

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

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting on March 3, 2026

Persons in attendance:

Committee Members: Patricia Canessa (Chair), Sonya Starnes, Christine Knauer, Emmanuel D'silva, John Hisle, Tom Brody, Andra Miller

Council Liaison: Roy Schaeffer

Members absent: Evan Brown

There were no observers.

### The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patricia Canessa at 7:04 PM

1. Andra Miller volunteered to be temporary recording secretary to record minutes of this meeting.
2. Minutes of the prior meeting of Feb 3, 2026 were approved and Dec 2, 2025 were approved with one modification regarding the timing of implementing the use of native plants.
3. Council Update- Mayor Roy Schaeffer 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.
  - The Council has had some conversations on salt usage and Chris Knauer is to follow up with Julian.
  - The charging station contract has been signed, and it will be installed. Usage will be free for now, later it may be restricted to village residents. It was suggested that a camera be installed to monitor the station.
4. Chairperson Canessa then reported to the Committee that she is stepping down. Andra Miller and Chris Knauer will be co-chairs, and a vote was taken where they were approved by the committee.
5. Christine Knauer gave an update on the ongoing need to address the topic of excess winter salting of village sidewalks by building maintenance crews.
  - There is a March 16 webinar on Smart Salting Strategy for Winter Maintenance. Chris will attend and report back.
  - There was a suggestion to contact Montgomery County Council candidates on the salt issue.
6. Christing Knauer also reminded the committee about how to protect migrating birds. A handout was provided.

7. Issues for the Committee to continue discussing are:

- Use of native plants in the village
- Replacing fluorescent lighting in buildings (State program through Empower MD)
- Instituting a recycling program in the Village Center (there is not currently)
- Invite a speaker on Energy Efficiency Guidelines

8. Community Day is April 11. We will meet March 25 at 7pm to plan.

Some ideas mentioned: migrating birds, native plants, trees and pollinator gardens, composting.

9. The committee will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by Andra Miller

The Elizabeth

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