

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797
Fax: 301-907-3922
Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov
Website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL

Conducted via Zoom

November 14, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor
Michael Mezey, Chairman
Bruce Pirnie, Vice Chairman
Paula Durbin, Treasurer
Alfred Muller, M.D., Secretary
Michael Dorsey
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager
Jason Goldstein, Assistant Village Manager

ABSENT: Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Historian

CALL TO ORDER:

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

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM THE COUNCIL:

The Council responded to public comments and questions:

- Requesting more information about the Council's reserve expenditures.
- Requesting status updates about plans for the Red House and activities in Page Park.
- Reporting key takeaways from the recent Wisconsin Avenue Framework Meeting with the D.C. Department of Planning.
- Discussing development plans for the area, and suggesting that the Council hire a consultant to represent Friendship Heights concerning development-related matters.
- Suggesting that the Village publish any staffing vacancies in line with Montgomery County's process.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor White announced a late addition to the New Business portion of the Council’s agenda: “Authorization for the Annual Council Staff Volunteer Appreciation Dinner”.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Dr. Muller moved, Mayor White seconded approval of the minutes as distributed from the Council’s Public Session held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded approval of the minutes as distributed from the Council’s Closed Session held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Durbin presented a summary of the Council’s financial standing as of Monday, October 31, 2022. Cash on hand in the General Fund totaled \$3,293,803.55. That figure reflects the \$3 million expenditure for the Red House, but does not reflect the \$1 million for the development rights of the Village acquired by 5500 Wisconsin to be paid when 5500 receives its building permit. The Capital Improvements Fund totaled \$1,378.79. The OPEB reserves totaled \$1,344.48.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC):

Dr. Muller reported the CAC met on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Discussions were held concerning the proposed dog park; resignation of the County Planning Board; possible electric vehicle charging stations coming to buildings in the area; The Willoughby starting up a smoking bylaw amendment process; the status of the Red House and the tour that is being arranged; and a design contest for replacement of the current bulletin board.

The CAC then held a meeting on Thursday, November 10th. They requested that the Village Manager alert Willard Towers about the need to remove their trash dumpsters. The CAC also discussed the 5500 Wisconsin Avenue development; problems noted with the garage; the September 2022 identity report; a draft survey concerning the Red House; and a request to visit the Red House.

The next meeting of the Community Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Center.

Report from the Council Parks & Grounds Committee (CPGC):

Mr. Pirnie reported the CPGC met on Thursday, October 27, 2022. Discussions were held concerning signage for The Village; repaving the Village’s roads; the results of the engineering study; and a surveillance camera on N. Park near the market.

OLD BUSINESS:

Presentation and Discussion - Retaining Financial Advisor to Guide Village

Investments: P. Hamilton Clark, Investment Advisor with Morgan Stanley, presented a proposal for providing investment consulting services to guide The Village’s investments.

Mr. Clark answered questions regarding his education and credentials; whether there will be a review conducted of the Association's prior investment performance; and how often Mr. Clark will meet with the Council. **Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded the appointment of Morgan Stanley and P. Hamilton Clark to serve as the Council's Investment Advisor. The motion carried unanimously. A meeting will be arranged for Mr. Clark to speak with the Council's Finance Committee, and a clear communication process will be established.**

Recommendation - Parks & Grounds Committee - Village Identity Signage:

Mr. Pirnie moved, Dr. Muller seconded approving the plan set forth by the Parks & Grounds Committee to obtain a prominent sign for the purpose of identifying the Village of Friendship Heights. The Council will solicit suggestions regarding the design of the sign from residents, which the CAC will review and offer recommendations to the Council. The Council will then review the information and make a decision regarding the sign's design and size. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Vote - Proposals for LED Bulb Installation for Village Streetlights:

Dr. Muller moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded approving a contract with Green Electric Services to replace all 110 streetlight bulbs within The Village with LED bulbs at a cost of \$3,879.20. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mansfield clarified that the approval was only for the bulbs, and will not affect the light fixtures.

Discussion/Vote - Raise for Security Guards:

Ms. Durbin moved, Mayor White seconded approving a \$1.00 per hour raise for the security guards from Securitas, bringing the billable rate to \$34.68 and the hourly rate to \$18.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Vote - Authorization for Annual Council Staff Volunteer

Appreciation Dinner: Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded the planning of an Annual Council Staff Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for Friday, December 16, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:10 p.m., Dr. Muller moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Dorsey seconded. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred Muller, MD
Secretary