

## Minutes for September 14, 2011 Aurora Highlands Civic Association Meeting

1. Call to order at 7:09pm.
2. 14 Members present.
3. Deferred approving July meeting minutes until next meeting.
4. Linda Chandler presentation: SOC is now Linden Resources, so named for the Linden tree which has heart-shaped leaves and is fragile as a sapling but with care grows into a strong big tree. They changed the name to get away from the “sheltered occupation” name because the organization has evolved and needed a name that represents more what they do.

Linden Resources presentation (formerly SOC). Printing and mail services, inventory management, call services, and work that continues with founder’s ideas for work for people with disabilities other than janitorial and food service. They are an \$11 million organization with 260 employees. About 200 of those are people with severe disabilities. Arlington HHS provides referrals and rehabilitation funds to support individuals. They support three levels of people with disabilities and match the work the person would like to do with a company or agency that has that need. They believe that diversity in the workplace should include people with disabilities. Most funding comes from Federal contracts, about \$7.5 million. They get about \$2 million from counties that send referrals. They also run a printing business and call center with commercial customers, which are additional sources of revenue. In addition, they apply for grants for special programs like Wounded Warriors.

Linden is now a “green” printer – they provide printing for AHCA’s newsletter.

Several members spoke in appreciation of Linden Resources as part of the community and the services they provide to our neighborhood.

Their annual neighborhood Holiday program, the Miracle on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, will be on Friday, December 2. Santa on the fire truck, lighting of the tree, carolers will be present.

5. Officer’s reports.
  - a. Treasurer’s Report (Brent) – Bank Balance is \$15,057.55.
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> VP (Nick) –  
County is rewriting the sign ordinance. They are trying to move all sign approvals from Board and make everything administrative approval. At a meeting Nick attended, group asked for an appeals process. They are trying to be more creative i.e. electronic signs. Ticker in Rosslyn would not be allowed. Rooftop signs, a concern for CC and other neighborhoods with tall buildings. Group at meeting asked for lighting restrictions at night and when facing neighborhood. Lastly, Arlington wants to get in line with regulating signs. For example, real estate open house signs and political sign- either ban them or allow all signs including commercial. A-Frame menu signs in front of stores would have limited hours but the size could be substantial size. Awning and umbrella ads as signs is also on the draft ordinance.  
There will be another round of meetings with other stakeholders including the public. Hoping to go to the planning commission in early November and go to County Board in November.

Motion made, seconded, and passed: to write first letter to County Board positively supporting the current sign ordinance county board role in the approval process and we would like to have opportunity to weigh in on the ordinance. As they go thru updating process we like the way the approval process works now. We appreciate the support the county board gives to neighborhood in that process.

AHCA may decide to write to the County Board on this issue next month, once the draft ordinance is published and before it is approved.

Nick reminded members about this weekend's Vintage Crystal event where AHCA will host a table.

c. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Cory) – Newsletter. Needs webmaster.  
Tree canopy grant – plantings in November.

Arlington Tree Education and Distribution Program: October 15 and 16 is pick-up day to select specimen in Shirlington. [Tinyurl.com/treedistribution](http://Tinyurl.com/treedistribution). There are now 17 kinds of native trees. See web site for list of trees and stats and benefits and needs for sun, shade and soil.

d. Secretary (Jenny) – Web page still under construction

#### 6. Committee reports.

a. NC / Sidewalks (Bruce, Chris): Fern St, next priorities for projects. Chris and Bruce have been doing a good job getting county to narrow and adjust Fern Street for traffic calming on Fern St between 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next projects could be enhancements to Nelly Custis Park such as shade, or water fountains to incorporate west side of park and other feature such as a rain garden. Also idea to re-do Aurora Hills Library and Community Center parking lot.

b. CCBID- lunchtime hub spin at City Hub, Wine in the Water Park, 5K, 10-20 Marine Corps Marathon. Farmers Market goes to November 22.

c. Library / Community Center: Passport to Summer wrap-up. Was successful and crowds got bigger as summer went on. Improved storage space and updated lobby helped. Volunteer hours – Mike reported to the county and we had 303 hours submitted just for Passport to Summer this year.

People interested in putting together a class at the Community Center should contact Elizabeth Cho Fertikh who knows how to do this with the County.

Bruce suggested that the Executive Committee discuss budget and how to spend funds in the treasury to sponsor events in the neighborhood.

Motion made to establish \$600 block party grant covering permit costs to neighbors for cost of permits for block parties from now until end of year. Open to AHCA members. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Seniors / Day care: any other reports. MOU renewal. (motion to approve renewal). Motion made and seconded, passed unanimously.

e. C3RC: Next meeting on Tues Sept 19

#### 7. New business.

Boo Ha Ha scheduled for October 22. Shift away from moon bounce intensive to haunted house with outdoor stuff to be more rain-proof.

#### 8. Special orders -- Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting.

- b. Pentagon Row SP 105. Discussion on redesign proposal to expand ice rink and remove landscaping. This is example of open space on private property. Mike suggests engaging with owner to discuss design features to improve public park, rink, and seating while maintaining the green space.
  - c. Pen Place discussion, next steps
  - d. 2012 AHCA Officer Nominations. Bruce will head up nominating committee. We are looking for neighbors interested in being officers. Please contact Bruce with recommendations.
9. Unfinished business - none
10. Calendar - see newsletter
11. Announcements – New paint and carpet approved for the community center. Comment was made to ask for low VOC paint and carpet. They want to solicit ideas and artwork from neighborhood kids.
12. Motion to Adjourn seconded and passed. Adjourned at 9:11pm