

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*

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797
Fax: 301-907-3922
Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov
Website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumarán-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 15 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 the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Zumarán-Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of October 15. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for period ending October 31, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights:

Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee met on October 16 and discussed the following:

- (1) Updates on the Capital Crescent Trail;
- (2) Updates on the Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan for Pedestrian safety (see page 3 of the current Newsletter for details);
- (3) Greenhouse emissions as related to Westbard; and
- (4) The October 7 community workshop on the County's Subdivision Staging Policy.

Ms. White announced next CCCFH meeting scheduled for November 20 at 8:00 p.m., at the Somerset Town Hall, which Evan Glass, County Councilmember, was to attend.

Report from the Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on November 6 and discussed the following:

- (1) The need for signs indicating where the Village shuttle stops, resulting in the consensus that they were not needed;
- (2) Whether the Village security patrol is too heavy handed;
- (3) The need to repair steps in Willoughby Park;
- (4) Hazard from leaves on the sidewalk in front of the GAP, resulting in Mr. Mansfield's contact with the GAP manager regarding this issue.
- (5) The grassy strips, ground cover and tree replacement.

The next meeting will be held December 4 at 5:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on proposal for shuttle bus service: Mr. Mansfield reported that five proposals for a five-year contract were received, including one from RMA, the incumbent contractor.

While the other companies may be able to provide adequate service, staff recommended continuing with RMA. Its pricing is very competitive, although not the lowest bid; it has been operating satisfactorily since 2007; the two primary bus drivers are greatly appreciated by Village residents; if necessary, it can dispatch a backup vehicle from a depot in Rockville more quickly than the other bidders. In addition, the RMA's current fleet can continue in use during the wait for its new buses to arrive. Other bidders may have to rely on their own backup buses while waiting for new ones and/or may not have any ADA-accessible back up buses in their fleet.

Mr. Dorsey moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve RMA's five-year proposal initially costing \$466,800 during the first year and increasing in cost by 3 percent a year thereafter. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Aging in Place work session follow-up: Ms. Cooper stated that in light of the information shared, her "vision" for aging in place could be revisited at a later date. After brief comments:

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to invite Friendship Heights Neighbors Network to give a presentation on the subject at a future Council meeting. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion of email contact information for Council members: Per Mr. Dorsey, residents have contacted him regarding a more direct way of contacting the Council members. He suggested that each Council member have a separate email address posted on the Village website. After a brief discussion:

It was the consensus of the Council that each member would have the option of listing an individual email address in the Village newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of a stop by the Village shuttle bus in front of the Barlow Building at 5454 Wisconsin Avenue: Mr. Pirnie stated that the current bus schedule does not include a stop at the Barlow Building, where residents might have medical appointments. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to table this discussion until the February 2020. The motion carried. (5-2-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. White moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Paula Durbin