

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 October 14, 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 10 residents.

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Ms. White made the following announcement: That she was saddened to announce that Maurice Trebach had passed away. Not only was Maurice a good friend to those of us sitting here, but also to the Village. During Maurice's years on the Village Council, including the ten years that he served as the Council Chairman, Maurice served with wisdom and devotion. If you are able, please rise to observe a minute of silence in Maurice Trebach's honor. The details of Maurice's service will be in the Post tomorrow.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

Dr. Alfred Muller (The Elizabeth) stated that at the last meeting, Dr. Morris suggested renaming Page Park in honor of the Centennial Year. Dr. Muller noted that at that time he objected to the idea and the method in which it was proposed. He stated that he has reconsidered and thinks that the name change is a good idea. Dr. Muller suggested that the Community Advisory Committee, which has representatives from all of the major buildings, be responsible for holding public

discussions on the Page Park playground to get input from the residents and report back to the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following additional announcements:

On Monday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m., the Village will host a meeting of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board along with representatives of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions from Northwest Washington. The meeting will be a community roundtable to discuss transportation, public safety, and other issues concerning Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Polls will be open at the Village Center from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A shredding truck will be in the Village on Wednesday, November 12, at 5:00 p.m.

Our fourth and final Centennial Saturday program will be Saturday, November 15, at 9:15 a.m., at the Village Center. The theme will be future land use development and past and future governance of the Village.

Following tonight's meeting there will be an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Harris presented the minutes for the Council public session held on September 8, 2014 and recommended approval.

- (R) Ms. Harris moved; Mr. Grant seconded, that the Council public session minutes for the meeting held on September 8, 2014 be approved. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Page Park playground--Discussion of the arborist report: Judge Schwarzbart stated that at the last meeting, the Council voted to get a report from an arborist

and an environmental specialist before implementing any aspect of the drawings for the redevelopment of Page Park. The arborist report is on display tonight for public review.

Mr. Mansfield reported that Andy Streagle, the arborist with A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. (company selected by the Council to prepare the final drawings for the Page Park playground) was invited to the meeting tonight, but was unable to attend. He is scheduled to attend the November 10 Council meeting. Mr. Mansfield suggested compiling questions tonight for discussion with the arborist.

Mr. Mansfield noted that the arborist's report indicated that fifteen trees were inspected. The report includes a list of the fifteen trees, the condition of trees and the impact of the potential playground on the trees and the tree roots.

Dr. Morris stated the Council had also received a report from David Wigglesworth of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission regarding the Page Park renovation compliance with the forest conservation regulations. He stated that he would not read the entire report. However, the report indicated that the Park renovations will have no conservation impact because the total size of the two lots, 14,865 square feet is less than the 40,000 square feet threshold, thus the forest conservation law does not apply.

- (R) **Dr. Morris moved, Mr. Grant seconded, that the report from David Wigglesworth of the M-NCPPC regarding the determination of the Page Park renovation compliance with the forest conservation regulations be hereby made a part of these minutes. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

Dr. Morris stated that in March 2012, he measured and cataloged the 143 trees on this property by generic name, size and condition (need to be topped, pruned, removed, etc.). This information for the 143 trees is also posted tonight for review. No recommendations were made for the trees in Page Park pending the Council's decision to improve the Park at a later date. It was obvious that some of the trees in the Park needed to be addressed.

Ms. Cleo Tavani (The Carleton) expressed concern about dead trees in Page Park and asked if the dead trees could be removed before winter.

Dr. Morris answered that there are no dead trees in Page Park. However, the river birch tree has a hanging limb that needs to be removed so that it does not damage the beech tree next to it.

Other questions and concerns were raised regarding the trees in Page Park. Judge Schwarzbart encouraged everyone to attend the November 10 meeting when the arborist will be available to answer questions.

(R) Ms. Harris moved; Mr. Mertens seconded, that 11 x 17 inch size copies of the arborist report be made available at the front desk in the Village Center for review by the Village residents. Copies of the report are not to be removed from the Center. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Mertens moved; Ms. White seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and move to Executive session to discuss personnel matters as cited under Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) of the Maryland State Code. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth Demetra Harris
Secretary

Subject: RE: Page Park/Forest Conservation Easement; Town of Friendship Heights
From: Wigglesworth, David (david.wigglesworth@montgomeryplanning.org)
To: jmansfield@friendshipheightsmd.gov;
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2014 6:59 PM

Mr. Mansfield:

Thank you for contacting me to determine compliance with the forest conservation regulations.

Under the Forest Conservation law "Sec. 22A-4. Applicability", except as otherwise expressly provided in this Chapter, this Chapter applies to : (a) a person required by law to obtain an approval or amendment to a development plan, diagrammatic plan, project plan, preliminary plan of subdivision, or site plan; ***(b) a person required by law to obtain special exception approval or a sediment control permit on a tract of land 40,000 square feet or larger,*** and who is not otherwise required to obtain an approval under subsection (a); (c) a person who performs any cutting or clearing, or any other land disturbing activity that would directly threaten the viability of, any champion tree, wherever located; (d) a government entity subject to mandatory referral on a tract of land 40,000 square feet or larger which is not exempt under subsection 22A5(f); (e) highway construction not exempt under subsections 22A-5 (e) or (p); and (f) a public utility not exempt under subsections 22A-5(g), (o)(1) and (2), or (p).

Since the properties that you are concerned about are Lot P-1 Block C (8766 sq. ft.) and Lot 2 Block C (6109 sq. ft.) with a total of 14,865 sq. ft. which is less than 40,000 the forest conservation law would not apply to these 2 lots.

I hope that the tot lot project goes well.

David

From: Julian Mansfield [mailto:jmansfield@friendshipheightsmd.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:11 PM
To: Wigglesworth, David
Subject: Re: Page Park/Forest Conservation Easement