

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Vice Chairman*
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN G. COOPER, *Treasurer*
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Parliamentarian*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian; Michael Dorsey, Council member; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 25 residents.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mezey 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 contractor working on The Carleton's property damaged a magnolia tree that had been the subject of a request for removal, which the Council had denied. The Carleton's report to the Council on options for replacing the tree is expected to be on the agenda for the September 9 Council meeting.

In response to a request at last month's Council meeting to clarify the procedure for accommodating residents moving in or out of the Village, staff announced that storage pods may be parked in designated loading zones for periods not to exceed 48 hours. Upon request, and with sufficient notice, staff will use cones or tape to reserve the loading zones.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the Maryland General Provisions, the Council's Personnel Committee met in closed session on June 20 at 2:30 p.m. to review staff salaries for fiscal 2020.

There will be no Council meeting in August. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of June 10; minutes of Council Personnel Committee's closed session of June 20; minutes of Council Finance Committee's meeting of July 2. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for the period ending June 30, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee met on June 19 and discussed the following:

- (1) The zoning text amendment to come before the County Council on July 9, which would permit accessory dwelling units in residential areas, a matter that would affect communities composed of single-family housing but not Friendship Heights. A representative from the CCCFH was to attend.
- (2) The withdrawal from the County Council's consideration of a zoning amendment on animal boarding and care, which would have allowed individual homeowners to accommodate up to four dogs or cats in the area behind their home.

The next meeting will be held on July 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the little house in Westmoreland Hills in Bethesda.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion of Page Park Grass: Ms. Durbin reported that Page Park grass has been reseeded and other than the bare spots where weed killer has been applied, the grass is coming in fairly well, thanks in part to dog walkers' compliance with the signs to keep dogs off planted areas during the reseeding process. She expressed concern that the grass could again be destroyed by dog urine now that it is time to open the area cordoned off by tape. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, to remove the tape cordoning off the reseeded area of Page Park and in the interest of protecting the grass, to post appropriate signs to request dogs be kept off on the grassy areas of Page Park. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposals for tree removal/pruning: Mr. Mansfield reported that the two bids received are not comparable. In order for the discrepancies to be resolved, this item was tabled until the September Council meeting.

Discussion/vote on proposal from Clean Advantage for increase in maintenance contract to provide raises for maintenance staff:

Ms. White moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to fund a 3 percent increase in compensation for the maintenance staff as proposed by the contractor Clean Advantage. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion/vote on nominees to serve on the Community Advisory Committee:

Ms. White moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, to approve the following nominees for the Community Advisory Committee: Sandra Schwarzbart (4701 Willard); Ken Niles (The Willoughby); Ethel Pacheco (The Willoughby); Shirley Carr (Highland House West); David Doctor (The Willoughby); and William Corey (4620 North Park). The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion/vote on renewal of membership in Maryland Municipal League:

Mr. Pirnie moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to approve the Maryland Municipal League membership for FY2020 in the amount of \$9,258.26. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion/vote on recommendations by the Council Finance Committee regarding the expiration of the lease of the Village's house at 4602 North Park Avenue: Ms. Cooper reported that the Council Finance Committee met on July 2 to consider the upcoming vacancy and communicated its recommended motions as follows:

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, that the Council approve leasing the property to a new tenant. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, that the Council delegate staff to accomplish this goal. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, that, in the interest of obtaining an outcome favorable to the Village, staff be given the flexibility to, subject to Council approval, (a) set the terms of the agent/broker commission (not to exceed 7 percent of the contract amount); and (b) negotiate a lease including terms and conditions of rental, renewal and termination. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, that the Council appoint Kathy Cooper liaison between the staff and the Council during the process. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Pirnie moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and to enter into closed session, pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provision Article, Section 3-305 (b)(1), to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,


Paula Durbin