



Mr. Sweet shared some items he referred to as “swag,” such as stress balls and bracelets that include the Kindland tagline of “Just be Kind.” Mr. Sweet shared a video with the Committee to introduce the Kindland initiative. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns8ZKt48gz8> or search “Welcome to Kindland” on YouTube.

Mr. Sweet shared his background of working in graphic design and looking to transition to something new. He learned about VIA and, once he met Stuart and the group, he saw that the group really lives this way. “I came here to tonight to stamp you all as citizens of Kindland.” He described that we are all limited by our circles of family and friends but, as this movement grows, it can be life changing. “One person can’t change the world, but can change the world of one person. Pass it forward.”

Mr. Sweet described the programming that VIA has developed and sent to schools. Their programming is in all 50 states and 1.3 million students have watched their videos. “Overall, their mood and lives have changed for the better.”

Mrs. Batcher asked, “Other than being kind, what is the program?” Mr. Sweet responded that it depends on how involved the community wants to be. VIA can provide signs, stickers and posters for your windows. “Every community is different. If someone just wants to sign up to be a member on the website, that’s fine.” VIA has a “Just be Kind” App that generates positivity and shares acts of kindness. The App can also tag on other social media.

Mrs. Batcheller asked about school programs. Mr. Sweet described a “Be Kind and Stick Together Rally” that generally kicks off the program. The kids pledge to stick together against bullying and for kindness. “The amount of involvement depends on the school. VIA is here to be the catalyst and let people do what they want.”

Mr. Gall asked Mr. Williams what the Village had signed up for? Mr. Williams responded, “To be a Kindland Partner. To promote kindness and talk about it and share it in the community. To become part of the NE Ohio community that is already doing this and promote the idea of living in harmony together.” Mr. Sweet added, “as little or as much as Mayfield Village wants to be involved.”

Mrs. McNally stated that, as a librarian, she talks to kids about the importance of finding out about funding, etc. and would like to understand how VIA works. Mr. Sweet responded that VIA has corporate sponsors and receives grant funding from the State of Ohio. “Swagelok was a big partner this year.” He described an upcoming luncheon at Landerhaven to make awards to community leaders that will be an opportunity share more of the vision. All are invited to attend. Mr. Sweet invited the committee to visit the VIA website home page to learn more. <https://www.viafdn.org/>

Mr. Haycox asked if there are examples of what other communities have done. Mr. Sweet replied that they are many examples on the website. The primary point is to share and promote acts of kindness. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the App and to request more free swag for distribution.

Mr. Batcheller asked, “Are you in the Mayfield Schools?” Mr. Sweet responded that they thought this would be the place to start. Mr. Williams advised that he learned about VIA about five years ago. He was asked to be a mentor at John Adams High School. He wanted to see if it would be a good fit in Mayfield Village but no entrée has been made to the schools yet. Mr. Sweet added that the mentor program focuses on job preparedness. Mr. Williams goes in to meet with the class and share what the work world is like. Mr. Williams added that they also work on resume development and help students prepare for job interviews.

Mrs. McNally asked how best to proceed. Ms. Sweet suggested everyone visit the website. <https://www.viafdn.org/> Mr. Williams stated that he hoped CAC could come up with ideas to share with Mayfield Village and talk about how best to help Mayfield High School.

Mr. Sweet shared an example of a great idea in Maple Heights. Mayor Blackwell came up with a program called "Light the Way" where residents turn on their porch lights as children walk to school. Mr. Sweet stated, "Random acts of kindness are swell. Ours are intentional. We find a need and fill it."

Mr. Williams and Mr. Sweet shared some of the conversations at the recent Kindland Summit about how organizations and community leaders can promote kindness. Mrs. McNally responded, "so you want us to brainstorm?" Mr. Williams said, "Yes, my goal is to get this community involved to do something positive. As far as how, I would like this committee to talk about it more at the next meeting. We will add it to the agenda. As we are late joining, there are many good examples on the website."

Mr. Gall suggested that starting with younger children might be more effective. Mr. Sweet explained that the program is geared to start in first grade. The job training portion is for high school students. Mrs. McNally asked if communities involved are listed on the website and Mr. Sweet said that they are.

Mr. Haycox thanked Mr. Sweet for coming in to speak and agreed that further discussion would be included on the next meeting agenda.

### **Council Report and Other Matters**

Mr. Williams reported that it has been a quiet summer. Progressive is consolidating employees from Campus I and moving them to Campus II on SOM Center Road. Some Worton Park residents are concerned about the building being empty. Mrs. McNally asked if anything is happening with the sale of Campus I. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that Progressive projected 18 months to move everyone to Campus II and were contemplating whether to sell the Campus I buildings. There are three buildings there and they potentially could be sold separately.

Mrs. McNally asked when the sidewalks in Aintree North are going to be done. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that the contractor is preparing to do the work in mid-October and will be replacing blocks that are not in code compliance.

Mr. Haycox shared with the committee a flyer for a fundraiser that Howard Hanna is holding at the Community Room on October 20. Mrs. Calo provided some detail about the history of the event and invited all to attend. A copy of the flyer is attached.

Mrs. Washock advised the committee that she recently learned the County will snake the sewer lines of residents for free. The Village contracts with the County to do this work. Mr. Gall added that it is the sanitary sewer lines only. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that residents can call the Service Department and they will arrange to have it done. The Village contracts with the County to do this work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Diane Wolgamuth  
Director of Administration