

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



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Approved Minutes

Friendship Heights Village Council Communications Committee

Thursday, August 1, 2024

Via Zoom

Council Communications Committee members present: Martha Solt, Daniel Ahr.

Others present: Julian Mansfield, Jason Goldstein, Chris Allen/Montgomery County DPS, eight residents.

At 3 p.m., Ms. Solt called the Friendship Heights Village Council Communications Committee meeting to order. Ms. Solt introduced Chris Allen from the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services and asked him to respond to questions provided in advance regarding the Page Park permit application. Mr. Allen indicated that the applicant (GreenSweep) resubmitted documents on July 18, and this information is still under review by DPS. It is anticipated the DPS review will be completed in 30 days. He mentioned that Architectural and Structural reviews are still outstanding, along with the Stormwater Management that is required, which pertains to stormwater runoff and sediment control.

Mr. Allen described the ADA design requirements and indicated that Page Park comes under Title 2 of the ADA as a government-owned facility. The County cannot waive ADA requirements as it is a federal law. Ms. Solt asked about the distinction between a renovation and a new park. Mr. Allen responded that this is considered a new park, so the pergola area has to be made accessible.

Mr. Ahr asked about the relationship between the applicant and the owner and how DPS engages with either or both. Mr. Allen said the plan submission is electronic, so whoever uploads the application and provides their email address becomes the applicant. Other individuals besides the applicant can be authorized to access the files and view comments and responses from DPS reviewers. Mr. Ahr asked about the distinction between the permitting process and the inspection process. Mr. Allen responded that the permitting process involves approval of the two-dimensional drawings/plans, followed by the onsite inspection phase once the permit is approved. Mr. Ahr asked if the permitting process includes stormwater

mitigation and ADA compliance. Chris responded that both stormwater mitigation and ADA compliance need to be resolved before the permit is issued.

Bobby Pestronk asked about the timing for the completion of the review. Mr. Allen responded that it should be done by mid-August. He then asked about the applicability of demonstrating ADA accessibility by spending at least 20% of the total cost on accessibility improvements. Mr. Allen said this does not apply as the park is considered new.

Roy Schaeffer asked if the permit will get approved in pieces or all at once. Mr. Allen responded it will be approved all at once.

Mr. Mansfield asked if the pergola structure were to be removed, would the area with the pergola still need to be made accessible. Mr. Allen responded that this information would need to be submitted to DPS in order to update the permit application and to have them review and make a determination.

Mr. Goldstein asked for clarification on Mr. Allen's reference to the park being an "open field" and how that determination was made given that the park has been established for decades. Mr. Allen responded that this view is based on the information that was presented, so if there is any other information that would change their opinion, that needs to be submitted.

No actions were taken by the Committee. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Solt" followed by the date "10/10/2024". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Martha Solt, Communications Committee Chair