

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



VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*

ROBERT PESTRONK, *Chairman*

DANIEL AHR, *Vice Chairman*

MARTHA SOLT, *Secretary*

ROY SCHAEFFER, *Treasurer*

MICHAEL MEZEY

CHERYL TYLER

JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

Approved Minutes

Friendship Heights Village Council Parks and Grounds Committee Monday, October 28, 2024

Parks and Grounds Committee members present: Robert Pestronk; Roy Schaeffer.

Others present: Julian Mansfield; seven residents.

At 6:15 p.m., Mr. Pestronk called the meeting of the Friendship Heights Village Council Parks and Grounds Committee to order.

Signing/Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mansfield reported that Village Council member Michael Mezey, former Chair of the Committee, agreed to sign the approved minutes of the March 20 meeting. Mr. Pestronk moved, Mr. Schaeffer seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 29 meeting. It was agreed that Mr. Schaeffer will sign the August 29 meeting minutes in the absence of a Chair. The approval of the minutes of the September 19 and October 8 meetings was deferred until the next Committee meeting since Mr. Ahr was not in attendance.

Page Park Update

Mr. Mansfield reported that GreenSweep's structural engineer will not be able to take the slope measurements and update the pathway drawings but has recommended an architect who can do the work. GreenSweep is currently coordinating with the architect to proceed, then they will schedule the required third party inspections. The Committee requested confirmation of a recent email from the County DPS regarding whether the stormwater management plan will affect the opening of the park.

Change Order Process

Mr. Pestronk suggested delaying the discussion of the change order process pending the Committee's meeting with Village attorney Ron Bolt and his review of the proposed draft. It was agreed this item will be deferred.

Draft Charter for Committee

Mr. Pestronk referred to the draft charter presented to Committee members. He indicated the charter would be useful to specify how the committee will work. Mr.

Schaeffer questioned the need for a charter, as there have not been any disputes requiring resolution between Committees and there is some redundancy with the Village bylaws. Mr. Pestronk said the charter would be designed to prevent potential disputes. It was agreed this item will be deferred to the next Committee meeting.

Recommendation to obtain licensed professional expert

Mr. Pestronk referred to a draft document that was distributed to Committee members. The document is based on the discussion at the October 8 Committee meeting regarding a recommendation for the Village to obtain a licensed professional expert to assist with Page Park and other projects. Mr. Schaeffer said a land use attorney would not be an appropriate professional under this proposal. Mr. Pestronk said there may be instances where the Village would wish to engage a land use attorney.

Motion/Vote: Mr. Schaeffer moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded, to recommend to the Village Council that the Village retain a licensed professional expert to assist with Page Park and other projects. The motion was approved unanimously.

Assessment of stressed/dying Trees and Shrubs

Mr. Mansfield reported on the dead yew shrubs in Humphrey Park. GreenSweep has identified 30 yews that need to be replaced. GreenSweep conducted a soil sample and an assessment of the irrigation system. The soil sample was normal, and there were several deficiencies noted in the irrigation system, which have since been corrected. Although the yews are no longer under warranty, GreenSweep is offering to replace half of them at no charge, and the Village would be responsible for the other half. The Committee agreed with the Village Manager's recommendation to proceed to replace the yews.

Mr. Mansfield indicated the Village arborist has assessed several trees that are stressed or dying, including a maple tree on Hills Plaza, an oak on Shoemaker Farm Lane, and two younger trees in front of The Carleton on North Park. The arborist recommended removal of the maple tree, pruning for the oak tree, and indicated the two younger trees were stressed due to the drought but should leaf out in the spring. The arborist provided a proposal for the removal and pruning work. The Committee agreed with the Manager's recommendation to proceed with this work.

Other issues related to Page Park

Mr. Mansfield inquired about the stormwater management plan for Page Park and whether the Village can proceed with the contractor for this work based on the proposal approved by the Council.

Mr. Schaeffer indicated that the Village needs an independent consultant to determine if this work is necessary, and the Committee should resolve how this is to be paid. Mr. Pestronk referred to the original contract with Greensweep that

allows the Village to perform work with another contractor as needed. It was agreed this item will be discussed with Village attorney Ron Bolt.


Mr. Pestronk added another issue to consider is potential signage for Page Park and the other Village parks regarding appropriate rules and procedures.

Other potential non-Page Park future items

Mr. Mansfield mentioned two items: 1) A request to place a memorial plaque in Willoughby Park in honor of a former resident; and 2) what to do with several deteriorating grass strips around the Village (the area between the sidewalk and curb).

No other actions were taken by the Parks and Grounds Committee. Mr. Schaeffer moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded to close the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Pestronk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bobby Pestronk, Parks and Grounds Committee Chair