

## 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

March 20, 2018

### ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael J. Dorsey, Chairman; John R. Mertens, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Parliamentarian; Alexandra Kielty, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 10 residents.

### ABSENT:

Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer.

### 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:

The Council met in closed session on February 12 at 6:45 p.m. with its attorney to discuss legal matters regarding Parcel 6. The Council Personnel Committee met in closed session on February 27 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss hiring staff. The Council Personnel Committee met in closed session on March 15 at 5:30 p.m. to interview candidates for the position of Program Director.

The Council's agenda included the final hearing and vote on the Proposed Village Operating Budget for fiscal 2019 and tax rate.

The annual Community Day celebration would take place on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Center.

The forum for candidates running for Montgomery County Executive is scheduled for Monday, June 4, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; the forum for candidates running to represent District 1 on the Montgomery County Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session of February 12; the Council's closed session of February 12; and the closed sessions of the Council's Personnel Committee held February 27 and March 15.

**Ms. White moved, Mr. Mertens seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of February 12; the Council's closed session of February 12; and the closed sessions of the Council's Personnel Committee held February 27 and March 15. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. White presented the financial summary for the period ending February 28, 2018.

**Final Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and tax rate for fiscal 2019:** Mr. Dorsey opened the floor for comments from the public on the Proposed Budget for fiscal 2019, which retains the current tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. Speakers were limited to three minutes and could not cede time to another individual. There were no speakers on the Proposed Budget and tax rate.

**Discussion/vote on Proposed Budget and tax rate for fiscal 2019:**

**Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the fiscal 2019 Budget. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

**Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the tax rate for fiscal 2019. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from Community Advisory Committee:** Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee had met on March 7 and discussed the following: (1) The illumination of crosswalks on Willard Avenue; (2) the removal of graffiti in Willoughby Park; (3) the telephone conversation between Al Muller and Lee Watts at Life Care Services regarding possible development of Parcel 6; (4) possible inaccuracies in the March newsletter regarding Moussa Moaadel's property on Willard Avenue (see the April newsletter for Mr. Moaadel's statement); (5) the lack of programs at the Village Center for residents in their 20s and 30s, which the committee recommended addressing with a sangria-making class and cooking demonstrations. The next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, April 4, at 5:30 p.m. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

**Report from Program Advisory Committee:** Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on March 14 and discussed the following: (1) A trip to Shepherdstown; (2) the identification of Village residents to be honored at the Community Day celebration on the occasion of their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, May 16, 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 February 21 and discussed the following: (1) The acceptance of Somerset House as a member; (2) the presentation by the developer of the new Westwood property; (3) the testimony of the Council and Harry Pfohl in support of the new refresher program for County parks; (4) the update from Marnie Shaul on the County's proposed master plan for bikeways; (5) an update on Parcel 6. The next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, March 21, at 8:00. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on possible development of Parcel 6:** Ms. White reported that, at Norman Knopf's request, she and Mike Dorsey met with him on March 14 to hear a summary of his March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with Steve Robins, attorney for 1788 Holdings and the Chevy Chase Land Company. Norman reported (1) Steve's confirmation of plans for a condominium building on Willard Avenue and a senior living facility on North Park and (2) the lack of further details. Steve asked Norman regarding residents' concerns with respect to possible redevelopment of Parcel 6. Norman advised that he had not discussed such concerns but believed they might include (1) the obstruction of views, (2) increased density in the Village generally and "canyonization" along North Park Avenue specifically, and (3) that any development comply with the Sector Plan.

The Council noted that facts are still being gathered and that a new appraisal of the Village-owned house on North Park would be helpful as the situation

develops. The appraisal on file is old and does not consider redevelopment pending of Parcel 6. A new appraisal would be useful to any discussion of the future of the property and in negotiations with 1788 and the Chevy Chase Land Company. This does not indicate an intention to sell 4602.

After a brief discussion. Ms. White recommended obtaining a new appraisal of 4602 North Park Avenue.

**Ms. White moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to obtain a new appraisal of Village-owned property at 4602 North Park Avenue. The Council approved the motion by unanimous consent.**

**Ms. White moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to authorize Norman Knopf to take the lead in obtaining the new appraisal of the property at 4602 North Park Avenue. The Council approved the motion by unanimous consent.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion/vote on request from The Carleton to remove dead tree by the Carleton loading dock:** A letter received from GreenSweep, the Carleton's landscape maintenance contractor, requested permission to remove a dead oak tree next to the loading dock.

**Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to approve the request to remove a dead oak tree located by the Carleton Condominium's loading dock on Shoemaker Lane. The Council approved the motion by unanimous consent.**

**Discussion/vote on proposal for fountain and irrigation systems maintenance:** Mr. Mansfield reported that a solicitation for bids yielded only one proposal, which was from Culler Irrigation Company. It covers a three-year period with a fixed price at the current rate. The total annual cost is \$12,062.48, which includes the maintenance of the fountain and the irrigation systems in Humphrey Park, Willoughby Park and 4602 North Park. Mr. Mansfield said Culler has performed satisfactorily over many years and he recommended approval of the proposal.

**Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. Kielty seconded, to approve the proposal from Culler Irrigation Company to provide fountain and irrigation systems maintenance at an annual cost of \$12,062.48 for the next three years. The Council approved the proposal by unanimous consent.**

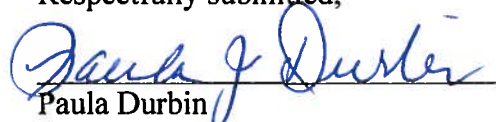
**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.**

**Before adjournment Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, that the Council enter into closed session pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provision Article, Section 3-305(b)(1), which allows the Council to hold a closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.**

**The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Paula Durbin  
Secretary