

# 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

May 9, 2022

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Michael Mezey, Chairman  
Melanie Rose White, Mayor  
Bruce Pirnie, Vice Chairman  
Paula Durbin, Treasurer  
Alfred Muller, M.D., Secretary  
Michael Dorsey  
Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Historian  
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager  
Robert Bryant, Recording Secretary from The Professional Documents Service

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

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

No comments and questions were addressed to the Council.

#### **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Mayor White announced that Giant Pharmacy will administer COVID booster vaccines at the Village Center on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Appointments will be required. The link to make an appointment is posted on the Village website. Appointments can also be made by calling the Village Center.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Dr. Muller moved, Mayor White seconded approval of the minutes as distributed from the Council's Public Session held on Monday, April 11, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded approval of the minutes as distributed from the Council's Closed Session held on Monday, April 25, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**Dr. Muller moved, Mayor White seconded approval of the minutes as distributed from the Council’s Closed Session held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer Durbin presented a summary of the Council’s financial standing as of April 30, 2022. Total cash on hand in the General Fund was \$6,242,257.49. Total cash on hand in the Capital Improvements Fund was \$11,305.87. Total cash on hand in the OPEB Trust Fund Reserve was \$1,335.87.

Council members discussed the lower than anticipated interest income for the Village; the recovery of approximately \$1,400 after a forged check was noted by Village accountant Donna Bryant; and the related corrections made to the Association’s accounts as a result of the forged check.

**Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report as presented for the period ending April 30, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH):** Mr. Mezey reported the CCCFH met on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

Discussion topics included:

- (1) The planned demolition of the Manor Care building sometime in June, with construction of the townhouses on that site not to begin for a few years.
- (2) Construction of the new Giant grocery store that is underway and expected to open in late 2023. Garage parking will be offered, with the store on the top floor.
- (3) Continued plans for a dog park adjacent to the Willard Avenue Park.
- (4) The weekend closures of Little Falls Parkway, with Village residents asked to provide input to the CCCFH concerning the matter.
- (5) The next meeting of the CCCFH will take place on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Report from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC):** Dr. Muller reported the CAC did not meet as regularly scheduled one week prior to the Council’s meeting. The next CAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Village Center.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Revised Cost Estimate - Page Park Redesign Project:**

**Mr. Pirnie moved, Dr. Muller seconded the Council’s engagement with GreenSweep to realize the modified design for Page Park at a cost of \$851,560. The motion carried by a vote of five in favor, one opposed (Ms. Durbin), and one abstained (Ms. Zumarán-Jones) (5-1-1).**

**Contracted Concierge Services:**

Following a public invitation for non-profit organizations to express interest in providing concierge services, Village management received notice from two organizations - the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network (FHNN) and Net Limousine Service (NLS). A third provider - SmithLife Homecare - expressed

initial interest, but ultimately did not submit a response. FHNN provided a statement of interest along with their Articles of Incorporation, tax-exempt letter, and brochure outlining their services. NLS submitted a proposal including costs, despite the invitation notice not including a request for costs.

**Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded entering negotiations with the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network in an attempt to come to an agreement on a contract for concierge services to be presented during a public Council Meeting. The motion carried by a vote of four in favor, three opposed (Ms. Zumaran-Jones, Ms. Durbin, and Mr. Dorsey), and zero abstained (4-3-0).**

**Recognition Plaque at Page Park for Cleonice Tavani:**

**Ms. Zumaran-Jones moved, Ms. Durbin seconded the installation of a plaque at Page Park in honor of activist Cleonice Tavani for her efforts that resulted in the creation of Page Park, along with recognition of Barbara Tauben and Barbara Hendley for their assistance. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Muller again raised the suggestion to honor Ms. Tavani with the Elizabeth Scull Service Award.**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Mayor White seconded sending the three state delegates and the three state senators a “Thank You” note for supporting the motion relating to the Retirement Income Reduction Act. The motion carried by a vote of five in favor, two opposed (Mr. Mezey and Ms. Durbin), and zero abstained (5-2-0).**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Vacant Staff Positions – Assistant to Program Director and Facilities**

**Manager:** With the resignations of Jeanne Pettenati as Assistant to the Program Director and Tracey Biagas as the Facilities Manager:

**Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded advertising the open Facilities Manager and Assistant to Program Director positions for the Village. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**Arbor Day Proclamation for Tree City USA Program:** With the Village of Friendship Heights becoming a member of the Tree City USA Program:

**Mr. Pirnie moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded the adoption and issuance of the proclamation drafted by Village Manager Mansfield in recognition of Arbor Day. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

**Staff Life Insurance Policy:**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Dr. Muller seconded averaging out all of the life insurance coverage by rounding it to \$70,000 per person for the eight Village employees; and to seek a life insurance policy that would cover all of the employees in equal manner. The motion carried by a vote of four in favor, three opposed (Mr. Mezey, Mr. Pirnie, and Ms. Durbin), and zero abstained (4-3-0).**

**Proposals for Village Center Exterior Wall Repair:**

**Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded approval of the proposal from Bradley Applications totaling \$8,631 to repair three sections of the Village Center’s exterior wall. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

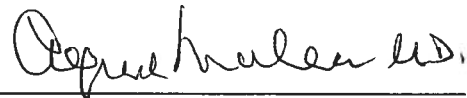
**Village Observations:**

Mr. Dorsey sent Council members pictures of two Village maintenance issues – the first being duct tape and signs on the Village light poles that were recently repainted, and the second being a muddy hillside that is the property of 4701 Willard Avenue (Willard Towers) adjoining Page Park. Mr. Dorsey suggested including, “By Authority of the Village of Friendship Heights” on any signs that have been authorized by the Village so that any unauthorized signs can be easily identified. **Blair Fishburn, the Tenants’ Association President, will provide the name of the 4701 Willard Avenue property landowners to Mr. Mansfield.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(7). Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded entering the May 9, 2022 Council Meeting into a Closed Session at 9:08 p.m. to consult with counsel for obtaining legal advice. The motion carried unanimously (7-0-0).**

Respectfully submitted:



Alfred Muller, MD, Secretary