

## VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

### VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
JOHN R. MERTENS, *Chairman*  
MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Vice Chairman*  
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*  
KATHLEEN COOPER, *Treasurer*  
DAVID LEWIS, *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 March 13, 2017

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael J. Dorsey, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; David Lewis, Parliamentarian; Clara M. Lovett, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; and approximately 15 residents.

#### **ABSENT:**

John R. Mertens, Chairman; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; and Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Dorsey called the Village Council Meeting to order.

#### **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:**

The Council heard questions and concerns from members of the audience. In response to a resident's comments, staff will look into adding a banner or notice to the website to announce the next Council meeting and that meetings are open to the public. Mr. Dorsey recommended for the next meeting that the Council discuss sending a letter to the architect expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the progress of the Center renovations.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The evening's agenda included the second and final public hearing on the Proposed Village Operating Budget for fiscal 2018 and, following the hearing, the Council's vote on the budget and tax rate.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Center.

The annual celebration of Community Day would take place on Thursday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Center.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session and Executive session of February 13.

**Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council public session of February 13. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of February 13. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ms. White presented the financial summaries for the period ending February 28, 2017.

**Final Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and tax rate for fiscal 2018:** Mr. Dorsey opened the floor for comments from the public on the Proposed Budget for fiscal 2018. The budget maintains the current tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 assessed property value. The public was invited to comment as recognized by the chair who advised that speakers were limited to three minutes and could not cede time to another individual. There were no speakers for the public hearing.

**Discussion/vote on Proposed Budget and tax rate for fiscal 2018:**

**Ms. White moved; Mr. Lewis seconded, to approve the fiscal 2018 Budget. The motion carried (5-0-0).**

**Ms. White moved; Ms. Durbin seconded, to approve the tax rate for fiscal 2018. The motion carried (5-0-0).**

In response to a resident's comments at the February meeting, staff stated that the estimated General Fund Balance for fiscal 2018 was reviewed and corrected.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from Program Advisory Committee:** Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on March 8. Her report is attached and is incorporated into these minutes.

**Report from Community Advisory Committee:** Mr. Lewis reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on March 8. His report is attached and is incorporated into these minutes. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 12, at 5:30 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

**Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:** Ms. White reported that the CCCFH met on February 15. Her report is attached and is incorporated into these minutes. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 15, at 8:00 p.m. at Somerset.

Mr. Dorsey communicated some residents' request that the Village representative to the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee should report on the TMD meeting at each Council meeting. Council Chairman John Mertens, who serves on the TMD Advisory Committee, might provide the monthly report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on Page Park tree replacement, water connection, and refurbishment of benches:** Mr. Mansfield reported that the Village received a proposal from our arborist to replace three birch trees removed from the west side of Page Park with a grouping of two Scarlet oaks, one Willow oak and one Copper Beech tree. The arborist reported that the River birch on the east side is showing signs of life, and treatment for this spring is recommended to stave off Birch borers. The European beech is in poor condition and is probably not worth trying to revive.

The Council authorized the staff to proceed with the tree replacement as proposed by ArborCare Tree Specialists.

The staff is navigating through the process of getting water to Page Park, which was complicated by the difficulty finding a plumbing contractor who could do the work. Staff received conflicting information from WSSC as to the process for bringing the water line into the Park from the street. The plumber needs to apply for a permit from WSSC and will submit a proposal for the plumber's portion of the work. Staff is in contact with WSSC to determine the cost of the permit and its fee for installing a new water meter.

A proposal has been received to replace the slats in the three existing benches. However, staff was informed this week that the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board is interested in donating a bench in memory of former

Village Council member Bob Schwarzbart, who had served on the Citizens Advisory Board until his death. A proposal for a new bench was sent to the Citizens Advisory Board. If the Advisory Board is willing to proceed, it would replace the bench in the walkway at the entrance to the park. The Council discussed the possibility of two benches to match the donation. Staff will obtain proposals.

**Update on possible development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard:** Village attorney Norman Knopf stated that he did not yet have a report. He expected to meet with Bob Harris, the attorney for the property owner would have an update for the next meeting. There was a brief discussion on parcel 4.

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Ms. White seconded that the Council send a letter to the appropriate governmental officials requesting their support of the Friendship Heights Sector Plan recommendations for parcel 4, similar to the Council's position in support of the Sector Plan's recommendations for parcel 6. Mr. Knopf advised against sending the letter at this time, since he has not had a chance to meet with Mr. Harris and has not yet researched the allowable development on the site. Mr. Dorsey rescinded his motion.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion/vote on selection of judges for Village Council election:** Ms. White nominated the following individuals for the Council's consideration: County Council member Roger Berliner (Chief Judge); Sue Byrnes, 4701 Willard Avenue; William Corey, 4620 North Park; and Ron Irion, Highland House. These individuals served in 2015 and have agreed to serve if appointed by the Council.

**The Council approved by unanimous consent the nominees to serve as judges for the Village Council election on May 8.**

**Discussion of honoring Village Resident:** There were comments to and from the Council regarding honoring Cleo Tavani in connection with Page Park.


**Ms. White moved, Ms. Lovett seconded, that a plaque should be placed in Page Park and a tree should be planted there to honor Cleo Tavani for her contributions to the community on behalf of the park. The motion failed 2-3.**

After the Council business was concluded, Mayor White asked Mr. Mansfield about the status of the bond bill for the Center renovations. Mr. Mansfield stated that the Board of Public Works had voted to approve our \$100,000 grant. Payment was expected within 10 business days of approval.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Paula Durbin

Secretary

## April 12 Community Advisory Committee meeting

Attendees: Al Muller, Sheila Footer, Karin Liva, Jean McNelis, Bob Joiner, Stephanie Chak, Mike Dorsey, Melanie White, David Lewis, Clara Lovett

- Old Business
  - Willoughby Park lawn: Fence is down but sod has empty patches
  - Questionnaire: Raised with council but deferred. Will be considered in May
- New Business
  - Sheila Footer
    - Al pointed out that the FHNN has 2 tiers of membership
      - "Classic" ~ \$400
        - Services
      - "Social" ~ \$300
        - Movies, speakers, etc.
  - Karin Liva
    - Curbside grass worn out on South Park along the park avenue.
  - Parking signs
    - The new signs are difficult to replace when they've been knocked apart. Is staff happy with them?
  - Mike Dorsey
    - Dumpsters on Willard ave, in front of 4701 Willard occupy a whole lane of traffic. John Mertens might be able to address this with the transportation cmte
    - Cars in Elizabeth turnaround are routinely blocking the village bus. Council should write a letter to the board of the Elizabeth. Al: We should include a request to ensure that the newsletter is distributed. Any letter to the board should specify distribution to all board members.
      - Clara indicated that the Carleton drive is often blocked as well.
  - Melanie White: Council meeting will have presentation on 5550 Friendship
  - David Lewis: it appears that the Willoughby is preparing to pour cement in the plot along Willard close to the Carleton, where a dumpster is often placed.
- Next meeting: May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30
- Next council meeting is 4/17 @ 7:30
- May meeting: 5/15
- Community day: April 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM – 8PM

Notes from Program Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 8, 2017

Committee and staff members present: Harriett Karuhije, Rita Miller, Gertrude Slifkin, Ron Irion, Jan Cary, Melanie Rose White, Elaine El-Khawas, Stephanie Olshan, Bob Loftus, Anne O'Neil and Jennie Fogarty.

Helen Vamvas and Nancy White could not attend. Both called ahead with suggestions- Nancy about Toby's Dinner Theater and Helen about the Toulouse Lautrec exhibit at the Phillips Collection through April.

Jennie went over upcoming trips and programs. Anne had information about a production of "Titanic" at Good Counsel High School and organizing a bus trip for anyone interested in attending the April 1 matinee. The cost would be \$42 for the bus and a ticket. She then discussed a possible fall trip to Wilmington, Brooklyn and Long Island. Though she didn't know the total cost yet, she had figured the hotels and bus alone would be \$1,071. Meals and museum admissions, etc, would add to that. Committee members were asked to rate their interest in the trip from 1 to 10.

Ron

Said he was an 8 for the trip. He suggested other day trips: Amish Market, the Odyssey, and the Laurel Racetrack. He asked Melanie for an update on the shopping center renovation. Melanie said she understood new restaurants would open the end of 2017.

Melanie

Was an 8 and reminded everyone of the final budget hearing on March 13.

Elaine

Asked again about offering CPR classes and suggesting cutting the trip to 3 days and focusing on Brooklyn.

Rita

She proposed a trip to Tanglewood, a talk on healthy eating out, a musical group called the Parnas Sisters, showing travel films and asking Adventure Theatre to bring a puppet show here.

Stephanie

Suggested several weekend children's programs: kids and flamenco dancing; a forum on bullying; and a tour of the folk art at the American Art Museum followed by a workshop. She also suggested a nighttime tour of DC in a double-decker bus; a tour of Brookside Gardens in connection with the Christmas time visit to the Mormon Temple; showing outdoor movies in the summer; bringing an ice cream truck to the park and holding outdoor games. She mentioned perhaps asking FHNN for help with finding volunteers for activities. She also recommended the Homer and Sargent exhibit at the Phil Museum of Art and another at the MFA in Richmond of Yves Saint Laurent fashions.

Gertrude

Prefers trips with only one hotel. Her ideal trip was one night in NYC with two shows. Anne mentioned that another thought for the fall is a trip to Mohonk Mountain House with trips out from there to Hudson Valley sites.

Jan

Said she would give a trip to Mohonk a 9 or 10. She brought brochures from Strathmore.

Bob

Suggested a moonlight walk at the Arboretum; a bus trip to Antietam, Gettysburg or Manassas; going out with an astronomer to look at the night sky; and a visit to the American Diner to see old movies.

The committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, May 3, at 4:30 p.m.

**Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights**

Minutes of the Meeting of February 15, 2017: Next Meeting: March 15, 2017

**ATTENDEES:**

Brookdale	Bob Cope, Mariel Goetz, Mikel Moore
Chevy Chase West	Lloyd Guerci
Chevy Chase Village	
Drummond	
Friendship Heights	Melanie White, John Mertens
	Mike Dorsey, Norman Knopf
Glen Echo Heights	Harry Pfohl
Green Acres-Glen Cove	
Kenwood (the subdivision)	Jenny Sue Dunner, Pat Johnson
Kenwood House Coop	Judy Throckmorton, Jean Iker
Kenwood Condominium	Sue Schumacher
Kenwood Place Condo	
Somerset	Marnie Shaul, John Frink, Jeffrey Slavin
Springfield	Phyllis Edelman
Sumner	Sid Clemans, Diane Schwager
Sumner Village Condo	
Westmoreland Hills	
Westbard Mews	Lynne Battle
Westwood Mews	Frank Anderson
Wood Acres	Eric Fedowitz,

Guests: Jennifer O’Keefe (Website), Laurene Sherlock (Sumner Square)

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Mr. Guerci called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. The Agenda for the Meeting was approved with the addition of the membership of Friendship Heights Village. The Minutes of the Meeting of January 18, 2017 were approved.

ADMISSION OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS: Mr. Knopf



## **Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights**

Friendship Heights Village was involved in the formation of CCCFH in 1972, but withdrew during the 1980's, but now wishes to rejoin. Its admission was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

### **BETHESDA DOWNTOWN PLAN: Mr. Guerici**

Information is becoming available on Marriott's planned move to Bethesda. Marriott is expecting numerous employees to commute using vehicles. The County would lease the County's Woodmont Corner garage to Marriott on weekdays. In addition, residents have a vision on parking lots. Residents from East Bethesda and the Town of Chevy Chase hope to see parking lots on the east side of the Bethesda plan area become parks.

The draft Bethesda downtown plan and associated Bethesda overlay ZTA are before the County Council. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee has held one session. The draft plan would map heights but would not provide for density beyond that allowed in the existing plan. It would provide for an owner/developer to obtain additional density through several mechanisms. There would be a cap on total new density, which was not debated by the PHED Committee. But who gets density and how is controversial. The Committee did not appear to be receptive to a mechanism involving priority sending sites and receiving sites. It did seem receptive to the concept of the developer buying density from the county which could then use the funds for parks. There were also concerns that development, which would occur where a developer is ready to proceed, would not occur in preferred locations. Height restrictions would be important and the plan has higher heights near the Metro. The next session of the PHED Committee will be on transportation on February 27, 2017.

### **WESTBARD: Mr. Guerici**

The Planning Board will hold a hearing on Equity One's revised sketch plan on February 23, 2017. Various issues of interest to CCCFH and its members were discussed for inclusion in CCCFH's forthcoming letter to the Planning Board and in testimony, as well as who might address those issues. Among the issues are the square footage ceiling that should be

## **Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights**

generally approved in light of the planning staff's recommended carve out of the HOC/Westwood Towers site, residential units in buildings on the Westwood I site (other than the townhouses), building heights in light of MPDUs above 12.5%, distribution of MPDUs, and amenities. As to amenities, there were discussions on the stream valley buffer, work proposed for the Westwood II site and the significant and problematic reduction of the buffer behind the Bowlmor site. Also, the civic green is too small and the connectivity is lacking between Westwood I and the Capital Crescent Trail.

**ROOFTOP TERRACES:** Mr. Knopf

On March 27, 2017, the PHED Committee will take up the ZTA concerning rooftop terraces. Mr. Knopf, Ms. Battle and Ms. Johnson will discuss addressing the issue.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ms. Schumacher

The report was received.

**MCCF:** Ms. Schumacher

The last meeting involved a review of the Public School Board of Education Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

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