

# VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*  
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Vice Chairman*  
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*  
KATHLEEN G. COOPER, *Treasurer*  
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Parliamentarian*  
MICHAEL J. DORSEY  
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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## APPROVED MINUTES

### PUBLIC SESSION

## FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2019

### ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian; Michael Dorsey, Council member; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 20 residents.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council heard questions and concerns from members of the audience.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White announced the following:

The next Council meeting to take place on Tuesday, October 15, due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

An invitation to all residents to attend the Fall Festival celebration on Thursday, October 17, at the Village Center. The October Village newsletter has more details.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of July 8; closed session minutes of July 8; minutes of Council Communications Committee meeting of July 16. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summaries for the periods ending July 31 and August 31, 2019.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from Council Communications Committee:** Ms. Durbin reported that the Council Communications Committee met on July 16 and discussed the following:

- (1) Modification of the Committee's charge;
- (2) The revamping of the Village website, to include a new section listing services provided at the Center. The first draft from the website designer for committee review was received on September 9. Date of next meeting is to be determined.

**Report from the Community Advisory Committee:** Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on August 7 and discussed the following:

- (1) The development of a more robust Community Advisory Committee now that all new members are participating.
  - (2) Pedestrian safety, including (a) whether the crosswalk near Whole Foods is the best place to cross Willard Avenue and (b) the benefit to be gained from a lighted crosswalk.
  - (3) The grassy strips and trees in the Village;
  - (4) The shuttle bus project;
  - (5) The dumpster belonging to 4701 Willard Avenue;
  - (6) The sidewalk and snow removal in front of the Gap's location.
- The next meeting will be October 10 at 5:30 p.m.

**Report from the Community Advisory Committee:** Mr. Mezey reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on September 4 and discussed the following:

- (1) Regarding the shuttle bus schedule, concerns that the bus does not arrive on time and the availability of the new bus.
- (2) The dumpster at 4701 Willard Avenue;
- (3) The current lack of shade trees in Page Park;

- (4) The grassy strips in the Village; and
- (5) The broken bench on the GEICO side of Willard Avenue.

Mr. Mansfield reported that the bus company's proposal to provide two new buses and continue of the current service is expected for Council review.

**Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights:**

Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee met on July 17 and discussed the following:

- (1) Updates on the Capital Crescent Trail;
- (2) The zoning text amendment on the accessory dwelling units in the County and the bill addressing license requirements and amendments which is also a part of the ADU zoning text amendment;
- (3) An update on management of the CCCFH website; and
- (4) The new Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan for pedestrian safety. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for October 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center. Please see the Village website for more details.

The next CCCFH meeting will take place September 18 at 8:00 p.m., at the Somerset Town Hall. Evan Glass, Montgomery County Council member will attend.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Discussion/vote on proposals for tree work:** Mr. Mansfield reminded the Council that this item was tabled at the July Council meeting because the two bids received. from ArborCare Tree Specialist and Adirondack Tree Experts were not comparable. Both bidders have done work in the Village.

At staff request, ArborCare revised its bid. The discrepancy between the two bids concerned a difference in opinion as to which trees should be removed or pruned. Staff opted for preserving any tree that was in question as they could be removed at a later date if necessary. The Staff recommended that the Council approve Adirondack's proposal, which was less expensive

**Ms. Cooper moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, to approve the proposal from Adirondack Tree Experts at a cost of \$17,245, plus an additional \$1,000 as a contingency to trim two trees that will not be removed, for a total cost of \$18,425. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

**Update on the lease of Village's house at 4602 North Park Avenue:** Ms. Cooper reported that the Village had been negotiating a lease with a potential tenant that subsequently decided to stay in Bethesda. Our leasing agent will continue to pursue other options

**Discussion on the condition of the lawn on the property owned by Ron Pomykala:** Mr. Dorsey commented on the unattended grass and weeds and called attention to a relevant section of the County Code. After a brief discussion, the Council asked staff to send a letter to Mr. Pomykala regarding the state of the lawn and to attach a copy of the County Code.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council Work Session to discuss “Aging in Place: Are We Ready?”** Ms. Cooper asked the Council to schedule a Session on aging in place on Thursday, October 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Center, She stated that this is an important and relevant subject for many of us. Several Council members requested a date change. Staff agreed to survey the Council and determine space availability.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Paula Durbin