

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Vice Chairman*
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN G. COOPER, *Treasurer*
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Parliamentarian*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

Conducted via Zoom

December 14, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian; Michael Dorsey, Council member; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; Anne O'Neil, Program Director; and 7 residents.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He noted that Ms. Cooper would be late joining the meeting.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

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

Ms. White reported that the Communications Committee discussed the recommendation that the new Village bus should have enhanced colors and signage to identify the Village. The consensus of the committee was that the colors and signage are sufficient.

In response to previous requests, the monthly financial summaries will be posted on the Village website.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The County provides COVID-19 testing every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center, 5311 Friendship Boulevard, near the Whole Foods. The testing is free and open to the public. No advance registration, walkup only, no insurance or doctor's order required.

The Council held a closed session on November 9, pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the Maryland General Provisions, to discuss personnel issues, specifically, what kind of records the Village keeps regarding hours worked, vacation, and sick leave. The session was closed because the hours of one employee in particular were discussed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of November 9. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded to table the approval of the minutes of the November 9 closed session. The motion carried. (5-1-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. White presented the financial summary for period ending November 30, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met via conference call on December 8 and discussed the following:

- (1) A suggestion that the district committee on traffic management investigate the possibility of changing the right lane of Willard Avenue toward River Road to allow only vehicles that are going to make a right turn;
- (2) The ongoing safety hazard posed by dumpsters on Willard Avenue, in front of the Willard Towers. Mr. Mansfield will contact the County to resolve this issue.
The next meeting date will be announced.

Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:

Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights met via zoom on November 18, and discussed the following:

- (1) The Capital Crescent Trail crossing;
- (2) The Kensington of Bethesda;
- (3) The County's proposed THRIVE 2050 Plan.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 16 at 7:30, via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update to the Community on Village Response to the Corona Virus:

Ms. O'Neil of the Village staff reported that a one-day food drive to benefit the Manna Food Center was scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Boxes would be available on the portico for food donations. In the event of inclement weather, the food drive would be rescheduled for Tuesday, December 22.

Staff requested notification by Giant Food pharmacists regarding the availability of Covid-19 vaccine for administration to seniors.

The Center's online programming continues to include virtual tours, talks, meetings and classes, and craft baskets are available for distribution. The November food truck event was very well received and the Center will host another food truck event in the spring when the weather is warmer.

Discussion on planning for Friendship Heights:

Mr. Mezey reported that the Council held a public work session on December 9 to discuss planning in Friendship Heights. Norman Knopf and Al Muller gave an overview of the 1998 Sector Plan. Cindy Gibson, Chief of Staff for County Council member Andrew Friedson, attended the meeting. Mr. Friedson is scheduled to attend the January 11 Village Council meeting to follow up on this discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of election procedures for Village Council election in May 2021:

Mr. Mezey reported that the Village Council election will be held on May 10, 2021. Typically, election guidelines and deadlines are published in the March newsletter. Given the pandemic and the projected distribution of vaccine, in-person voting may not be possible this election.

Accordingly, the Council asked Mr. Mansfield to look into options for conducting the election by mail.

Following the discussion of the several options, the Council agreed that the Village manager would request a proposal from the League of Women's Voters for an enhanced version of their current process for voting absentee. The proposal would be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

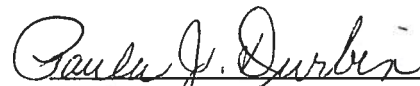
Discussion of Guidelines for staff supervision: Ms. White read the Proposed Guidelines for Staff Supervision.

After a brief discussion, the Council agreed that Ms. White and Ms. Durbin would revise the guidelines to include appropriate suggestions from other Council members. The revised Guidelines for Staff Supervision will be discussed at the February Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Ms. Cooper seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin