

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
March 14, 2023**

Voting Members

Bob Banach	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Afua Ofori	Polinger Co./Large Employer
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Peter Fosselman	B-CC Services Center

TMD Staff

Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services

Absent

Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
Ahkeia Payne	GEICO

Guests

Rachel Davis	Walnut Street Creative
Thomas Dant	Bethesda Urban District
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Larissa Klevan	M-NCPPC
Atara Margolies	M-NCPPC
Shelley Monique Mann	TMD Outreach
David Proctor	TMD Outreach
Tom Quinn	ANC-3
Shannon Rovak	Town of Somerset
Andy Wexler	M-NCPPC
Jason Wynans	Chevy Chase Land Company

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Agenda Review/Minutes: Jim Carlson called meeting to order, and introductions followed. The meeting minutes were tabled.

Item 3 – Presentation, Friendship Heights Alliance: Rachel Davis presented to the Committee information about the Friendship Heights Alliance organization. Councilmember Friedson introduced a bill to establish the Friendship Heights Alliance, which began out of a technical assistance panel recommendation to increase collaboration between the Maryland & DC sides of Friendship Heights. Property owners formed the Friendship Heights Alliance, a 501(c)(6) organization. During the first year of its inception, they have conducted community engagement consisting of a survey, focus groups and presentations to stakeholders resulting in community events such as Open Streets closure of Wisconsin Avenue, history exhibit and pop-up events in the area which encompasses Oliver to Fessenden Streets-the commercial core of Friendship Heights. Also reported:

- Funding is provided by Department of Small Mobile Business Development DSLBD, Montgomery County and private contributions from board members
- This is the first urban district to cross state lines; the BID & urban district model has been proven to mitigate the legislative complications of the differing jurisdictions- this will create the funding structure
- The organization is being built at the same time as programs are being implemented as well, thus “building the plane while flying it.”
- Planters and chairs were planted on the DC side to create a welcoming space as funds were only available from DC, now that MC funding is available, these types of measures are becoming available on the MC side as well
- The community engagement has been well received with 50% open rate
- The vision for Friendship Heights according to the Community is having a welcoming place where people want to come to - pop up galleries and neighborhood website and social platforms where suggestions and changes are welcome
- Market report tracks changes in FH overtime- instituted a 3-year business plan that details programs and funding
- Funding rates are 16 ½ ft per sf for commercial and \$120 for per multi family unit- not included are condos, income restricted housing and less than 10 units residential
- The Board has one more member from MC because of the larger property in the area- an advisory committee that meets quarterly
- The MC side does not need a petition due to its urban district legislative status- hearing this afternoon
- With legislation passed this summer a MOU between the Urban District and the Alliance to provide services- staffing by fall
- Upcoming events on the website- bookstore pop up, Robin Bell studio
- Addressing security concerns, presentations and newsletter sign up

The Q & A discussed the importance of mitigating mobility, transportation, trash pickup and retail re-tenanting, the long & short-term goals to create mobility in the area focusing on the wide roads

- There are no plans with the Alliance for a streetcar trolley; however, there is ample transit infrastructure- suggestion made to provide access from DC to the northern part of Montgomery County
- Metro coordination regarding the Western garage access-extending the #30 bus route to Bethesda- a suggestion to provide comments to Metro’s board due tomorrow @ 5pm-Metro and Pepco are on the board and receive updates regarding the Western garage relocation and to mitigate overgrown vegetation and clean up on the DC side, and the Chevy Chase Metro building issues meeting set up for the MD side
- Addressing internal circulation with micromobility but not extended to the Friendship Heights area due to community pushback and look forward to collaboration to achieving mode share goals- Bike to Work Day support
- The Urban District Advisory Committee on the Montgomery County side is the only operating Committee for the Alliance and covers both jurisdictions

Item 4 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich reported:

- Metro budget hearings are complete and the deadline for testimony is 5 pm tomorrow (3/15)
- The Fare simplification will eliminate the off-peak fare, raises the max fare from \$6 to \$6.50 and reconfiguring milage based fares - issue w/ off-peak riders in MoCo will face significant increases in fare cost, except for Friendship Heights riders who will save \$.05 for peak riders. Shady Grove will raise fares from \$3.85 to \$6.50, a 70 percent increase

- Proposed alternatives to the fare increase are:
 - Limiting increases year over year to a fixed percentage, such as 10 percent and not 70 percent at once
 - Low-income fare program eligibility such as SNAP
 - Accelerating the electric fleet change over end date saving money moving off diesel- buses last 15 years

The Q & A consisted of the following-

- Is Metro still purchasing diesel fuel buses- bus contracts are not in place for EV purchasing; the priority, however, is to have them in place
- \$15 million grant to pilot non diesel/ hydrogen fuel buses- EV buses have travel limitations due to charging
- DC's bus order is 50 percent diesel & 50 percent hydrogen

Item 5 – Employer TDM Annual Reports: Mr. Carlson submitted two reports for view. The Committee recommended approval by MCDOT

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach Update:

- The Bike To Work Day is May 19th and campaign is going well – the pit stop is in front of the Shops at Wisconsin Avenue. **Tom Quinn** will get word out to DC side
- They are working with the Friendship Heights Alliance
- CID @ Friendship Heights Community Center
- Starting up Bicycling classes hosted by WABA

Item 7 – Remembering Leonard Grant: Mr. Carlson announced the passing of **Len Grant** and discussed some of his accomplishments.

- With the National Geographic for 40 years and at a time served as its VP
- He was 95 years old
- Served on the Friendship Heights Village Council- Chair of the Centennial Committee
- **Jefferey Slavin** mentioned that **Mr. Grant** was also Board President of their apartment building

Sande Brecher announced that the County's Climate Plan provides quarterly updates and is now posted on the County's climate webpage. Also announced:

- Ride On reimaged study that details how the bus system interfaces with other modes of transit and commuter's means of travel is ongoing- 2 years in length
- The FareShare program is in effect allowing cost offsets to employers for employee commuter costs- asked to get the word out to area Employers

Bob Banach asked that the Alliance consult with the CCFH organization at their community meeting.

Adjourn