

Membership Meeting Minutes
Aurora Highlands Civic Association
March 13, 2024, at Aurora Hills Recreation Center

Opening of Meeting

President Rachel Hicks opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with a welcome to the membership and an overview of the agenda. She also thanked the new Makers Union Pub on South Eads Street for their generous contribution of sliders, nachos, and calamari for the meeting.

Minutes Approval

The draft minutes for the February 2024 meeting were approved.

Rundown of AHCA Activities

Rachel described the many letters to the County that had been sent since the last meeting. All of the letters are posted to the [AHCA web page](#) and the topics were:

- Proposal for volleyball/pickleball at 23rd Street South and Crystal Drive
- Comments on the proposed Avis operation on 12th Street South
- Various letters related to the Melwood project on 23rd Street South
- Comments on the Crystal House 3 project on South Eads Street
- Concerns with road closures and parking at the farmers market in Met Park
- Two letters (one from AHCA/one from Livability) on the Monumental arena proposal

Neighborhood Spring Fair

The group collectively planned the fair, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 20 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Ives Street Park. Various volunteers will organize food trucks, cotton candy, and a bouncy house.

Police Update

Officer Hillary Hicken briefed the association on the current trends in crime in the neighborhood. The crime figures are up significantly over the same time period last year and the center for crime is the Pentagon City mall and retail in that area. The principal crime is shoplifting as well as vehicle thefts from garages. Carjacking has declined and theft of catalytic converters has ceased since a Federal task force broke up a ring in NY/NJ. The police are working with the mall manager, Simon Properties, to get them take on more security responsibility. The police department is strapped for staffing, currently staffed at only 300 versus the authorized 377 officers.

The police are encouraging everyone to adopt the **9 PM Routine** and conduct a quick security check to verify that doors and vehicles are locked; valuables are put away; and lights and security systems are on. See the [police web page](#) for more info.

Arlington Neighborhoods Program

David Littman, the AHCA rep, gave an overview of the 60 year-old [program](#) that aims to fill in small infrastructure projects in the neighborhood. We had two small sidewalk programs in the pipeline (21st St S and 19th St S) that would have improved pedestrian safety but were nixed by the abutting

neighbors. David is looking for other projects that can be submitted for funding. The group recommended an ADA-compliant curb cut at the dog park at Virginia Highlands Park and speed mitigation efforts on 31st St S.

David also spoke about reorienting the synthetic granite [neighborhood sign](#) on 23rd St S at S Eads St and there was a general consensus that it would be a good idea, but it should not count against our project quota.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
Recording Secretary