

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 ZUMARÁN-JONES, *Parliamentarian*
ALEXANDRA KIELTY, *Historian*
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; John R. Mertens, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Alexandria Kielty, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 15 residents.

ABSENT:

Michael J. Dorsey, Chairman; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; and Carolina Zumarán-Jones, Parliamentarian.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mertens 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 welcomed new Village Council member Alexandria Kielty, who has been officially confirmed and sworn in to fill the Council seat vacated by David Lewis. She is now the Council Historian and will be assigned to the Capital Improvements Committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session of October 10.

Ms. Durbin moved to approve the minutes of the Council's public session minutes of October 10. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Mertens presented the financial summary for the period ending October 31.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Program Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on November 1. Discussions included a proposed trip to France with Viking River Cruises next summer, and a possible trip to The Wharf in D.C. See the newsletter for information on the January meeting. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

Report from Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on November 8. Discussions included (1) whether a bulletin board is needed on Willard Avenue and (2) whether to place at two or three Village entrances signs reading "You have reached the Village of Friendship Heights." This idea had been raised several years ago. See the newsletter for information on the January meeting. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the CCCFH met on October 18 and heard (1) updates on the County's proposed bike lanes on Somerset streets and (2) another presentation from Mr. Stoddard of RJS Realty on the owners' proposal to develop 5550 Friendship Boulevard. The CCCFH voted unanimously to uphold the resolution passed by the Friendship Heights Village Council opposing the proposed development. The next meeting is scheduled for November 15 at 8:00 p.m. at Somerset. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Page Park Improvements: Ms. Durbin provided the following report: The last three summers were among the hottest on record. Due to the loss of several mature trees in Page Park, seven saplings were planted in April and June and equipped with slow-release water bags. The new willow oak, scarlet oaks, crepe myrtles and beech were selected and placed in consultation with the Village arborist. All are under warranty; two that developed cankers will be

replaced this spring. In July, staff and Council members met with a landscape professional to discuss improving grass cover as well as a design for shrubs and perennials along pathways and in the left corner bordered by the conservation area. Three new benches were installed in November.

Future improvements are contingent on installation of an irrigation system. In July, after months of searching, Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission located a water source under North Park Avenue. WSSC recently confirmed that it will route water from the source into the park at no cost to the Village, work that could take six months to schedule and complete. The Village will then require the services of a plumber, estimated to cost more than \$5,000. Staff will solicit bids for the Council to consider at its December meeting.

The bidding process also applies to installation of a sprinkler system, the electrical source required to make it operational and the plantings, which will require careful coordination.

Update on 5320 Willard Avenue property: County Park and Planning officials informed Attorney Norman Knopf, Village Liaison, that the house is vacant. Mr. Knopf advised the officials that it would be “very upsetting” to the community for the house to be rented again as the property had been acquired as park land accessible to the public and has yet to be put to that use. At the end of this month, he and several Council members will attend another meeting scheduled with these park officials, which Mr. Knopf will report on at the next Council meeting. Questions from the audience followed.

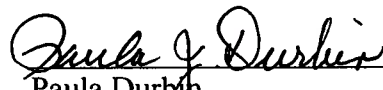
NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Mertens adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin
Secretary