

Village of Friendship Heights
Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Environment

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on August 6, 2024

Persons in attendance:

Committee Members: Patricia Canessa (Chair), Martha Solt (Council Liaison), Sonya Starnes, Christine Knauer, Emmanuel D’Silva, Joyce Mushaben

There were no observers.

The committee meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patricia Canessa at 7:05 PM

1. Christine Knauer volunteered to be temporary recording secretary to record minutes of this meeting.
2. Minutes of the prior meeting of July 2, 2024 were discussed and accepted with minor adjustments.
3. Chair Patricia Canessa reported to the committee that as an ad hoc group it is not required to follow Robert’s Rules of Order.

4. Counsel Liaison Martha Solt then reported to the Committee on several issues:

A. There are potential sources of funding for our committee projects through Sustainable Maryland, but these funds would have to be administered through the Village of Friendship Heights which at the present time does not qualify as a municipality able to receive such funds. The Village is appealing this designation and the state will review its funding status next month.

B. The Village intends to be helpful to the Committee if it is successful in obtaining outside funds and has offered to create a dedicated fund in a special account to be managed by the Village Treasurer for no charge. The Village itself does not have the resources to fund this committee’s activities, except for minimal amounts. Greenbank is a potential source of funds, but this is mainly in the form of low interest loans and also includes some grants to projects in low income areas.

C. The Village Council will appoint a new volunteer member to this committee at its September council meeting.

5. Chair Patricia Canessa reported on an emergency preparedness discussion to be presented by our committee at a meeting of the owners of the Carleton building. This presentation will be a pilot project and will be expanded to all village buildings in the future. Committee members were given paper copies of the proposed presentation and asked for their input. Martha Solt, a resident of the Carleton, will ask the HOA to set a date for this event.

6. Emmanuel D’Silva reported on the status of finding a location for a local Miyawaki (mini) forest project. He recently visited one on Roosevelt Island In NYC, but said that there seems to be no good location for one in our village. As a result he will not give a report to our Village Council on this project. But he has been actively looking for potential sites in other locations.

7. There was also a general discussion of other topics including a project by the cross-border Friendship Heights Alliance to plant native species along some parts of Wisconsin Avenue. In addition, the topic of

where and how to recycle household items like clothing, batteries and electronics was discussed. Martha Solt confirmed that the Village Center already has a collection box in the lobby for old batteries and that Goodwill Industries will have a recycling truck and team at this location on September 14 to accept many donated items, including electronics. The Village is publicizing this on its website and with flyers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by Christine Knauer
Willard Towers
August 8, 2024