

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

Conducted via Zoom

June 8, 2020

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 10 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.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The Council has been notified by our attorney that the Chevy Chase Land Company has withdrawn its application to eliminate the site plan condition requiring busing. The Planning Board has approved the minor site plan amendments that will provide additional outdoor restaurant seating at the Chevy Chase Center.

The Village's annual July 4 celebration will not take place at the Center this year, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Staff is examining how we can have a

“virtual” online Independence Day Program, with details to be announced in the July newsletter and on our website.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council’s public session of May 11 as edited. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for period ending May 31, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met via conference call on June 4 and discussed the following:

- (1) The property destruction and looting in surrounding neighborhoods during the recent protests and the boarded up businesses on Wisconsin Avenue;
- (2) Social distancing and wearing masks in individual buildings; and
- (3) The update on the new shuttle buses that are expected to arrive later this month.

The next meeting will be July 9 at 5:15 p.m.

Report from the Program Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Program Advisory Committee met via conference call on May 28 and discussed the following:

- (1) The suggestion of a talk on “The Worst Thing You Can Do To Your Car”;
- (2) Hosting a webinar for students, teachers and representatives from local colleges;
- (3) Announcement from student members of a website on science for ages 4-17;
- (4) Offering a virtual tour of art exhibits in the United States paired with speakers to discuss the exhibits; and,
- (5) Suggestions for online cooking classes; discussions on nutrition in the era of Covid-19; and how to boost your immune system with a healthy diet.

The next meeting will be June 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:

Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights met via conference call on May 27 and discussed the following:

- (1) The brief report on the Westwood demolition project scheduled for this fall;
- (2) The Chevy Chase Land site plan correction amendment. Ms. White recused herself from the discussion because CCCFH was strongly opposed to the site plan amendments.

- (3) Update on Little Falls Parkway; and
- (4) CCCFH vote to send a letter to support the request of Marc Elrich, County Executive, that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the local Planning Board postpone virtual public hearings for development projects and limit hearings to noncontroversial issues necessary for the administrative functioning of the agency.

The next meeting will be June 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Mezey noted that not all boarded up properties on Wisconsin and Willard Avenues were vandalized. As a precaution, boarding up was a requirement from the insurance companies, otherwise the property insurance coverage may have been jeopardized.

Report to the Community on Village Response to the Corona Virus:

Mr. Mansfield reported that staff continues to monitor County information regarding Covid -19 and reopening in the County. Phase 1 of the reopening plan started on June 1, which did not affect the reopening of the Center. Currently, there is no clear indication of which phase will allow reopening of the Center. Therefore, the Center will remain closed.

Ms. O'Neil of the Village staff reported that staff is planning activities for the virtual July 4 celebration, which include fortune telling, a popular cultural activity with readings online. Customized art classes for children are offered in June and July and for adults in July. See the July newsletter for additional programs and activities.

Mr. Dorsey, moved, that the Council send a letter to County Executive Marc Elrich asking that a COVID-19 testing site be opened at the Village Center. The motion died for lack of a second.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on the recommendation from Council Infrastructure Committee to plant 15 new trees: Mr. Pirnie presented a report from the Council Infrastructure Committee along with a map of the proposed tree locations and fact sheet of the recommended species for planting. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Pirnie, moved, Ms. Durbin seconded to approve the Council Infrastructure Committee plan to plant 15 new trees. Consistent with Council policy, staff was authorized to advertise for bids on the tree plan. The motion carried: (7-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. to enter into closed session pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provision Article, Section 3-305 (b)(1), to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin