

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

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Approved Minutes Friendship Heights Village Council Development Committee Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Council Development Committee members present: Bobby Pestronk; Michael Mezey; Cheryl Tyler.

Others present: Jason Goldstein; Julian Mansfield; Ken Niles, Alfred Muller; Evan Smith; Paul Brown; John Connell; Somerset House representative (writes newsletter); Dawn Calabria; Ethel Pacheco; Moussa Moadel; Sandra Youla; Cameron Moody; one Village resident.

At 3:00 p.m., Mr. Pestronk called the Friendship Heights Village Council Development Committee meeting to order. He referred to the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Mezey seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024, Council Development Committee meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5500 Wisconsin Avenue Project

Mr. Mansfield reported that Pepco has been doing utility work in the sidewalk in front of 5500 Wisconsin Avenue, including undergrounding the overhead power lines. The developer, Donohoe, has not received a building permit yet, and this is anticipated to occur in early May. The \$1 million payment from Donohoe to the Village for the additional density rights is payable when the building permit is issued. It is anticipated that portions of South Park Avenue and The Hills Plaza will become part of the construction staging area once the demolition and construction work begins.

Discussion of Friendship Heights Sector Plan Revision

Mr. Pestronk reported that the Planning Board approved the boundary area for the Friendship Heights Sector Plan. It will be a larger area than the previous Sector Plan, to include the Brookdale neighborhood behind the GEICO property as well as the Willard Avenue Neighborhood Park. The Village website has updated information and documents related to the Sector Plan along with links to Planning Board information sites. Mr. Pestronk referred to the recent County housing proposal put forth by County Council member Andrew Friedson. There are no properties within the Village of Friendship Heights that are included in the housing proposal.

A resident inquired about the County Ride On bus 34 route that is proposed to be eliminated between Friendship Heights and Bethesda. Metro will be providing another bus (D96) to serve the same route, but it will cost more than the Ride On bus.

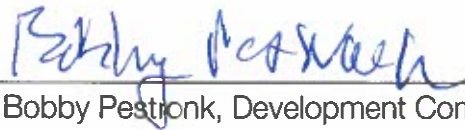
CAC Recommendations on Sector Plan

Mr. Pestronk referred to the Community Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Sector Plan, and he thanked CAC President Ken Niles and Village Council member Cheryl Tyler (Council liaison to the CAC) for their work in preparing and submitting the recommendations to the Council. The Committee discussed how to proceed with addressing the recommendations. Mr. Pestronk noted that other sites within the Village could be considered for additional development based on the scope of the study previously proposed by the Planning Board staff in preparation for the Sector Plan process. It was decided that Atara Margolies with the Planning Board staff will be invited to the next Development Committee meeting to provide an update on the Sector Plan process and the appropriate timing for providing Village input. Committee members also discussed the need to reach out to other individuals and groups in the community to receive more feedback on these issues in addition to the CAC's report.

Motion/Vote: After discussion, Mr. Mezey moved, Ms. Tyler seconded, for the Committee to accept the Sector Plan recommendations from the Community Advisory Committee subject to further discussion and exploration of other recommendations. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0). Ms. Tyler thanked the CAC for all their work in developing their recommendations.

No other action was taken by the Development Committee. Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Mezey seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Bobby Pestronk, Development Committee Chair