

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*
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MICHAEL J. DORSEY
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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

December 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The Chevy Chase Land Company has informed the Village that the Giant grocery store at the Chevy Chase Center will be closing in early January. This was a business decision between the Land Company and Giant Food. The Land Company has informed us they have signed a lease for a full-service grocery store to occupy the same space. The new store is expected to open at the end of 2020 after making improvements to the space. The lease agreement reportedly contains a non-disclosure provision that does not allow the Land Company to identify the new grocery store until the new grocer directs them. An agreement between the Village and the Land Company requires the Land Company to have a continuously operating store on the site. In the event a store is not in operation for a period of 90 days or more, the agreement requires the Land Company to provide or subsidize shuttle bus transportation to the nearest comparable grocery store. The Land Company's position is that the Whole Foods on Willard is the nearest

comparable grocery store, which is already being served by the Village shuttle bus.

There is no obligation in the agreement to provide a pharmacy at the Chevy Chase Center site in addition to the grocery store. There are, however, three pharmacies within close proximity to the Giant.

This is all the information we have at this time. The Village will be in continued discussions with the Land Company as this situation progresses.

Residents are invited to the Village Center at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 1, for the annual New Year's Day Open House.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council heard questions and concerns from the audience.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of November 12. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for period ending November 30, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Program Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met on November 20 and discussed the following:

- (1) Ideas for trips and programs; and
- (2) The need to evaluate trips. Anne O'Neil, program director, will devise a form for participants to use to note the quality of restaurants, hotels and other trip aspects.

The next meeting will be held toward the end of January on a date to be announced at the next Council meeting.

Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee met on November 20 and discussed the following:

- (1) The presentation by Evan Glass, of the County Council, on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Pedestrian Safety. An event on pedestrian safety

coordinated by Mr. Glass and open to the public was scheduled for December 14.

(2) The update from Norman Knopf on status of the property at 5320 Willard Avenue; and

(3) Changes to the route to Sibley Hospital via Dalecarlia Parkway.

The next CCCFH meeting is scheduled for 8:00 p.m., January 15, at the Somerset Town Hall.

Report from the Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on December 4 and discussed the following:

(1) The closing of the Giant and the relevant agreement between the Village and Chevy Chase Land Company;

(2) The need for alternatives to Whole Foods;

(3) The Council's involvement;

(4) Repairs of sharp edges on fountain structures in the Chevy Chase Collection; and

(5) The dumpster at 4701 Willard Avenue.

The next meeting will be held January 8 at 5:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion of plantings in sidewalk strips: Per Mr. Mansfield, at the November meeting, staff was asked to check with Kyle Narsavage of GreenSweep, the Village's landscape maintenance contractor, alternatives to lirioppe for planting in sidewalk strips. Mr. Narsavage recommended pachysandra and vinca minor but warned they are less tolerant of foot traffic than lirioppe.

After a brief discussion:

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to ask staff to explore options for planting grass in the strips. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion of Village infrastructure: Mr. Dorsey reiterated his observations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Friendship Heights Neighbors Network (FHNN): Ms. Connie Row updated the Council on the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network and addressed questions and concerns from the audience.

Discussion/vote on appointing Catherine Cameron to Program Advisory Committee:

Ms. White moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, to appoint Catherine Cameron of 4615 North Park to the Program Advisory Committee. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion on the closure of the Giant closing: The Council heard questions and concerns from the audience. Per Mr. Mansfield, the Village's attorney has been notified and the Council requested a meeting in closed session with him.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Discussion/vote on motion to enter into closed session:

Mr. Mezey moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to enter into closed session pursuant to Maryland code, General Provision Article, Section 3-305 (b)(1) personnel matters and 3-305(b)(7) legal counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin