

## 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

September 17, 2018

### ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael J. Dorsey, Chairman; John R. Mertens, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Parliamentarian; Alexandra Kielty, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and 14 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:

All Village residents are invited to join the Council for the Fall Festival celebration on Thursday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Center. Check the October newsletter for details.

The next Council meeting will be on Monday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m., due to the Columbus Day holiday on October 8.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Kielty seconded, to approve the minutes of the

Council's public session of July 9. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summaries for the periods ending July 31 and August 31, 2018.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from the Program Advisory Committee:** Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on September 12 and discussed the following:

- (1) Preliminary results of the Village survey. Data is still being compiled. More information will be available in the October newsletter and on the Village website.
- (2) Village trip updates: Trips to Falling Water and Newport (New England) have waiting lists.
- (3) Village Fall Festival celebration: The focus is Greece and the caterer will be the Big Greek Café.
- (4) New Committee members. Member status of two teenagers is pending their nomination at the October meeting, and they have already offered program suggestions related to children and families. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m.

**Report from Community Advisory Committee:** Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on August 8 (no report) and September 12 and discussed the following:

- (1) Early arrival of bus arriving at the Chevy Chase Center, which will be investigated;
- (2) The Village survey results;
- (3) The grassy strip on Shoemaker Lane; and
- (4) Determination of party responsible for replacing the trees on Willard Avenue. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m.

**Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:** Ms.

White reported that the CCCFH met on July 18 and discussed the following:

- (1) Presentation from a project manager of the Capital Crescent Trail at the Little Falls Parkway on 12 alternatives to improve safety at the trail crossing.
- (2) The recent development of the Regency plan in Bethesda.  
Because of renovations at Somerset the next meeting is scheduled Thursday, September 20, at 8:00 at the little house on Elliot Road in Bethesda. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

**Report on joint meeting of the Capital Improvements and Communications Committees:** Mr. Mertens reported that the Capital Improvements and Communications Committees met on September 13 to discuss the two design concepts received for replacing the bulletin board in Humphrey Park and adding

an entrance sign at the corner of South Park Avenue and Friendship Boulevard. The consensus favored the concept from Art Display with some suggested changes. The staff will follow up to elicit a proposal.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Discussion/vote on proposed amendment to Village by-laws:** Ms. Cooper presented the revised version of proposed amendments to the Village by-laws that would clarify the Council's authority to hire the Village Manager and the Village Manager authority to hire the Village staff. This amendment would replace Article VI, Section 1.

**Ms. Cooper moved, Mr. Mertens seconded, that the Village Council accept amendment the Village by-laws as follows: The Village Council shall hire, via a public solicitation, a Village Manager to conduct the business of the Village. The Village Manager shall have the authority**

- (a) to identify additional positions necessary to the efficient operation of the Village;**
- (b) to propose those positions to the Council for approval and funding;**
- (c) to recruit candidates via a public solicitation and select the individuals to fill those positions, pending Council approval, unless waived.**
- (d) to supervise and evaluate employee performance; and**
- (e) to terminate employees as he/she determines appropriate, pending Council approval, unless waived.**

**The Village Council, in consultation with the Village Manager, shall develop personnel policies and set salaries and benefits. The motion carried. (6-1-0)**

**Discussion of Page Park with Village arborist:** Mr. Dorsey gave a brief historical overview of the condition of Page Park and improvements in Page Park, Humphrey Park and Willoughby Park.

Village arborist Kevin Clair addressed questions and concerns from the Council and audience on the type and appropriate size trees for Page Park. He explained why planting large trees in Page Park would not be a wise investment.

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to transplant the three crepe myrtles from the center of the stone wall to a location to be determined by the arborist; to plant one 5-inch London plane tree in the stone wall area and to plant three honey locust trees of similar size in a location to be decided by the arborist. ArborCare was asked to submit a proposal. The goal is to have this project completed by the end of November 2018. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

Ms. Cooper excused herself and left the meeting.

**Discussion/vote on Plant Design for Page Park:** Ms. Durbin presented the plant design provided by Greensweep. A brief discussion followed.

**Mr. Mertens moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, that the Council approve the design from Greensweep as guidance for planting in Page Park. The motion carried. (6-0-0)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paula J. Durbin", written over a horizontal line.

Paula Durbin  
Secretary