

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on December 2, 2025

Persons in attendance:

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

Members absent: Emmanuel D'Silva, Thomas Brody

There were no observers.

The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patricia Canessa at 7:08 PM

- 1. Christine Knauer volunteered to be temporary recording secretary to record minutes of this meeting.**
- 2. Minutes of the prior meeting of November 4, 2025 were approved.**
- 3. Counsel Liaison Solt was asked to report to the Committee on actions taken by the Village Council regarding various issues presented to it in the past by our committee. There were no recent Council actions to report, but Liaison Solt then asked the Committee to review local environmental projects proposed by Sustainable Maryland to see if some of these projects could be useful in our community.**
- 4. Chairperson Canessa then reported to the Committee on key priorities recently developed by international conferences on climate change.**
- 5. Chairperson Canessa and Liaison Solt also reported to the Committee on the deliberations and actions of the Village Development Committee. There are large differences of opinion within this other committee on how to proceed. Some members are pro-development and others are not. Another development problem is that properties within the village are owned by various entities under contracts and agreements that would make it difficult to change or develop them.**
- 6. Following this report, the Committee discussed safety and lighting issues in the village.**
- 7. Christine Knauer then reported on the ongoing need to address the topic of excess winter salting of village sidewalks by building maintenance crews. Several actions**

are planned for the near future, including a report by Mrs. Knauer to the Village Council at its next monthly meeting, an application for a village grant by Sonya Starnes which would be used to provide salt safety training for village maintenance and contractor crews, and an initiative by committee members to meet with their own building owners and managers to explain safe salting practices. The Committee also discussed the possibility of meeting with environmental committees in nearby towns to learn how they are dealing with the salt problem.

8. Sonya Starnes then presented the idea of promoting the use of native plantings within the village before next spring's growing season. Current non-native plantings are not attractive to birds, butterflies and bees, some of which are endangered. The Committee then discussed how to get the public's support for this idea, including the creation of a local butterfly garden to start. Page Park may be a natural location because of its stormwater drainage features.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by Christine Knauer

Willard Towers

December 3, 2025