

Village of Friendship Heights

Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Environment

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on October 7, 2025

1. Persons in attendance:

Committee Members: Patricia Canessa (Chair), Martha Stolt (Council Liaison), Sonya Starnes, Christine Knauer, Thomas Brody, Emmanuel D'Silva, Evan Brown, Andra Miller

The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patricia Canessa at 7:00 PM. Andra Miller volunteered to be temporary recording secretary to record minutes of this meeting.

2. Minutes of the prior meetings of August 5, 2025 and September 2, 2025 were approved. As follow up to item #6 in the September 2nd minutes regarding the use of green plate for catering in the Village, Patricia spoke with Anne and some vendors' contracts may allow catering using all compostable materials.

3. Counsel Liaison Martha Stolt updated the committee on the status of questions from the previous minutes.

- A. A bid has been put out for EV chargers. 2 chargers will be installed behind the "Artist House" and will be free. Sign-up process is still to be determined. A question was raised on how to restrict use only to Village residents.
- B. The glyphosate issue was discussed at the Council meeting, and a letter was sent to the County Council opposing its use in Willard Park. Discussion with Andrew Friedson's office was not positive and follow up with the County Parks office is in the works.
- C. There was a discussion about having a member from our committee attend the Development Committee meeting and report back. It was noted that the weekly (5 pm Thursdays) Development Committee meetings are open to the public and their deliberations around sale of the Geico site have already coalesced and that official participation would be unnecessary. They are opposing cutting trees on the Geico property and a direct connection of roads from the Village to the Geico property. They also oppose waiver of a storm water run-off study that Geico is seeking.
- D. The Village Council will be meeting with the Geico lawyer next week. The Development Committee will soon make a presentation at the Planning Board meeting. More news regarding a potential delay in development of 5500 Wisconsin may be available in Jan 2026.
- E. Follow up on 2024 meeting with Carlton HOA - perhaps establish a page on the Village Website for this committee and post information about emergency preparedness. Chris

Knauer shared information that she posted on the Willard Towers List Serve on Awareness and Preparedness. She suggested that a presentation of this information be made to the Council.

4. Christine Knauer then reported on the ongoing topic of the need to address excess winter salting of Village sidewalks by building maintenance crews. Chris has written an article for the Village Newsletter, and it has been sent to Anne on behalf of the Committee. Sonya Starnes reported that MD is having a one hour virtual introduction on salt management as a lead in to an all day training program. She has contacted them to see if a shorter training could be given in the Village. To spread the concern about salt, it was suggested that Chris present information on excess salt use to the Village Council in Nov so the message could then be shared with Building Managers.

5. Additional issues discussed:

- Do we know the energy source of the electrical supply for the EV chargers? Can we influence condo boards to use green energy?
- It was suggested that at our next meeting we discuss aligning with the Montgomery County climate plan.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Submitted by Andra Miller

October 17, 2025