

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*

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797
Fax: 301-907-3922
Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov
Website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING December 8, 2014

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Robert Schwarzbart, Chairman; Leonard J. Grant, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Demetra Harris, Secretary; Alvan M. Morris, Treasurer; John Mertens, Parliamentarian; Clara Lovett, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and 9 residents.

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 p.m. Judge Schwarzbart called the Village Council Meeting to order.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

Ms. Paula Durbin (4620 N. Park) proposed several questions to the Council regarding the decision to restrict the playground area in Page Park to the upper right hand corner of the Park. She submitted her written presentation which is hereby made part of these minutes.

Additional questions and comments from the audience included:

- Has the Council resumed taking care of the trees in Page Park?
- Recommended brown wood-grain looking playground equipment,
- For clarification, recommendation that the Council at the end of each meeting summarize the actions to be taken on matters discussed, and
- The Council should protect, preserve and maintain the trees and green space in Page Park.

Judge Schwarzbart replied that there is no foundation for the notion that the trees in Page Park have ever been neglected. He stated that the recent comprehensive arborist report has confirmed that the general condition of the trees is good and with the continued maintenance and treatment recommended by the arborist the trees should continue to thrive.

Dr. Morris clarified his statement made several months ago regarding maintenance of the trees in Page Park pending the decision to renovate the Park. His recommendation at that time was not to prune the trees in Page Park. He stated that not pruning the trees in no way meant neglecting the trees and the trees were not neglected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The Capital Improvements Committee will meet tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Center. This meeting will be open to the public.

Our final Centennial program will be Wednesday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m. Storyteller Ellouise Schoettler will tell the story of Lillian Shoemaker Brown reminiscing about her history in the Village.

Please join us at the Center on Thursday, January 1, at 2:00 p.m. for our annual New Year's Day Open House.

The Council will hold an executive session after tonight's meeting to discuss Parcel 6.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Harris presented the minutes for the Council public session and executive session held on November 10, 2014 and recommended approval.

- (R) Ms. Harris moved; Mr. Grant seconded, that the Council public session and executive session minutes for the meetings held on November 10, 2014 be approved. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Dr. Morris presented the financial summary for the period ending November 30, 2014.

OLD BUSINESS:

Page Park Playground—Discussion/vote on revised proposal from A. Morton Thomas for design services: Mr. Mansfield reported receipt of a revised proposal from A. Morton Thomas to provide engineering and design services for the playground, per the Council's approved motion last month to restrict the playground area to the upper right hand corner of the Park. The new scope of work necessitated a revised proposal because the previously approved proposal from A. Morton Thomas was to include two separate playground areas on both sides of the Park. The cost is slightly less than the prior proposal because the scope of work has been reduced. Discussion ensued.

(R) Dr. Morris moved; Mr. Mertens seconded, that the Friendship Heights Village Council approve the proposal from A. Morton Thomas in the amount of \$12,300 to provide working drawings for the construction of a new playground and ADA compliant path at Page Park. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

(R) Mr. Mertens moved; Dr. Morris seconded, to transfer \$15,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund to cover the expenses of the A. Morton Thomas contract. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

(R) Mr. Mertens moved; Mr. Grant seconded, that the playground equipment in Page Park be limited to the younger age group (2-5 years old) in a single area previously described as the upper right hand corner or northeast quarter of the Park. This area was previously designated for the older age group (5-12). The play area will be enclosed with a low decorative fence. The site appropriate equipment will be of the highest quality and blend well with the environment. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Mr. Grant stated that a play area for the 5-12 age group could be considered at a later date.

(R) Mr. Mertens moved to eliminate the requirement for the removal of the back fence around Page Park. The motion was not seconded.

(R) Ms. Lovett moved; Dr. Morris seconded, that the renovation of Page Park include: replacing the old benches, repositioning the picnic tables as needed and the preservation and maintenance of the trees. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion ensued regarding the removal of the barbeque grill in Page Park. Concerns and comments included:

- The grill is a safety issue, especially with 2-5 year olds in that area.

- The grill is a retaining wall and should remain, even if modified as a seating area (according to A. Morton Thomas).
- The grill should be upgraded and maintained as a functioning part of the park.
- The removal of the grill would damage the roots of the trees in the area.

It was the consensus of the Council to defer to A. Morton Thomas regarding the grill.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. White seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. and move to Executive session to discuss Parcel 6 as cited under Section 10-508(a)(3) of the Maryland State Code. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth Demetra Harris
Secretary