

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Vice Chairman*
ALFRED MULLER, M.D., *Secretary*
PAULA DURBIN, *Treasurer*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Parliamentarian*
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Historian*
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL

Conducted via Zoom

June 14, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor
Michael Mezey, Chairman
Bruce Pirnie, Vice Chairman
Paula Durbin, Treasurer
Alfred Muller MD, Secretary
Michael Dorsey, Parliamentarian
Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Historian
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager
Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager
Anne O'Neil, Program Director
Attorney Norman Knopf, Council Attorney
Sabrina Hamm, Recording Secretary from The Professional Documents Service
20 Additional Participants at Highest Count

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council received comments from the following persons:

- Barbara Tauben offered gratitude concerning the re-opening of the Village Center; and inquired whether the Council had received the email she sent regarding improvements to the Village web site.
- Joe Bucherer relayed information about the composting program that was recently introduced at The Elizabeth, and for which The Elizabeth was recently recognized by Montgomery County.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor White announced an Independence Day celebration will take place at Humphrey Park outside the Village Center on Sunday, July 4th. The plans will be further detailed by the Council and then announced to the public.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Dr. Muller moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to approve the minutes from the Council's Public Session held on May 18, 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Durbin presented a Council financial summary for period ending May 31, 2021. Mr. Dorsey raised the importance of placing the Council's investments in safe financial instruments; requested the names of the financial institutions and representatives where the Council's funds are held; and inquired who has been making decisions about where and how the money is invested. **The Finance Committee will be asked to provide answers to Mr. Dorsey's questions. Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, acceptance of the May 2021 Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC): Mayor White reported the Community Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 and discussed the following matters:

- (1) Most of the Village buildings have relaxed their COVID restrictions, while some still require the use of masks in common areas. Most of the pools within the Village have opened.
- (2) The driveway lights at 4620 N. Park have been adjusted. However, the timer is erratic which sometimes causes the lights to be on during the day.
- (3) The garbage receptacles in front of Willard Towers are now smaller and left out only during daylight hours.
- (4) The hedges are growing near the Chevy Chase Office Building and preventing the unsafe pedestrian shortcut.
- (5) Complaints about beeping trucks in front of 4615 have stopped.

Suggestions: 1) Maryland State officials need to be contacted regarding dangerous broken Wisconsin Avenue roadway in front of Barlow Building, near midblock crossing. It is hazardous and resulted in a serious fall by a Village resident, resulting in hospitalization and ongoing rehabilitation.

2) Building Managers meeting on a regular basis, in person or by Zoom, would be important to compare notes.

The next CAC meeting will convene on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Mayor White reported the CCCFH met on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Discussions were held concerning the following matters:

- (1) The CCCFH appointed their slate of officers for 2021-2023. David Forman was elected Chairman.
- (2) The committee received an update on Thrive Montgomery 2050 and the flyer that the CCCFH distributed concerning the matter.
- (3) The CCCFH discussed the matter to hire a webmaster to update their website.
- (4) It was announced that the CCCFH won an award from the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The Sentinel Award is given to an individual or group - typically outside

the government - for a significant contribution to “good government” at the local level.

The next meeting of the CCCFH will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed Development at 5500 Wisconsin Avenue

A presentation was given by Donohoe & Carr on June 7 2021 regarding the proposed development of 5500 Wisconsin Avenue. Attorney Norman Knopf, Council Attorney, offered comments and requested clarification about the developer’s calculation of total square footage and allowable density. Comments were then offered by each Councilmember concerning the presentation. The County staff will then analyze the plan over several months, and then a hearing regarding the sketch plan will take place in fall 2021. **In the meantime, Attorney Knopf will draft a letter incorporating the Council’s comments on the sketch plan and submit it to the County by the end of June 2021.**

Village Concierge Service

Dr. Muller summarized his description of the proposed concierge service for the Village. Following feedback by Council members, **Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate options for Village concierge service and report back to the Council. Mayor White appointed Dr. Muller as Chair of the ad hoc committee.**

Finance Committee Meeting

Mr. Dorsey moved, Dr. Muller seconded, scheduling a Finance Committee Meeting prior to the July 2021 Council Meeting. The motion carried by a vote of six in favor, one opposed (Mr. Mezey), and zero abstained (6-1-0).

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Appointments

Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, approval of the following committee appointments:

Communications Committee: Al Muller (Chair), Melanie White, Carolina Zumaran-Jones, and Michael Dorsey.

Finance Committee: Paula Durbin (Chair), Michael Mezey, Al Muller, and Michael Dorsey.

Parks & Grounds Committee: Bruce Pirnie (Chair), Mike Dorsey, Paula Durbin, and Michael Dorsey.

Personnel Committee: Melanie White (Chair), Michael Mezey, Carolina Zumaran-Jones, and Michael Dorsey.

Community Advisory Committee: Shirley Carr (Highland House West), William Corey (4620 North Park), Sheila Footer (4615 North Park), Karin Liva (Highland House West), Ken Niles (The Willoughby), Robert Parker (The Willoughby), Ethel Pacheco (The Willoughby), Sandy Schwarzbart (Willard Towers), Roger Cochetti (The Willoughby), Joe Bucherer (The Elizabeth), and David Churchill (The Willoughby).

Program Advisory Committee: Nancy White (The Willoughby), Ron Irion (Highland House), Rita Miller (The Elizabeth), Stephanie Olshan (The Elizabeth), Phyllis Meltzer (The Carleton), Catherine Cameron (4615 North Park), and Michael Dorsey (4620 North Park).

The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).

Historic Preservation Status - 4608 N. Park Avenue

Dr. Muller recommended that the Council explore the process to apply for historic preservation status for the house at 4608 North Park Avenue. **Village Attorney Norman Knopf indicated he can provide the names of people who can assist with the application process. The Council agreed to pursue this matter.**

Plans for July 4th Celebration

Anne O'Neil reported that the Village will have an in-person celebration in Humphrey Park outside the Village Center. There will be live music, hot dogs, apple pie, and a train for kids. There will be no formal program, but elected officials will be invited to speak every half hour.

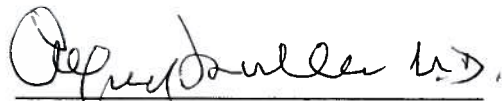
Concerns Regarding Pedestrian Safety at Village Intersections

Mr. Pirnie reported pedestrian safety at Village intersections is a serious concern. **However, Mr. Pirnie suggested adding the matter to the July 2021 Council Meeting agenda for discussion since the June 2021 meeting had run long, and the matter would likely require an extensive discussion. The Council agreed with the suggestion.**

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Pirnie moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, for adjournment of the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Alfred Muller, MD, Secretary