

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Chairman*
JOHN R. MERTENS, *Vice Chairman*
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN COOPER, *Treasurer*
CAROLINA ZUMARAN JONES, *Parliamentarian*
DAVID LEWIS, *Historian*
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING October 10, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael J. Dorsey, Chairman; John R. Mertens, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Parliamentarian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager and approximately 100 residents.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dorsey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council heard questions and concerns from members of the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

A shredding truck will be in the Village on Wednesday, October 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Fall Festival celebration takes place on Wednesday, October 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Center. The October newsletter has details.

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residents can drop off expired or unwanted prescription drugs at the Village Center.

Mr. Dorsey announced that, at the request of the Village, the owners of the “pink house” at 4607 Willard Avenue will be removing a large tree that is dead and is leaning toward 4620 North Park Avenue.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council’s public session of September 11 and the closed session of September 27.

Ms. Durbin moved to approve the minutes of the Council’s public session of September 11 and closed session of September 27. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for the period ending September 30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Program Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on September 13 and discussions included a proposed trip to France with Viking River Cruises the last week of July 2018; and whether to include the cost of Village programming in the proposed Village-wide survey. The next meeting is scheduled for November 1. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

Report from Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on October 4 and discussions included noise from the shuttle bus (which may be a radiator issue, according to Mr. Mansfield); whether to include street lights in the proposed Village-wide survey; re-routing the bus to exit the Chevy Chase Center on Western Avenue; possible development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard; and the need for additional committee members. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 5:30 p.m. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the CCCFH met on September 18. Most of the discussion focused on the County’s proposed plan for bicycle routes and the details for the bike lanes in Somerset. David Anspacher, project manager, indicated that review of the plans for Friendship Heights is not finished and no final maps are available to the CCCFH. There were updates on possible development of 5500 Friendship Boulevard, the Westbard Shopping Center’s self-storage units; and discussion of legislation pending on the cemetery. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 8:00 p.m. at Somerset. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Presentation by the owner of 5550 Friendship Boulevard on proposed development: The Council heard further from Mr. Stoddard of RJS Realty Services, representing the owners of the property, on their intention to redevelop Parcel 4. The information presented as well as updates on the progress of the developer's application for classification of the property as a floating zone will be posted at www.5550FriendshipBlvd.com.

Residents' subsequent commentary focused on, *inter alia*, the impact of the intended project on density, infrastructure, parking, traffic, noise, views, green space and the quality of life in Friendship Heights.

Council discussion re application for floating zone amendment: Ms. Durbin read a resolution expressing the Council's opposition to local map Amendment H-124, which would rezone 5550 Friendship Boulevard to allow construction of a condominium structure 180 feet high, and to the proposed plan for development. The resolution is attached and is incorporated into these minutes.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to approve the resolution expressing the Council's opposition to local map Amendment H-124 and the proposed development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Update on Page Park Improvements: Ms. Durbin reported that the new benches would be installed the week of October 23. WSSC did not find the curb box for the water connection and the Village will have to install one. The new connection will cost approximately \$9,000, to be confirmed by WSSC, plus additional cost for the plumber. The goal is to have water available before spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on nomination for Village Council vacancy to be submitted to the Montgomery County Council for approval: Mr. Dorsey reported that three very qualified candidates were interviewed by the Council on September 27. The council voted by paper ballot to nominate Alexandra Kielty. The nomination will be submitted to the County Council for approval.

Discussion/vote on bids for tree pruning: Staff recommended approval of proposals from Brightview for tree pruning in Humphrey Park and ArborCare Tree Specialist for tree pruning in Willoughby Park.

The proposal from Brightview in the amount of \$4,575 for tree pruning in Humphrey Park was approved by unanimous consent.

The proposal from ArborCare Tree Specialist in the amount of \$8,225 for tree pruning in Willoughby Park was approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion/vote on bids for pavement repairs: Staff recommended approval of the proposal from State Construction Corporation to repair two paved areas, one on The Hills Plaza by Somerset, and the other on North Park Avenue by the red house.

The proposal from State Construction Corporation in the amount of \$11,600 to repair two paved areas, one on The Hills Plaza by Somerset, and the other on North Park Avenue by the red house, was approved by unanimous consent.

Discussions/vote on revisions of retainer agreement with Attorney Norman Knopf:

Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Mertens seconded, that the Council amend the scope of the existing retainer agreement with Attorney Norman Knopf to include representation of the Village in any proceeding or matter involving redevelopment that impacts the Village. This motion also authorized Atty. Knopf to: (1) with respect to Parcel 4, located at 5550 Friendship Blvd, represent, on a cost-sharing basis, other parties whose interests are the same as those of the Village; (2) retain appropriate professionals, including expert witnesses; (3) continue to inform residents of condominium and other buildings about (a) the pending application filed by RSH Development, LLC, to rezone Parcel 4, (b) any relevant proceedings, and (c) how to make their views known in those proceedings. This motion was approved 6-0.


Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, that the Council approve the amended retainer agreement, dated September 25, 2017, specifying an hourly rate of \$400, as submitted by Attorney Norman Knopf. This motion was approved 6-0.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, that the Council authorize \$30,000 to cover the initial cost of its opposition to the pending application to redevelop Parcel 4. This motion was approved by 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Paula Durbin
Secretary