

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

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Approved Minutes

Friendship Heights Village Council Parks and Grounds Committee

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

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

Others present: Julian Mansfield; Jason Goldstein; two residents.

At 6:18 p.m., Mr. Pestronk called the meeting of the Friendship Heights Village Council Parks and Grounds Committee to order.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Ahr, moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded, to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Schaeffer amended the motion to move the pollinator garden issue to the first item on the agenda, Mr. Ahr seconded the amended motion. The amended motion was approved unanimously (3-0). The original motion was approved by a 2-1 vote (Mr. Schaeffer opposed).

Pollinator Garden Request for Contribution

Mr. Mansfield provided background on the request from the Friendship Heights Alliance for a contribution of \$1,000 to offset costs involved with the maintenance of the pollinator garden that the Alliance planted with the Village's permission on Friendship Boulevard near The Willoughby. Mr. Ahr inquired about the Village budget and which line item would cover this expense. Mr. Schaeffer indicated the Village was told that all expenses would be covered by the Alliance at the time of the planting. Mr. Pestronk questioned if a legal opinion from the Village attorney is needed to approve the donation, as the Alliance is a 501c6 non-profit entity.

After discussion, Mr. Pestronk moved, Mr. Ahr seconded, to approve a one-time \$1,000 donation to the Friendship Heights Business Alliance contingent upon approval from the Village attorney that this would be a legal use of Village funds. Motion: Mr. Pestronk moved, Mr. Ahr seconded, to approve a one-time \$1,000 donation for the pollinator garden. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0).

Approval of Minutes

The Committee removed discussion of the November 6 closed meeting, pending suggested changes from Mr. Schaeffer.

Mr. Ahr moved, Mr. Schaeffer seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 19 and October 8 Parks and Grounds Committee meetings. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0). Mr. Pestronk moved, Mr. Schaeffer seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 28 Parks and Grounds Committee meeting. The motion was approved by a 2-0-1 vote (Mr. Ahr abstained).

Page Park Update

Mr. Mansfield reported on the upcoming meeting scheduled with GreenSweep and the attorneys for both parties. He reviewed the remaining items required by the County DPS and discussed several architects he has been referred to. Mr. Ahr indicated the Village has assumed responsibility for completing the remaining projects at Village expense, while leaving open the possibility that some or all of those costs will be potentially deducted from the final payment to GreenSweep.

Page Park Web Page

Mr. Pestronk reported that he and Council member Martha Solt are still working to resolve the remaining revisions to the Page Park website page. Once the page has been launched, the Parks and Grounds Committee has been asked by the Communications Committee to keep the page updated. Mr. Pestronk sought concurrence from Committee members for this request. There was no objection. Ms. Solt indicated that the Communications Committee previously decided that any newsletter story on Page Park needs to be reviewed by the Committee prior to publication. Mr. Goldstein pointed out that the newsletter has a tight deadline, so any feedback from the Committee on newsletter content needs to be provided promptly. Committee members acknowledged the tight deadline.

Replacement of Shrubs in Humphrey Park

Mr. Mansfield reported that GreenSweep submitted two proposals for the replacement of 36 dead yews in the park, one to replace the yews with the same variety, a non-native species, and the other to replace the yews with inkberries, a native species that would differ in appearance from the existing yews. GreenSweep will cover the cost of 18 yews under warranty with either proposal, with the Village responsible for the cost of the other 18. After discussion, the Committee agreed by consensus to support the proposal to plant the native inkberries, and to use native species for future replacements as needed.

Restoration of Grass Strips

Mr. Mansfield reported that areas of grass strips (between the curb and sidewalk) have deteriorated around the Village. These areas do not have an irrigation system to provide regular watering. There are a few strips that have been planted with liriopse as an alternative groundcover. Ms. Solt reported that the Climate Change & Environment Committee has discussed the issue and noted that the soil in these areas has an excess of salt buildup, so any remediation should include replacing

the soil. It was agreed that Mr. Mansfield will consult with the landscaping maintenance company and devise a plan for treating these areas.

Signage for Parks

Mr. Pestronk referred to photos of signs he has seen in other parks regarding guidelines and rules for parks, and he would like the Committee to consider putting these types of signs in Village parks. This item will be placed on the agenda for discussion at a future committee meeting.

Committee Charter

Mr. Pestronk indicated that the Village Bylaws stipulate that the main purpose of each committee should be stated when the committee is founded. There is currently no charter for the Parks and Grounds Committee. Mr. Pestronk distributed a draft charter for the committee members to review. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

No other actions were taken by the Parks and Grounds Committee. Mr. Ahr moved, Mr. Pestronk seconded to close the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Bobby Pestronk, Parks and Grounds Committee Chair