

Aurora Highlands Civic Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Aurora Hills Community Center 735 South 18th Street

7:10pm – meeting opened.

April Minutes were approved.

Discussion on Pen Place and whether we have an official position. Suggestion made to publish motions made and discussion points in the newsletter to improve communication.

Cory Giacobbe discussed saving trees by removing English Ivy. Her presentation is available at Treestewards.org. English Ivy can choke the trees that they grow on by strangling the base, blocking sunlight, and depriving the tree's bark from normal contact with air and microorganisms. To protect trees:

1. Use garden clippers to cut ivy all the way around the bottom of the tree to separate vines from roots. Wear gloves and sleeves to avoid poison ivy
2. Make a 2-foot lifesaver ring around the base of the tree.
3. Once cut, leave the ivy on the tree. Ivy will gradually die (may take a year or two). Check your tree after a year to make sure the ivy has not crept back. Please share the presentation with others.

Officer/Representatives Reports

- PenPlace had its second site plan review committee meeting.
- 2nd Mondays with the County Board at Gunston for PLACE. Suggestion made to publicize these events at the library.
- C3RC (Crystal City Citizens Review Committee)
- Crystal City Business Improvement District
- June meeting topic will be Hayes MultiModal presentation. County planner Katherine Youngbluth from the County will present an update on the Hayes Street Multimodal project scheduled to begin soon.
- There was a suggestion for future meetings to have oral and/or written reports from attendees at county meetings on behalf of AHCA.

New Business

- Motion to donate to Oakridge Spring Fling - \$250 consistent with previous years. Motion passed. Check to be made to Oakridge PTA.
- Sean in Crystal Towers asked if it would be appropriate to list all the meetings for the entire year. Recommended to include a calendar with listings on topics. He said sometimes the newsletter shows up after the meeting.

Presentation by Delegate Alfonso Lopez, 49th District House of Delegates
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www.alfonzolopez.org

He is the first Latino Democrat to be elected in Virginia and his district is Pentagon City (From Fern Street) Columbia Pike to Bailey's Crossroads. He is married with a young son and is looking for a house in Arlington. He champions the environment and has a 100 percent rating from LCV, and was recognized by the Sierra Club. Delegate Lopez was frustrated about the social issues that dominated the 2011-12 session (personhood) and lack of work on tabletop issues like jobs, economy, and environment. Governor McDonnell eliminated public funding for child abuse centers, and Delegate Lopez led effort to get it reinstated. He has a monthly newsletter.

New Business, continued

Smoke Shope opening on 23rd Street. Discussion about the business. General consensus is to monitor the business but as long as they are not offending an ordinance or creating a disturbance we will not take a position on the business. But there are concerns.

Meeting adjourned.