

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 April 17, 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 50 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. In response to a resident's comments, staff will post on the bulletin board another list of certified candidates for the upcoming Council election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The return of shredding truck to the Village on Wednesday, April 19, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., to offer residents this service of charge.

Community Day scheduled for Thursday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. to mark the anniversary of the opening of the renovated Village Center, as reported in the Village Newsletter.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Village Center, with a Montgomery County Police Officer in charge of collecting and safely disposing of unwanted or expired medications.

The Village Council election on Monday, May 8, with polls open at the Center from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and the Council's swearing-in ceremony on Monday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session of March 13; and the closed session of March 29.

Ms. Durbin moved to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of March 13; and the closed session of March 29. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Community Advisory Committee: Mr. Lewis reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on April 12. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 10, at 5:30 p.m.

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the CCCFH met on March 15. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 19, at 8:00 p.m. at Somerset. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

Report from the Friendship Heights Transportation Management (TMD) District Advisory Community: Mr. Mertens reported that the TMD met on April 11. Its meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the community center in Wisconsin Place.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on 5320 Willard Avenue Property: Ms. Durbin reported that four months after delegates from Friendship Heights and other communities met with officials of Park and Planning, the fence has not been removed. Village liaison Norman Knopf agreed to communicate with Park and Planning regarding the next step and report to the Council.

Update on Page Park tree replacement, water connection, and refurbishment of benches: Ms. Durbin reported that four new trees are scheduled to be planted: three oaks on April 21 and a copper beech on April 28. The river birch on the east side has been treated for borer infestation. The copper beech in the center of the Park cannot be saved. According to our arborist, the decorative wall around the tree has stressed the roots causing the bark to deteriorate. As a replacement for the copper beech, the arborist recommended a grouping of three crape myrtle trees to fit inside the wall. The Council agreed to continue the discussion of the copper beech replacement and the future of the decorative wall at its next meeting.

Mr. Mansfield reported that [full name] (WSSC) claims its documents show a water line coming off the main line in North Park Avenue toward the edge of Page Park. WSSC indicated where the line apparently ends (at the curb right by the construction fence) and that the Village needs to dig to verify that the line is actually there. Our plumber will submit a proposal. The Council suggested that staff contact "Miss Utility" to search for the lines with ultra sound rather than by digging.

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board will continue its discussion on donating a bench in memory of former Council member Bob Schwarzbart. We should hear shortly on the outcome. The new bench would replace the bench in the walkway at the entrance to the Park. The Council had previously recommended purchasing two benches to match the donation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on proposal for Village audit services: Mr. Mansfield reported that the three-year contract with auditors Lindsey & Associates is ending. A solicitation for bids yielded only one proposal, which was from Lindsey & Associates. Pricing for three years begins with a \$300 increase above our FY16 rate, and goes up \$300 for each of the next two years. Lindsey's performance has been excellent and staff recommended approval of its latest proposal.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Lovett seconded, to approve the proposal from Lindsey & Associates to provide audit services for the Village of Friendship Heights. The cost of the three-year proposal would be: \$11,000 for FY17, \$11,300 for FY18 and \$11,600 for FY19.

The Council approved by unanimous consent the proposal from Lindsey & Associates.

Discussion/vote on proposals to repair retaining wall at Willoughby Park: Mr. Mansfield again reported some structural damage to the retaining wall at the edge of Willoughby Park, apparently caused by the pressure of tree roots that

grew around the base of the fence. Of two proposals to repair the wall, staff recommended the lower bid, costing \$14,850, submitted by Concrete Master Solutions which had renovated the barbecue grill wall in Page Park. This expense would be attributable to the Capital Improvements Fund.

Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Lewis seconded, to approve the proposal in the amount of \$14,850 from Concrete Master Solutions to repair the retaining wall at the edge of Willoughby Park. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Ms. Cooper moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, to pay for this expenditure from the Capital Improvements Fund. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion/vote on request from the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail for donation from the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH): Ms. White stated that the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail was requesting a donation of \$500 from the CCCFH to support a park on the north side of the trail where it crosses River Road. The donation would be paid from the dues of the 19 participating groups (approximately \$28 each). The CCCFH will vote on the request at its meeting this Wednesday or in May. There was a brief discussion.

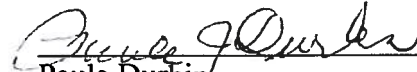
Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the donation of \$28 from the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH) as requested by the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Presentation from developer on possible development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard: 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 mentioned multiple goals, including construction of a residential element in front of the office building compatible with the area and maintenance of maximum open space for community use. The developers are still interested in community input. Mr. Stoddard noted the developers' sponsorship of a free electronic recycling event at 5550 Friendship Blvd. on April 22, in support of Earth Day, featuring collection of unwanted electronic equipment (televisions/computers), entertainment for children and other activities. An open house on the possible development of 5550 Friendship Boulevard is scheduled for May 16 at Wisconsin Place. Updates on the project are to be available on the property website and via a letter to be circulated in the community. Questions and concerns from the Council and audience were addressed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Mertens adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin
Secretary