

# ***Aurora Highland Civic Association Meeting Minutes***

8 January, 2020

## **I. Call to order**

Scott Miles called to order the regular meeting of the Aurora Highland Civic Association at 7:00 pm on January 8, 2020 at Aurora Hills Community Center.

## **II. Updates**

- a) December social was a great event. Thanks to Miriam and Natasha for organizing.
- b) Official Virginia Hospital Center Immediate Care center in the neighborhood at 764 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South.
- c) Met Park and Crystal House projects were both approved by County board in December.
  - (1) Met Park starts very soon. Scott Miles will be meeting with them next week to go over details.
  - (2) Details for Crystal House are still unclear. The parking lot behind restaurant row has been turned over to the county. Land has been given to the County for Affordable Housing, but County has not committed to that designation.
- d) Railroad expansion: Virginia announced \$3 million in railroad upgrades. Will be adding another passenger rail bridge across the Potomac. Will be designated for VRE and Amtrak.
- e) Tuesday January 14 at Westin Crystal City there will be a joint meeting of the civic associations on the livability plan with JBG Smith. There will be a panel discussion on open space and development planning

## **III. Pentagon Centre Construction**

- a) Jonathan McGowan, Kimco Realty Corp provided an update on the Pentagon Centre Mall renovation and future development. Additional information can be found [here](#).

- (1) The Costco parking garage was renovated. Floors added and solar panels added to the top of the garage to power lights.
  - (2) Building C will be constructed on the west side of S. Fern Street between 12th Street S. (north) and 15th Street S. (south) , and bordered by S. Hayes Street (west).
- b) David Schroder, Contractor spoke about pedestrian/vehicular traffic during project.
- (1) Construction will be taking place for 32 months. Including five months of stormwater work. Construction hours will be primarily 7am-7pm
  - (2) Will be taking out the 15th street median at the start of construction. Pedestrians will be unable to walk on the north side of 15th street for an extended period of time. Will be redirected to south side or north down Fern street.
  - (3) Construction work and equipment will not affect remaining parking in the Costco lot and garage.
  - (4) Contractor assures that the County has adequately sized the sewage system in anticipation of all future housing projects.
  - (5) Contractor will send out a monthly distribution letter (will come from Ben) to let the community know of disruptions and updates on the process.

**IV. Melwood / Miracle on 23<sup>rd</sup> donation:** Francey Lim Youngberg, External Affairs at Melwood

- a) About 400 people in attendance for the Miracle on 23<sup>rd</sup> event partnering with Arlington Food Assistance Center. Melwood will be working with them this summer to provide seeds for planting AFAC produce.
- b) Melwood has a program titled A-bill-IT which helps people of differing abilities to be trained in cyberskills. They have graduated 30 people so far.
- c) Melwood will be undergoing interior renovations. Francey wants the civic association to provide input on interior set-ups that can be beneficial to the community. They have possible have the first floor open for community meetings. She will reach out again soon to discuss ideas.
- d) Miriam: Motion to make last year's donation to Melwood in the amount of \$500 in appreciation of the Miracle on 23<sup>rd</sup> event. Motion seconded. Motion passed

- i) Comment was made the association had previously decided to halt ad hoc donations until a budget is discussed. Scott stated that Officers now have a better idea of budget constraints, and a donation is feasible. It was suggested that a budget line item be made for all regular donations made throughout the year. Will be discussed at a future event.

#### **V. Laura I., Plastic Tree**

- a) Plastic tree is a climate positive waste management company. Their mission is to divert waste from landfills and promote zero-waste. Information can be found at [www.plastictree.com](http://www.plastictree.com).
- b) Customer pays a deposit on a special recycling bin where they insert clean, common, packaging items such as laundry pod containers, glass bottles. Bin is picked up by Plastic Tree and sorted at a warehouse. Plastic Tree then works to find an end user to reuse items and creating a circular economy.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Scott Miles adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Calvin Wiley

Minutes approved by: Name