

# 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

January 10, 2022

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Melanie Rose White, Mayor  
Michael Mezey, Chairman  
Bruce Pirnie, Vice Chairman  
Paula Durbin, Treasurer  
Alfred Muller MD, Secretary  
Michael Dorsey, Councilman  
Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Historian  
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager  
Norman Knopf, Council Attorney  
Beverly John, Recording Secretary from The Professional Documents Service  
Estimated audience number in attendance: 16

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

#### **MAYOR'S STATEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor White announced that the Council met in a Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. on January 10, 2022 to consult with Attorney Norman Knopf about pending or potential litigation related to the proposed development project at 5500 Wisconsin Avenue. The Council authorized Attorney Knopf to file an appeal based on the absence of a satisfactory plan to handle the traffic and a sketch plan which is not in conformity with the current sector plan. The Council remains supportive of site redevelopment, and is hopeful that negotiations can take place between the Council and the developers. The matter was approved by a vote of five in favor, two opposed (Mr. Pirnie and Ms. Zumaran-Jones), and zero abstained.

#### **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL:**

The Council received comments from the following person:

- Daniel Dozer thanked the Council and Village Manager for responding to his request for Wi-Fi service in the park.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Mayor White announced the Council's 2021 Annual Report will be distributed to residents in late January or early February 2022. It will include the proposed Village budget for FY2023. The proposed Village budget for FY2023 will be introduced later during the January 2022 Council Meeting. (Please see the Treasurer's Report within these minutes.) The February 14, 2022 and March 14, 2022 Council meetings will include public hearings on the proposed FY2023 budget.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded approval of the minutes as amended from the Council's Public Session held on December 13, 2021. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**Dr. Muller moved, Ms. White seconded approval of the minutes as presented from the Council's Closed Session held on December 13, 2021 for the discussion of personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**Dr. Muller moved, Ms. White seconded approval of the minutes as presented from the Council's Finance Committee Meeting held on January 4, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Durbin presented a summary of the Council's financial standing as of December 31, 2021. Total cash on hand in the General Fund was \$6,408,219.78. Total cash on hand in the Capital Improvements Fund was \$11,300.07. Total cash on hand in the OPEB Trust Fund Reserve was \$1,335.20.

Mr. Dorsey noted a continued poor return on investments, and repeated the need to seek certified financial planning advice. Mr. Dorsey asked the Treasurer to hold an Open Session Meeting of the Finance Committee to address the matter.

Ms. Durbin asked that the Finance Director position be filled as soon as possible. Mr. Mansfield stated that the job description for Assistant Village Manager will be rewritten with Council input and may not include the previous responsibilities of Finance Director.

Ms. Durbin reported that the Finance Committee met on January 4, 2022 and prepared a draft of the FY2023 budget. This draft budget will be published in the Council's 2021 Annual Report, and public hearings will be held during the February and March 2022 Council Meetings. Mr. Mansfield presented additional detail regarding tax projections received from Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. Dr. Muller thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. Mr. Dorsey commented on the reserve balance and budget models from other jurisdictions. Mr. Pirnie commented on the need for a distinction between a contingency fund and a general fund for unrestricted use.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC):** Dr. Muller reported the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on January 5, 2022. Discussion topics included:

- (1) A roundtable discussion regarding community news and events.
- (2) A new state mandate requiring all high-rise buildings to install sprinkler systems by 2031.
- (3) The pending sale of Willard Towers.
- (4) The snow removal plans for Willard Avenue and Somerset Terrace were inadequate.
- (5) Flooding near the Chipotle.

- (6) Maintenance of the sidewalk in front of The Gap.
- (7) Speed bump testing, lighted signs, and measuring driving habits.
- (8) An overview of the draft report on Village identity considerations.

The next meeting of the CAC will be held on February 9, 2022.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Discussion of Traffic Safety at South Park Avenue/Hills Plaza Intersection:**

Mr. Pirnie summarized the results of on-site traffic monitoring at the STOP sign at “Cop Corner” (South Park Avenue and Hills Plaza intersection). A total of 175 cars were observed in one hour. Two-thirds of the drivers did not stop at the STOP sign, or performed a rolling stop. A mini hump from Traffic Logix was recommended for installation at this intersection in order to slow traffic before the STOP sign. Mr. Mansfield will hold an on-site meeting with Traffic Logix on January 18, 2022 to discuss installation of such a mini-hump. The previous Council motion that had been tabled was reintroduced:

**Mr. Pirnie moved, and Dr. Muller seconded approval to place a removable speed bump/hump on approach to the intersection of Hills Plaza and South Park Avenue on a trial basis at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

An LED solar activated sign previously ordered would be placed alerting motorists of the oncoming speed hump and STOP sign.

**NEW BUSINESS:**


**Discussion of COVID Testing and Resources for Village Residents:** At the request of Councilman Dorsey, Chairman Mezey inquired about the possibility of the Village providing masks and testing kits for Village residents. Mr. Mansfield stated that the county is distributing free home-testing kits at libraries, and is seeking the Village’s assistance in distributing the kits within the community for free. Mr. Mansfield recommended distributing the kits on January 14, 2022 and January 17, 2022 at the Village Center. Mr. Dorsey also shared information about a contact that can be used by the Village to purchase N95 masks in bulk for Village residents. **The Council agreed by consensus to purchase 1,000 masks as soon as possible.**

The Village has also made a request to the County to resume free PCR Covid testing at the Wisconsin Place Rec Center.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded for adjournment of the January 10, 2022 Council meeting at 8:22 p.m. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

Respectfully submitted:



Alfred Müller, MD, Secretary