. Any opposition to adjourning? Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

[01:44:47.11] - Speaker 8

Thank you.