

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 September 11, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael J. Dorsey, Chair; John R. Mertens, Vice Chair; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 35 residents.

ABSENT: Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Parliamentarian

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 announced the following:

The Council extended its thanks for the service of David Lewis who resigned from the Council in late August because of his family's move outside the Village. The September Newsletter will detail eligibility requirements, instructions and the deadline for applying to fill the resulting vacancy.

Due to the Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 9, the October Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m.

All residents were invited to attend the fall festival on a Motown theme scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, at 6:00 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin recommended approval of the minutes of the Council's public session of July 10 and the Council Personnel Committee closed session of July 10.

Ms. Durbin moved to approve the minutes of the Council's public session minutes of July 10, and the Council Personnel Committee's closed session of July 10. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on August 7 and September 6. Discussions at the August 7 meeting included a proposal for a Village-wide survey for the Council's consideration. Mike Dorsey recommended as a reference a survey prepared by the city of Hyattsville. The Committee also brought up noise issues in the Village and the loss of businesses in and around Friendship Heights. The Chair suggested the acquisition of public art by Seward Johnson or another artist. The next meeting was announced for Wednesday, October 4, at 5:30 p.m.

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the CCCFH met on July 19 and discussed a meeting hosted by the developer at The Elizabeth on possible redevelopment of 5500 Friendship Boulevard as well as updates on (1) the Bethesda Overlay; (2) redevelopment issues re Westbard Shopping Center; (3) obstacles to pedestrians on the sidewalk at Wisconsin and Willard Avenues; and (4) the County's proposed plan for bicycle routes. The next meeting was scheduled for September 18 at 8:00 p.m. at Somerset. Minutes will be posted on the Village website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on 5550 Friendship Boulevard: Norman Knopf, Village land-use attorney, reported that, at the end of August, the owner applied to Montgomery County for an amendment classifying the property as a floating zone. Mr. Knopf planned to review the application for compliance with the developer's previous representation to the community; he also described the steps in the process required in order to build. Next steps for the Village Council include (1) articulating a position on the specific proposal that could reach the County

Council in the spring and (2) deciding whether to participate in the hearings phase of the process for obtaining authorization to build on 5550 Friendship Boulevard. Questions and concerns followed.

Report from the owner of 5550 Friendship Boulevard: Mr. Stoddard of RJS Realty Services presented a brief update on the application for a floating zone amendment in connection with the possible development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard. He requested the opportunity to share further information at the Village Council's October meeting. Updates on the progress of the application will be posted at www.5550FriendshipBlvd.com. The County Park and Planning website has a link. The Council asked Mr. Stoddard to provide two copies of the application filed.

Update on Page Park Improvements: Ms. Durbin reported that new benches would be installed in about four weeks. A water connection is still pending, and if a curb box cannot be found, one will have to be installed, which could be costly. Assuming the availability of sufficient water, the landscape contractor will add plantings next spring. He and the Village's arborist consider the crepe myrtles inside the circular wall a viable option and recommended adding covering where the ground is bare.


NEW BUSINESS:

Community Advisory Committee's Proposal for a Village Survey: Dr. Alfred Muller presented for the Council's consideration the Committee's fourth draft of the proposed survey. Per Dr. Muller, (1) the survey has been condensed to cover the front and back of a single page; (2) it should be mailed to all households to maximize returns; it should be completed anonymously; and it should be numbered to prevent duplication. Dr. Muller addressed concerns from the Council, which deferred further discussion to the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Paula Durbin
Secretary