

Friendship Heights Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change

Committee Meeting

Date: July 2nd. 2024

Call to Order – Meeting started at 7 PM

Attendance: Sonya Starnes, Christine Knauer, Emmanuel DeSilva, Patricia Canessa, Martha Solt (FH Council).

Absent: Joy Mushaben

Approval of Minutes

Village Council Report/ Martha Solt. Recycling was approved and scheduled in the Village area. Green Bank is working with Friendship Heights on how to start a process of fund application.

Committee Chair Report/ P. Canessa. Attended session with Montgomery County Council Member Evan Glass. Various concerns about the resident s' ability to keep up with their personal contribution to building changes. And timelines that seem to be non-realistic. Concerns about the impact of the Wisconsin Development project and disruption in daily traffic and access. Also alerted him about the need of a widespread weather alert system, especially sensitive to older residents.

New membership recruitment. Martha will contact Julian Marshfield to speed recruitment process. Chris will do some local contacts.

Community membership activities. Emmanuel DeSilva gave an update of his overseas activities and new successful green projects. He has continued exploring new spaces for the mini-forest planting. He has visited County schools where his proposal is welcomed and likely to find replication. Emmanuel hopefully will present his experiences and outcome to the FH Council at their upcoming meeting. The membership group is invested in implementing innovative community education activities, as understanding how prepared local buildings are to respond to changes in weather patterns including unexpected storms. Chris and Patricia will work on this and present a draft during the next meeting. September is National Emergency Preparedness month. Sonya will get in touch with the safety committee.

Chris Knauer talked to Council Evan Glass about the uncertain changes impacting rental buildings because of weather-change legislation.

Concerns about Page Park and its foundations. Construction and site seem vulnerable to new weather changes. Also, there are some observations about access and safety. Nearby creek can flood and result in the erosion of the park soil foundation.

Members are suggesting other local or Center opportunities for presentations or community fairs.

Community plan: Presentations and materials to distribute. Emmanuel presentation.

Next meeting August 6th, 2024