

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

September 14, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian; Michael Dorsey, Council member; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and 5 residents.

ABSENT:

Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer.

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:

Mr. Mansfield made the following announcement:

Flu shots would be available at the Village Center in October and Ms. O'Neil would provide more detail during the update on the Village's response to the Corona Virus.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. White seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of July 13; closed session minutes of July 13; and the closed session minutes of August 4. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Shapiro presented the financial summaries for periods ending July 31 and August 31, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met via conference call on September 10 and discussed the following:

- (1) Voting options in the Village for the general election;
- (2) Comment that the 4620 North Park Avenue construction continues with no announced completion date;
- (3) The ongoing obstacle posed by the dumpster on Willard Avenue, in front of Willard Towers; and,
- (4) The recommendation that the new Village bus, which continues to receive numerous compliments on drivers and service, should have enhanced colors and signage to identify the Village.
- (5) The next meeting scheduled October 6 at 5:15 p.m. will be announced in the October newsletter.

Report from the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Ms. White reported that the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights met via Zoom on July 15 and discussed the following:

- (1) Update on Little Falls Parkway;
- (2) Update on the proposal to amend the Westbard self-storage site plan;
- (3) A brief update from Norman Knopf regarding the 5320 Willard Avenue property;
- (4) The Thrive 2050 County Plan to be discussed at this meeting;
- (5) Its concern with (a) the Planning Board's inconsistent application of new concepts and (b) that all members review the Thrive 2050 County Plan and provide the Planning Board feedback.
- (6) The reiterated need during the covid-19 pandemic for the local Planning Board to limit its virtual meetings to noncontroversial issues because of difficulty of communicating complex illustrations online so they are understandable to participants.

The next meeting will be September 16 at 7:30, via Zoom.

Report from the Maryland Municipal League: Mr. Mezey reported that the function of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Municipal League is to act as liaison/lobby group between villages and municipalities in Maryland and the state government. He presented a brief update regarding 5G cell network installation, which is of interest because of the medical, environmental and esthetic implications. According to the FCC, localities have very little control over 5G installation decisions. Staff indicated that no information has been received from officials in the 5G area or from 5G providers. Mr. Mansfield noted that Business Section of *The Washington Post* for Sunday, September 13, included an article on the 5G network.

Mr. Mezey also reported that the Committee identified as a principle priority the need to urge the legislature to restore funds paid to municipalities from highway-user revenue, which have been curtailed over the last few years because of the current budget situation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update to the Community on Village Response to the Corona Virus: Mr. Mansfield reported that the Village Center will not be a polling place for the general election on November 3. At the request of the Village, the State will provide a drop box for ballots, which will be placed outside the main entrance to the Village Center; will remain in place until the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on election night; will be under 24-hour camera surveillance arranged through our security contractor; and will be emptied twice a day by the County Board of Elections. Additional details will be provided in the October Newsletter.

Ms. O'Neil of the Village staff reported that flu shots will be administered by Giant at the Village Center on October 7 and October 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CDC protocols will be followed: One individual will enter the Center every 10 minutes to ensure social distancing. Each individual's temperature will be checked prior to entry; face masks will be required; hand sanitizer will be applied. A ten-minute waiting period will follow each shot so that reaction to the vaccine can be monitored. Consent forms must be filled out in advance to minimize wait time in the Center. A Zoom tutorial on October 6, at 11:00 a.m. will provide instruction on filling out the required consent form; a pharmacist to answer questions regarding the safety protocols.

The Center's online programming includes upcoming talks on opera and theater and election-related topics (by the League of Women Voters) and a virtual tour of the Museum of the American Revolution focusing on the topic of when women lost the right to vote in the early 1800s.

Craft baskets are available for children and adults. An online Halloween activity is being planned for children.

Discussion/vote on recommendation from Infrastructure Committee on streetlights: Mr. Pirnie presented an overview from the Council Infrastructure Committee regarding repainting the Village streetlights.

Mr. Pirnie moved, Ms. Durbin seconded to approve the Council Infrastructure Committee's proposal to repaint 89 street lights in primer and finish of high-quality polyurethane paint with an expected service life of thirty years, which will match the color of the cast aluminum street lights. Consistent with Council policy, staff was authorized to advertise for bids to repaint streetlights per the proposal. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on providing transportation to nearby polling place on Election Day: As the County will not be using the Village Center for voting, Mr. Pirnie suggested that the Council consider providing transportation to the nearest polling place on Election Day, which the Village's attorney confirmed as legally permissible because the service would be nonpartisan. The use of one of the new Village buses with a driver for the entire day (13 hours) would cost \$845. The bus will depart from the Center, go directly to the polls and return.

Mr. Pirnie moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, to approve the provision of round-trip transportation from the Village Center to nearest polling place on Election Day. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

Discussion/vote on sending letter to County officials requesting delay in the rewrite of County General Plan ("Thrive 2050"): Mr. Mezey reported neighboring municipalities' concern that the County is pushing ahead with this plan during the pandemic. Several municipalities are sending letters urging the County Council to delay its action, and have asked Friendship Heights to support this approach. Norman Knopf agrees that the Council should send a letter.

Mr. Dorsey moved, Ms. Durbin seconded, to approve sending a letter to the County Council requesting it delay its rewrite of the County General Plan ("Thrive 2050"). The motion carried. (6-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. to enter 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Durbin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paula Durbin