

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

Date: May 7 2026

Meeting Time: 7:13 PM

Persons in attendance:

Committee Members: Christine Knauer, Andra Miller, Evan Brown, Emmanuel D'Silva, Thomas Brody, Loretta McClure

Observers: Lois Forester

Members absent: Patricia Canessa (Chair), Martha Solt (Council Liaison), Sonya Starnes, John Hisle

Previous Minutes - No minutes were recorded for the April 7 meeting.

Agenda Item: FH Development Plan and Tree Preservation

The committee discussed the FH development plan and the ecological importance of the existing oak trees on the site.

- Oak trees were identified as a keystone species in the local ecosystem due to their role in supporting insects and bird populations.
- The developer's proposal includes planting 650 ornamental trees to replace native tree cover.
- Concerns were raised that ornamental plantings would not provide equivalent ecological value.

Proposal: Miyawaki Forest Approach

A motion was introduced to author an advisory letter to the Village advocating for the following steps:

1. Pause the cutting of native trees.
2. Oppose the planting of 650 ornamental trees in place of native species.
3. Propose the planting of a Miyawaki forest using native species as an alternative.

Result: Motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:16