

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*

JOHN R. MERTENS, *Chairman*

MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Vice Chairman*

PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*

KATHLEEN COOPER, *Treasurer*

DAVID LEWIS, *Parliamentarian*

CLARA M. LOVETT, *Historian*

JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

LESLIE STRATHMANN, *Village Manager 1987-1996*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

February 13, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; John R. Mertens, Chairman; Michael J. Dorsey, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; David Lewis, Parliamentarian; Clara M. Lovett, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 15 Residents.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Mertens called the Village Council Meeting to order.

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 meeting would include the first public hearing on the Proposed Village Operating Budget for Fiscal 2018. A second public hearing on the Proposed Budget is scheduled for March 13.

The Community Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Center.

The Program Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet in March at the time and place announced in the March newsletter.

Guidelines for Village Council Election scheduled for Monday, March 8, will appear in the March Village newsletter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session of January 9.

Ms. Durbin moved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of January 9. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summaries for the period ending January 31, 2017.

Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and tax rate for fiscal 2018: Mr. Mertens opened the floor for comments from the public on the Proposed Budget for fiscal 2018. The budget maintains the current tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 assessed property value. The public was invited to comment as recognized by the chair, who advised that speakers were limited to three minutes and could not cede time to another individual. A second public hearing on the Proposed Budget is scheduled for March 13.

In response to a resident's comments, staff stated the following: The cost of improvements proposed for Page Park would be drawn from the Capital Improvements Fund. The responsibilities of the arborist include: periodic inspections, treatment of trees, and addressing issues as they are identified. The estimated balance in the General Fund would be reviewed and corrected as necessary.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on Village membership in Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve Village membership in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights. The motion carried 4-3-0.

Consistent with its earlier motion that carried in July, the Council re-confirmed by unanimous consent Ms. White and Mr. Mertens, as Council representatives to the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship

Heights and also approved Mr. Dorsey as alternate. The representatives will report monthly to the Council and will recommend actions on CCCFH initiatives as appropriate.

Update on status of 5320 Willard Avenue property: Ms. Durbin reported that no action has taken place toward the removal of the fence and other conversions of the property into park use, as had been discussed at the December 2016 meeting with representatives of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). She read (1) a letter from the Village liaison to the Chairman of M-NCPPC requesting a status report on the proposals, and (2) the Chairman's response explaining the delay. The Village liaison will follow up and report to the Council. The communications are attached and are incorporated in these minutes.

Discussion of Village strategic plan: Ms. Durbin reminded the Council that the strategic goals had been adopted as guidelines and should be observed. There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by representatives of the property at 5550 Friendship Boulevard about possible additional development on the site: Robert Stoddard, of RJS Realty Services, spoke of the possibility of additional development on the landscaped area and of renovation of the plaza near the south side of the office building. He did not present a plan but announced the intention to elicit community input and addressed questions and concerns from the audience and the Council.

Discussion/vote on Proposal from League of Women Voters to manage the Council election.

The Council approved by unanimous consent the proposal from the League of Women Voters to manage the Village Council election on May 8, 2017.

Report on Village archives: Council historian Lovett reported that the culling and organizing of the Village archives is complete and distributed an inventory and recommendations for future management.

Property at 5550 Friendship Boulevard: Ms. Durbin spoke of the need (1) to expand the Council's agreement with Norman Knopf to cover 5550 Friendship Boulevard and any other land use issues in the Village and (2) resolve in executive session any concerns about expanding representation.

Mr. Lewis moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to close the public session and enter into closed session to consult with counsel pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305 (b) (7). The motion carried 7-0-0.

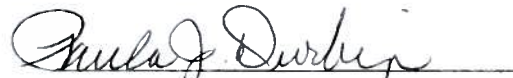
Having resolved any concerns, the Council returned to re-open the public session.

Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Lewis seconded, to expand the Council's agreement with Norman Knopf to include additional land use matters of concern to the Council. The motion carried 6-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Mertens adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Paula Durbin
Secretary