

April 2008 Minutes

Motions about signage

The members present approved a motion stating there was no objection to the proposed signage for the Bank of America branch at Jeff-Davis and South Glebe. The AHCA will send a letter stating our position to County Staff and the sponsor.

The members present also approved a motion to send a letter to County Staff and the County Board stating the AHCA wants the County to address the following four points before approving signage for Metropolitan One (Gramercy):

1. A detailed comprehensive plan is needed for the whole block.
2. The proposed directional signs are too big.
3. The Gramercy identification sign should be above an entrance.
4. Apply lessons learned from other Arlington projects and have the Planning Commission review the sign plan for the block.

Accessory Dwellings

The members present approved a motion asking the AHCA Executive Committee to get a sense of the community's view on the Accessory Dwelling Proposal and to draft a position paper for consideration by AHCA members. The goal is to deliver the AHCA position paper to the County within about six weeks.

New Business

Van Newstrom said the Police Unity Tour - Virginia Chapter will be bicycling from the Tidewater area to Washington, D.C. to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial to remember and honor fallen officers who have died in the line of duty. She proposed the AHCA donate \$300. The motion was approved.

Bruce Cameron said the County has a new process for reserving the Community Center, where the AHCA has been meeting the past several years on the second Wednesday of the month. This new process resulted in the AHCA leadership having to scramble at the last minute to find a room at the Gunston Community Center for tonight's meeting.

A member said the Library of Congress has a registry for World War II veterans. More information is available at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

A member expressed concern about what is happening at River House after a change of owners. Rents are going up. Section 8 housing is being reduced. Van Newstrom provided the member with information on how to work with the County on these issues.

Bruce Cameron noted the importance of our schools and, in response to members' requests, said we will try to get information on www.aurorahighlands.org about the

upcoming May 1 and May 3 caucuses for School Board candidates. We will try to add links to the candidates' Web sites.

President's Remarks

Bruce Cameron said there are a number of ongoing issues affecting our neighborhood. These include delays in investing in Wakefield High School, equipment for Nina Park, the poor condition of the Community Center, the potential impacts of changes in Crystal City, and more. All of these can lead to a sense of frustration at times. During the course of the discussions, it was clear there is strong support for all Bruce is doing. It takes persistence and focus to get things done.

How ACHA Can Make a Difference

A member offered the following points as a way for AHCA to make a difference:

- Prioritize the issues
- Limit the number of issues addressed at each meeting to 2 to 3
- Keep the focus on these issues over time
- Get a champion and understand the process
- Leverage the Web page for political action
- Meet with the County Board members, not just their staff, and ask them to give dates to their proposed actions

About 30 people attended the meeting. The March minutes were approved.