

# Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

Minutes of Meeting of May 17, 2017

Next Meeting June 21, 2017

## ATTENDEES

Brookdale: Bob Cope, Richard Podolske, Ron Tripp (CCCT)

Chevy Chase West: Lloyd Guerci

Chevy Chase Village

Drummond

Friendship Heights: Melanie White, Norman Knopf

Glen Echo Heights: Harry Pfohl, Damian Whitman

Green Acres - Glen Cove

Kenwood (the subdivision): Jenny Sue Dunner

Kenwood condominium

Kenwood House Coop: Jean Iker, Judy Throckmorton

Kenwood Place

Somerset: Barbara Zeughauser, Marnie Shaul, John Frick

Springfield: Phyllis Edelman; Pete Salinger, Cynthia Green

Sumner: Bobby Lipman

Sumner Village Condo:

Westmoreland: Celia Martin

Westbard Mews

Westwood Mews

Wood Acres: Myla Williams

Guests: Warren Hanson (Councilmember Berliner's office), from the Parks Department, Andy Frank and Alex Girr-Borrayo and from the Park Police, Lt. Charles Smith and Officer Zachary Schley.

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Mr. Guerci called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Presentation by Parks Department on Capital Crescent Trail crossing at Little Falls Parkway:

The Parks Department employees discussed temporary changes made after the fatal crash of a car and bicyclist, and the thinking behind the changes. They noted that they had received suggestions on a permanent solution. Community representatives provided their views at the meeting as well. The Parks Department will hire a consultant with traffic expertise. There will be session(s) for public input in the fall. While it is not possible to predict when the matter will be presented to the Planning Board, it seems likely that it will not be as early as 2017.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved. The Minutes of the Meeting of April 19, 2017 were approved.

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### **BETHESDA DOWNTOWN PLAN: MR. GUERCI**

The County Council considered the plan on April 18 and 25, 2017. In the course of this, CCCFH wrote to the Council to communicate two CCCFH Executive Committee decisions. One was to support the Riemer/Michaelson approach to affordable housing south of Bradley Boulevard (communicated to Council 4/24). The second supported staging as advocated in a letter by the mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase (communicated to Council 4/25). Neither of these was adopted. Overall, the rezoning affected 230 properties; about 30 were controversial. There was a discussion of Council deliberations. The next step is for the Council to adopt a resolution, which is expected to be considered on May 25, 2017. A draft resolution is on the web. The Bethesda Overlay Zone is next, with a revised draft ZTA posted, a public hearing on June 13 and a PHED Committee work session on June 19.

### **WESTBARD: MR. GUERCI**

On February 23, 2017, the Planning Board held a hearing and voted to approve the application for approval of the Westwood Shopping Center sketch plan subject to binding elements and conditions. On April 26, 2017, the Planning Board adopted an associated resolution. The resolution did not approve the location of any buildings on the HOC site or the dedication of the greenway abutting that site. Under the resolution, the applicant cannot move forward with the preliminary plan until it obtains approval of an amendment for the HOC site. This cannot be reviewed until there is additional information regarding the historical burying site in the vicinity of the HOC site. As noted previously, on March 8, the Planning Department gave Equity One [Regency] the green light to proceed with the cemetery delineation. Research has been done but field work has not started. There is a pause in field work which is to be the subject of mediation that is being brokered. If the mediation does not work out in a timely manner, Equity One may undertake to proceed with the field work. A planned early June date for a briefing of the Planning Board is being pushed back.

Westbard Self Storage is assembling the application for its planned building behind McDonald's and is expected to file it this month. That would be followed by an initial internal review at the Planning Department. After that, the application documents should be available on line and notices should be mailed.

Mr. Knopf noted that the PHED committee will take up ZTA 16-17 on June 12 at 2 p.m. The issue is an 8 foot exemption for roof top terraces and parapet walls in CR and CRT zones.

### **5550 FRIENDSHIP BOULEVARD, FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS: MR. KNOFF**

The developer held a public session on May 16 on its proposed 18 story building at 5550 Friendship Boulevard. A zoning amendment will be required. The developer had a lot of public

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relations advocates there. There was a failure to present alternatives other than the proposed 18 story building. Also, there were concerns about open space. This will be controversial.

### **WILLARD AVENUE PARK: MR. KNOPF**

Mr. Knopf provided an update on interactions with the Parks Department on the Willard Avenue Park. He sent an email to Casey Anderson and, ultimately, the Parks Department Director called Mr. Knopf. The wooden fence on the property will be removed by the end of June and replaced by a metal fence much closer to the house that Parks is leasing. The community did not have an opportunity to review the plans but will be given contact information on Parks employees to improve communications.

### **FLYER ON CCCFH WEBSITE TO CCCFH COMMUNITY: MS. O'KEEFE**

Ms. O'Keefe presented her proposed flyer on the website. It was very well received. It will be sent to community representatives and people on the mailing list.

### **APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR CCCFH WEBSITE: MS. O'KEEFE**

It was moved, seconded and voted to reimburse Ms. O'Keefe for expenditures for CCCFH's website, namely, \$99.00 for Wordpress and \$37.99 for network solutions (domain registration).

### **OLD CCCFH DOCUMENTS – WHAT TO DO WITH THEM? MR. KNOPF**

There was a discussion of what to do with old CCCFH documents and other materials, some of which are stored at Somerset Town Hall and need to be moved and some of which are in people's homes. Later this summer, some people will go through the records in Somerset Town Hall.

### **OFFICERS FOR 2017 – 2019.**

On a unanimous vote, the officers for the term beginning June 1, 2017 will be:

Chair - Harry Pfohl

Vice Chair - Lynne Battle

Recording Secretary - Peter Salinger

Treasurer - Sue Schumacher

Corresponding Secretary - Celia Martin

Executive Committee – Lloyd Guerci

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Executive Committee - Robert Cope

TREASURER'S REPORT: MR. GUERCI, DELIVERED REPORT PROVIDED BY MS. SCHUMACHER

Dues have been received from Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Somerset, Springfield, Westwood Mews and Wood Acres.

There was an expense of \$500.00 to the Montgomery Parks Foundation for a CCCFH contribution/ brick for the park at the Capital Crescent Trail and River Road.

MCCF REPORT: MR. GUERCI

The May meeting's program was on Transparency and Open Government. One speaker discussed the problems he encountered in efforts to obtain County controlled documents. He also discussed recent amendments to the Maryland Public Information Act including amendments adding a Compliance Board to address allegedly unreasonable fees in excess of \$350 fees and an Ombudsman.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.