

**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**  
**April 9, 2025, at Aurora Hills Center and via Zoom**

**Opening of Meeting**

President Rachel Hicks opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a welcome to the membership and an overview of the agenda.

**Minutes Approval**

The draft minutes for the March 2025 regular meeting were approved.

**President's Updates**

- **Melwood** – Rachel heard from Melwood that they are planning on a summer 2026 construction start, assuming they overcome the local historic district and funding hurdles. They have no details to announce on where the program will operate during the construction period.
- **Volo** – The County has asked for input on the use permit renewal, Rachel will follow up.

**Game Nights**

Dan Gluck spoke about how the neighborhood has lost a place for a drop-in game night since JBG Smith removed the tables and chairs in the Underground. A motion was made and passed to send a letter to the County asking them to consider reopening the Aurora Hills Center for informal game nights.

**Water Pollution Control Plant**

There was a discussion that the odors from the plant just to our south seem to be increasing once again. The consensus was that it would be good to invite plant management to brief the membership at the June meeting.

**Gas Powered Leaf Blowers**

A member raised concerns with the noise and pollution from gas powered leaf blowers. More research is needed to understand how neighboring jurisdictions are able to regulate their use.

**McDonald's Reconstruction**

Following up on a County request for comments on a use permit, the Association invited Matt Weinstein from McGuire Woods to brief on the plans for what turns out to be a complete reconstruction of the McDonald's restaurant at 2620 Richmond Highway. The current two-story building has been in use since 1986 and McDonald's seeks to replace it with a single-story, 64 seat, 12 parking space restaurant that is more focused on drive through traffic. Construction is expected in the summer of 2026 and expected to last 4-5 months.

Members had a lot of questions for the team and many of the suggestions had already been raised and dismissed by the County staff, who has been working with the project team since November 2024. The membership agreed to send a letter to the County to follow up on issues such as site circulation, limited

parking availability, ingress/egress, bike parking, signage, and overall lighting impact on the neighborhood.

**Planning for Spring Celebration, Saturday, April 26 from 2-5 p.m. in Ives Park**

Following the well-attended spring event of 2024, we made plans to do it once again. The celebration will once again feature a bounce house, taco truck, snow cones, cotton candy, and a live band.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.  
Recording Secretary