

**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**  
**March 12, 2025, at Aurora Hills Center and via Zoom**

### **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.

### **Minutes Approval**

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

### **President's Updates**

- **Melwood Approval** – Rachel gave an overview of the February 22, 2025, County Board meeting when the Melwood proposal was ultimately approved by a vote of 4-0-1 (Susan Cunningham abstained). Ms. Cunningham had pressed for a one-month delay so the applicant could work with the community, but the motion failed.
- **Arlington Community High School** – Following the briefing at our November 2024 meeting on Amazon's plan is to include the new school facility in the existing building rather than in the stalled PenPlace towers. The issue goes to the County Board on March 15, AHCA is sending a letter of support.

### **Membership Discussion of Melwood Approval**

- A motion was made and seconded to go on the record that AHCA is concerned that its comments were not heard during the Melwood approval process and that there are still reservations with the now-approved project. A lively discussion ensued, largely in agreement with the proposal but noting that there really was not a need for a formal vote since the membership has been so clear over the past couple of years with its position.
- There was a discussion of a substitute motion to authorize a letter expressing AHCA's concerns with the process, but once again the consensus was that there is clear guidance from the membership and that the executive committee has the needed authority to draft and send such a letter.
- The discussion moved to the possibility of legal action and Rachel noted that the Association does not have liability insurance and cannot be a party to any action. There are neighbors considering legal action and a substitute motion was made and seconded to authorize contributing up to \$8,000 of AHCA funds for legal consulting. The motion carried 7-6-2.

### **Transportation Updates**

- Mark Dennis from DES briefed on the complete streets project that has been rebuilding Army Navy Drive from 12<sup>th</sup> Street South to South Joyce Street. The project has been in the works for the past decade and is now in the final stretch, completion is expected in the fall of 2025. For more details see the [project website](#).

- Diana Isaza from DES briefed on the reconstruction of 12<sup>th</sup> Street South from South Eads to South Hayes Street to accommodate Phase 2A of the transitway project. Construction will begin at the end of March or early April and the project will close the roadway completely for about a year. The discussion centered on the disruption, especially with work continuing on parallel Army Navy Drive, and how to mitigate the impacts. For more details see the [project website](#).

**Rob Mandle, National Landing Business Improvement District ([NationalLanding.org](#))**

Rob gave an overview of the BID from its founding in 2006 through its 2020 expansion to include Pentagon City and Potomac Yard. With its \$5 million budget gathered through a district tax, the BID serves an economic development role and advocates for the one square mile that forms our local downtown. Rob discussed the \$4 billion in transportation improvements such as CC2DCA, VRE, and Amtrak expansions and their extensive programming calendar to assist with place making. See the BID [website](#) for more info and a calendar of events.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.  
Recording Secretary