

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on January 14, 2025

Persons in attendance:

Committee Members: Patricia Canessa (Chair), Martha Solt (Council Liaison), Sonya Starnes, Christine Knauer

There were no observers.

The committee meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patricia Canessa at 7:02 PM

1. Christine Knauer volunteered to be temporary recording secretary to record minutes of this meeting.

2. Minutes of the prior meeting of October 1, 2024 were discussed and accepted with minor adjustments. There are no minutes for the months of November because there was no quorum or for December since that meeting was cancelled.

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

A. Committee member Joyce Mushaben recently wrote a resignation letter to the Village Council which then accepted her resignation from this committee. Liaison Solt then asked the members of this committee who were present tonight to determine whether they would like Patricia Canessa to continue as Chair. The members voted to keep Patricia Canessa as Chair of this Climate/Environment Committee.

B. The Village Council has proposed to Martha Solt that our committee ask for village funds to finance Climate projects. After discussion of the kinds of projects we might like to create, the committee members decided to ask for \$20,000 now with the decision on specific projects to be made at a later date. The committee also voted to do a survey of village residents to learn what climate projects are important to them before making a decision,

4. Chair Patricia Canessa then reported to the committee on several issues:

A. The Committee's original plan of action, mission, goals and objectives as detailed in an organizational document previously given to all Committee members should be reviewed by all current members before the next Committee meeting. The members should then be prepared to comment on how the committee's actions would fit into this organizational framework. Such actions should have stated objectives and the results should be able to be measured. New proposals should use this plan's framework.

B. The Chair reviewed the October 28, 2024 emergency preparedness presentation given by our committee at the Carleton. The members agreed that this initial presentation was very well done and useful to the Carleton residents. There was also discussion of including planning for outdoor wildfire emergencies in future presentations. In addition, the members asked Martha Solt to contact Christy Duke of the MoCo Office of Emergency Management who previously had said that she would like to speak on this topic at village buildings and would bring the MoCo files of life packets to distribute to residents.

5. Sonya Starnes then reported to the committee on two topics:

A. Sustainable Maryland is a certification program for Maryland municipalities that want to go green. While our own village does not qualify for membership in Sustainable Maryland because it is not a municipality, we could use that program's ideas for our own projects. Member Starnes showed slides created by another community that gave examples of action categories and green committee activities.

B. The Maryland Department of the Environment has created regulations for building energy performance standards which are now in effect. These performance standards are measured by annual building reports on energy use and emissions which are scored using a comparison benchmark. Most, but not all buildings in our village have been submitting these annual reports for three years and have received benchmark scores. The Carleton has the highest score because it is an all-electric building. The reporting is mandatory and failure to report and meet the benchmark will be subject to large fines in the future.

The Committee then proposed the creation of a committee webpage on the village's website which would be open to all residents for information, comments and links to other organizations. Martha Solt will meet with Jason Goldstein of the village to set up this webpage.

The group also discussed asking the Village Council to pass a resolution committing the Village to green activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Submitted by Christine Knauer
Willard Towers
January 16, 2025