

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 ZUMARAN-JONES, *Parliamentarian*
DAVID LEWIS, *Historian*
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING May 15, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael J. Dorsey, Chairman; John R. Mertens, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; David Lewis, Historian, Carolina Zumaran-Jones; Parliamentarian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager and approximately 50 residents.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Dorsey called the Village Council Meeting to order. He stated that the Village Council officers to be nominated are outlined in the Village of Friendship Height's by-laws, and the nomination of officers will be according to Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Dorsey read the section of the by-laws pertaining to the election of officers.

Mr. Dorsey introduced the other newly elected Council members: Melanie Rose White, John Mertens, Paula Durbin, Kathleen Cooper, David Lewis, and Carolina Zumaran-Jones.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Mr. Lewis moved to nominate Ms. Melanie Rose White as Mayor. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Ms. White moved to nominate Mr. Michael Dorsey as Chairman. The motion carried. 5-2-0.

Ms. Cooper moved to nominate Mr. John Mertens as Vice Chairman. The motion carried. 5-2-0.

Ms. White moved to nominate Ms. Paula Durbin as Secretary. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Ms. Durbin moved to nominate Ms. Kathleen Cooper as Treasurer. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Carolina Zumaran-Jones moved to nominate herself as Parliamentarian. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Mr. David Lewis moved to nominate himself as Historian. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Reappointment of Program Advisory and Community Advisory Committee members: Ms. White noted that there are two standing Committees appointed by the Council.

Ms. White moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to approve the reappointment of the members of the Program Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee. The Council reserved the right to appoint additional members. Ms. White read the names of the current members, which are attached and incorporated into these minutes. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council heard questions and concerns from members of the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White announced the open house information session to be held by the owners on Tuesday, May 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center to discuss possible plans to develop their property at 5550 Friendship Boulevard.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session of April 17.

Ms. Durbin moved to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of April 17. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summaries for the period ending April 30, 2017.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Community Advisory Committee: Mr. Lewis reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on May 10. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, at 5:30 p.m. The report included a brief discussion about a survey on strategic planning.

Report from the Program Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on May 3 and discussed upcoming trips and activities. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the CCCFH met on April 19. The next meeting is May 17 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 May 9. Minutes will be posted on the Village website. The TMD 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: Norman Knopf reported that, at the Council's request, he wrote to Park and Planning expressing the Council's concern with the lack of action since the December meeting regarding removal of the fence and other matters. In response to his letter, he received a call from the Chairman of Park and Planning indicating that the Department is working on the issues, that there is no schedule, that the Department requires time to get things done and that a Department employee would call Mr. Knopf. When that call is received, Mr. Knopf will report to the Council. A brief discussion followed.

Update on possible development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard: Mr. Knopf reported meeting with the County Planning Board staff earlier in the day. Several legal issues were raised, including what could be built on Parcel 4. The Board has not received any plans for the development of the site.

Discussion of Parcel 4 Petition: Dr. Alfred Muller (Elizabeth) presented a petition signed by more than 100 residents of Friendship Heights asking the Council to support the Sector Plan and oppose any plan for high-rise development

on Parcel 4, consistent with previous resolutions concerning Parcel 6. Other petitions were included.

Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Lewis seconded that Ms. Durbin draft a resolution regarding Parcel 4 for consideration at the next meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion of options recommended by arborist for replacing the copper beech tree in the center of Page Park: Ms. Durbin reported that the arborist has provided several options for new trees depending on whether the surrounding wall is retained. Option 1 would be a grouping of crepe myrtles within the stone wall; option 2 is for 2 Norway spruces and a Blue atlas elsewhere in the park, regardless of the wall. Options 3-5 include removal of the wall and placement of a larger specimen tree in the middle of the park. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. White recommended that Ms. Durbin, Mr. Lewis and Ms. Zumaran-Jones hold a public meeting to discuss the options and present recommendations to the Council at its June meeting. The Council approved the recommendation by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of guidelines for guest speakers at Council meetings: Mr. Dorsey recommended that the Council limit guest speakers to 15-minute presentations. At the discretion of the Council, the time could be extended

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin
Secretary