



Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Minutes from Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, 11 May 2016

MINUTES

Attendees: 18 members (see attached sign-in sheet pages 1-2).

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM, by President Natasha Atkins.
- Draft minutes from April 2016 were approved and finalized.
- *Community Updates*
 - Proposed Neighborhood Conversation Project Approval Process put on hold due to neighbor feedback and potential changes to the overall NC process being proposed by Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission (see below). AHCA also wants to think about ways to better advertise the process and expand voting options.
 - *Nelly Custis.* The arrow bamboo has been cut and removed from Nelly Custis park. AHCA is attempting to get DPR to communicate better with us regarding this and other initiatives that involve parkland in our area as well as allow AHCA members to provide input into the process.
 - *Fashion Center Mall.* The interior renovations are substantially complete. Shack Shack is now open and the other retail locations (Zara, Honeygrow, Matchbox, and Sugar Factory) are all anticipated to open sometime before early fall.
 - *Arlington Cemetery and Columbia Pike Realignment.* Arlington National Cemetery has engaged with the County and VDOT to swap land in order to increase the space available to the Cemetery. This would also realign Columbia Pike to help improve the traffic flow. Nothing has been finalized as of yet, but if everything goes well, the new realigned roadway could open in 2018/2019. The next phase of the process is for the Cemetery to do an environmental impact assessment of the area. For more information on this, see the following website:
<https://www.arlnow.com/2016/04/20/military-to-hold-public-meeting-on-columbia-pike-realignment/>



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- MetPark 6 is currently going through the site plan review process. For more information on this project (including information on expansion efforts of Metropolitan Park itself), see the following website:
<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/metropolitan-park-6/>
- *Memorial Tree Planting.* The tree planting in memory of Marty King on May 7 was a very nice and well attended event. Please check out the newly planted memorial tree in VA Highlands Park.
- *AHCA Social.* Since the weather is getting better, AHCA is considering doing its next social event outdoors. Janet Dukelberger is going to see if we can reserve the pavilion in VA Highlands for a weekend event in June.
- *Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission Proposed Changes to Project Approval Process*
 - Paul Bolejack from Waverly Hills Civic Association in his capacity as a member of the NCAC gave PowerPoint presentation spoke to the AHCA about various changes that have been proposed to the NCAC's approval process. The goals of the proposal are to (1) reduce costs and (2) reduce the time required to complete the projects. David Litman, our NC rep, will be posting the PowerPoint presentation to AHCA's website so everyone can review the proposed changes. Note: these NCAC proposed changes are different from the proposed changes to AHCA's internal NCAC approval process, which David Littman presented at the last meeting.
- *Guest Speaker – County Board Candidate and Planning Commission Vice-Chair Eric Gutshall*
 - Commissioner Gutshall spoke on a variety of topics including Columbia Pike, schools, public lands and resources, green space, transit, taxes, and investment in capital projects.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM by President Natasha Atkins

