

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

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL**

**Conducted in person and via Zoom**

**Monday, December 12, 2022**

**ATTENDEES:**

Michael Mezey, Chairman  
Melanie Rose White, Mayor  
Bruce Pirnie, Vice Chairman  
Paula Durbin, Treasurer  
Michael Dorsey, Parliamentarian  
Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Historian  
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager  
Jason Goldstein, Assistant Village Manager  
Robert Bryant, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Alfred Muller, M.D., Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

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

The Council did not receive comments or questions from the public. However, the following Councilmember offered feedback:

- Carolina Zumaran-Jones asked Bruce Pirnie to summarize the report he provided regarding the evolution of Page Park. Mr. Pirnie reported a great deal has happened at the construction site. The small patio has been paved, and the main patio is nearly entirely paved. Mr. Pirnie explained the work that will be done for the children's play area, and commented that a great deal of craftsmanship has been implemented

into the entire project. The Page Park project is expected to be complete before the warm weather arrives in 2023.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor White announced that the Village invited residents to submit sketches for identity signage. The Council plans to replace the bulletin board at the corner of South Park Avenue and the Hills Plaza with a "Welcome to Friendship Heights" sign. The closing date to submit sketches is Sunday, January 1, 2023. Sketch submissions may be dropped off at the front desk of the Village Center. More information can be obtained from Page 3 of the December 2022 newsletter or by visiting the Council's website.

A holiday food drive will be held at the Village Center on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Non-perishable food items are being collected for donation to the Manna Food Center. Everyone should look out for the decorated boxes in the lobby and on the Village Center portico.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Pirnie moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded approval of the minutes from the Council's Public Session held on Monday, November 14, 2022 with an amendment that Ms. Zumaran-Jones was not in attendance. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded approval of the minutes as distributed from the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday, December 5, 2022. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Durbin presented a summary of the Council's financial standing as of Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Cash on hand in the General Fund totaled \$3,559,965.75. The Capital Improvements Fund totaled \$11,408.08. The OPEB reserves totaled \$1,347.94. The income tax payment received in November 2022 was reflected in the receipts, and the \$3,000,000 payment for the Red House was reflected in the November 2022 financials.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee Report:**

Ms. Durbin reported the Finance Committee met with Financial Advisor Hamilton Clark of Morgan Stanley on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> pursuant to Mr. Clark's review of the Council's investments of the Village reserve funds. Given the context of rising interest rates, Mr. Clark advocated management of the Council's investment funds by Morgan Stanley to yield a superior rate of return; and to protect the Council's funds in keeping with the Council's obligations at no cost to the Council. The Finance Committee agreed by consensus to propose to the Village Council a trial investment of \$1.5 million in Certificates of Deposit (CDs). Signatories would need to be appointed to work with Morgan Stanley. The Finance Committee recommended that the Village's contract with Morgan Stanley should include a reporting requirement. (Please see the Old Business section of these minutes for the Council's decision regarding this matter.)

**Report from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC):**

Joe Bucherer reported the following information:

- The CAC met on Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 prior to the December 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Discussions were held concerning how the work of the Parks & Grounds Committee integrates with the work of the CAC.
- The committee voted to send a survey regarding the Red House to the Village Council for review and modification. The committee members also expressed interest in touring the Red House to formulate their own thoughts and ideas as the survey comes to fruition, and will request a meeting with the Village’s management team.
- The CAC members held a roundtable as is customary.
- Several members discussed and attended the recent Friendship Heights D.C. Development workshop held at Chevy Chase Plaza on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- An assault occurred at The Elizabeth in late-November 2022. As President of The Elizabeth’s Board of Directors, Mr. Bucherer has been in contact with the Second District Police Department regarding the incident. A Special Elizabeth Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter as well as general safety matters. The police department also agreed to conduct a complimentary safety survey of The Elizabeth’s premises and later make recommendations to improve safety. As of approximately 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the police department reported they were able to apprehend the perpetrator after obtaining clear visual facial images of the individual. The individual will be charged with assault, and The Elizabeth’s Board and staff will continue to be as cooperative as possible with the police department’s efforts. On behalf of The Elizabeth, Mr. Bucherer thanked the Council for the words of support received following the incident.
- The Police Field Office signage is old and not illuminated. Therefore, the CAC recommended replacing the sign with a lighted sign. **Mr. Mansfield will look into having the sign replaced and lighted.**
- The next meeting of the Community Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Center.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Recommendation of the Finance Committee to Investment Funds with Morgan Stanley:**  
**Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Mezey seconded investing \$1.5 million of the Council’s funds with Morgan Stanley into a laddered Certificate of Deposit system as a trial investment. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0). Mayor White and Treasurer Durbin will be appointed as the signatories for the account.**

**Draft Survey - 4608 N. Park Property:**

**The Council agreed by consensus to proceed with the survey for the 4608 N. Park property, with Mayor White to review the survey before final approval by the Council and distribution to residents.**

**Survey Platform for Village Website:**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Mayor White seconded contracting with Qualtrics for an expense of \$3,840 (\$2,300 plus an implementation fee of \$1,540) to provide a platform including analytics to conduct the survey online for the use of the 4608 N. Park property. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sprinkler System Repairs:**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded contracting with Johnson Controls to repair the sprinkler system at 4608 N. Park Avenue (the Red House) at a cost of \$11,985. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**Dog Barking Complaints:**

**Mr. Dorsey reported receiving emails from residents of 4620 N. Park reporting there is a dog barking on the balcony of one of the nearby condominium buildings - either The Elizabeth or The Carleton - throughout the day. Mr. Mansfield will reach out to the managers of the three aforementioned properties to report the issue.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1). Ms. Durbin moved, Mayor White seconded entering into a Closed Session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the Council has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred Muller, MD  
Secretary