

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Chairman*
LEONARD J. GRANT, *Vice Chairman*
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*
ALVAN M. MORRIS, D.D.S., *Treasurer*
JOHN MERTENS, *Parliamentarian*
CLARA M. LOVETT, *Historian*
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*
LESLIE STRATHMANN, *Village Manager 1987-1996*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING April 14, 2015

ATTENDEES:

Robert Schwarzbart, Chairman; Leonard J. Grant, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Demetra Harris, Secretary; John Mertens, Parliamentarian; Clara Lovett, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and 20 residents.

ABSENT:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 p.m. Judge Schwarzbart called the Village Council meeting to order. He noted that Mayor Melanie White could not be in attendance tonight because of an out-of-town business trip. Judge Schwarzbart reported that the Council originally thought that it may be possible to have the final vote on the playground issue tonight. However, the edited drawings just arrived today and the Council has not had a chance to study them. He also stated that since the matter of installing even modest playground equipment in Page Park has proved to be so controversial, it would be most appropriate to have that vote taken by the new Council now that we are on the verge of the election.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

Members of the audience reiterated their opposition to the playground in Page Park, saying that there is no need for another playground because there are five playgrounds in the area; that the renovation of Page Park would eventually damage or destroy the trees and green space; and that Page Park should be maintained and preserved as the natural wooded area of the Village.

A request was also made that a report from an independent arborist (not associated with A. Morton Thomas, playground engineers) and an environmental specialist be obtained before implementing any aspect of the renovation of Page Park. Discussion ensued.

- (R) Ms. Harris moved; Ms. Lovett seconded, to get an independent arborist report and an environmental specialist report before implementing any aspect of the final drawings for the renovation of Page Park. The motion carried. 4-1-0.**

There was a request for a “meet the candidates night.” Discussion ensued.

- (R) Mr. Mertens moved; Ms. Harris seconded, to approve a “meet the candidates night” which would be sponsored by the League of Women Voters at the Friendship Heights Village Center on Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. The motion carried. (5-0-0)**

Another resident requested that information on the eleven candidates running in the Council election be included in the May newsletter. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mansfield stated that there would be a front page story in the newsletter, but because of limited space, only the names of the candidates and the date and time of the election could be included. Judge Schwarzbart said that the Council should defer to staff on this issue.

A resident requested that the Council schedule a public work session before the final vote on the Page Park drawings to inform the public of the status of the playground and to answer questions. The public would submit questions in advance so that the Council could prepare for the public work session. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mertens stated that since the election of the new Council would occur before the next meeting, it would be inappropriate for this Council to schedule such a meeting for the new Council. Mr. Mertens stated that if he is a member of the new Council, he would raise the motion for a public work session. Judge Schwarzbart noted that he would also support the request for a public work session when the next Council is elected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Judge Schwarzbart made the following announcements:

The Village will once again be a host site for the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A Montgomery

County Police officer will be in the Center lobby to collect your unwanted prescription drugs.

The Village shredding service returns on Tuesday, May 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The shredding truck will park on Friendship Boulevard by the main entrance to the Village Center.

The Village Council election will be Monday, May 11. Polls will be open at the Village Center from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The next Village Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 19.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Harris presented the minutes for the Council public session held on March 9, 2015 and recommended approval.

- (R) Ms. Harris moved; Mr. Grant seconded, that the Council public session minutes for the meeting held on March 9, 2015 be approved. The motion carried. (5-0-0)**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Harris presented the financial summary for the period ending March 31, 2015.

Discussion/vote on confirmation of Audit Proposal for FY15: Mr. Mansfield stated that last year the Council approved a three-year proposal from Lindsey & Associates auditing firm. He requested confirmation of the second year of the proposal for the FY15 audit for a total cost of \$10,300.

- (R) Ms. Harris moved; Ms. Lovett seconded, to approve the second year of the three-year proposal from Lindsey & Associates auditing firm in the amount of \$10,300 for the Friendship Heights FY15 audit. The motion carried. (5-0-0)**

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on proposal to replace Village Center lobby heat pump system: Mr. Shapiro stated the Council was informed that the lobby HVAC system became inoperable in AC mode at the end of last summer. He stated that

this system has been troublesome for a long time. He gave a summary of the multiple times the compressors had been replaced over the years. Also, the entire condensing unit had been replaced a number of years ago.

Mr. Shapiro reported that Densel recommended replacing the entire system this time for the price of approximately \$40,000. Before proceeding, staff asked Densel to revisit the situation and its cost. Densel found another way to remove the air-handler and was able to cut their price to \$28,912.28.

Staff then brought in Walter Mendoza, who had consulted with us before on this system, to assure us that there was no other viable alternative to replacing the system, and also that the system Densel proposed was the proper one.

Staff went out for bid on this project and did not receive any additional proposals. Staff recommends accepting the Densel proposal. Mr. Shapiro stated that the unit needs to be operable by this summer. This would be a Capital Improvements expense.

- (R) Mr. Mertens moved; Mr. Grant seconded, to approve the proposal from Densel Company in the amount of \$28,912.28 for replacement of the lobby heat pump system in the Friendship Heights Village Center. This expenditure would be paid from the Capital Improvements Fund. The motion carried. (5-0-0)**

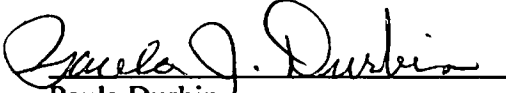
- (R) Mr. Mertens moved; Ms. Harris seconded, to transfer \$30,000 from the General Fund to Capital Improvements Fund to cover the expenses of the Densel Company contract. The motion carried. (5-0-0)**

Report from the Capital Improvements Committee: Mr. Mertens presented an update from the Capital Improvements Committee. Mr. Mertens submitted his written presentation which is hereby made a part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Grant moved, Ms. Harris seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried. (5-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,


Paula Durbin
Secretary