

Community Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes—Wednesday, December 6, 2017

In attendance

Committee members:

Al Muller, *Chairman*; Sheila Footer; Karin Liva; Michael Mezey; Hal Morrison; Bob Parker; Stephanie Chak; Peg Downey

Council members:

Melanie White and Mike Dorsey

Other resident:

Joan Gilbert

5320 Willard Avenue property/house

Melanie provided an update on where the County stands regarding the property and house. Bob asked if citizens can help with gardening/clean-up tasks, and Mike indicated that he thought they could.

Pedestrian safety

Bob summarized the issues he feels need to be addressed regarding pedestrian safety—the cars don't always stop, particularly at the crosswalk in front of Whole Foods; location of crosswalks on Willard need to be reevaluated; timing of lights at Friendship and Willard are not ideal (the cycle is too long for pedestrians waiting to cross Willard)

Al pointed out the pedestrian safety measures that the Village has already taken—plastic signs in intersections; brick crosswalks; bumped out curbs

Mike suggested that Bob can share his concerns with the TMD Committee Village representatives

Stephanie wondered if the police would do a “sting” operation to catch drivers not stopping, similar to the stings in Bethesda

Melanie suggested that staff look into crosswalks that light up when pedestrians walk on them

Promotion of events and activities not sponsored by Village

Peg said that she felt the Village Center should do more to be the emotional “center” of the community by supporting and promoting events taking place in the Village not sponsored by the Friendship Heights government (for example, the charity box party in The Elizabeth). She feels we should change our mission statement and support/advertise activities of interest to residents that take place in various condos and apartments. A lively discussion followed.

Melanie pointed out that the Village newsletter is limited spacewise and that she and staff decided recently not to advertise/market events not planned by Center staff. Bob pointed out security issues and the practicality of trying to list outside events in the newsletter. The pros and cons of listing events on the Village website were addressed. Stephanie suggested residents use the Next Door app to promote activities and causes. Mike recommended that any resident is welcome to sit in on the Program Advisory Committee to discuss ideas for activities/events.

Other comments

Melanie gave a summary of the proposed bikeways project; Mike mentioned the parking meters on Willard that may interfere with the bikeways; Bob requested a copy of the map with proposed bikeways (Melanie said she would forward it to all Committee members)

Michael said that Friendship Park looks beautiful

Sheila expressed concern about dockless bikes and abandoned shopping carts

Peg expressed concern that The Hills Plaza is very dark at night and that there are no lights in the back of Brighton Gardens

Stephanie said that the streetlamp at Chipotle is teetering

Melanie said that the Council would probably address the Village survey project at the January 2018 meeting

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 5:30 p.m.