

**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**  
**April 8, 2026, at Aurora Hills Center and via Zoom**

**Opening of Meeting**

President Stacy Meyer 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 2026 regular meeting were approved.

**Presentation of Doorways Program**

Diana Ortiz, president and CEO of the Arlington-based organization described the support that Doorways offers in domestic and sexual violence cases through their staff of 50 employees and 100 volunteers. Their programming is funded about 50% through private contributions, a third from Arlington County, and the balance through state and federal grants. Their services, ranging from counseling to lodging for individuals and families, are offered at no charge. For more information on the program visit their website at [www.doorwaysva.org](http://www.doorwaysva.org) or through the 24-hour hotline at 703-237-0881.

**Presentation by Anne Bodine, Arlingtonians for our Sustainable FutureASF, on Arlington 2050**

Anne briefed on the ongoing effort to update the County's Comprehensive Plan and then discussed the 12 elements that make up the plan. The County is working to weave together the 7 American Planning Association precepts to craft the introduction. It could eventually lead to an overhaul of the General Land Use Plan. The timeline is still in flux, we could see a draft introduction in May, but we are not sure if it is on track. There are various position papers worth reviewing including the web sites of NVAHA and ASF.

**Geoff Sharpe, Federal Realty**

Geoff explained Federal Realty's request to the County to delete site plan condition 52 for Westpost dating back to 1998 that requires a stand-alone drug store and a full-size grocery store. (Note: Federal Realty tried to remove the condition in 2021 but was rebuffed by the County due to strong neighborhood objections ([link](#)). End Note.) Walgreens has decided against continuing its lease and with the consolidation of the pharmacy market nobody is interested in leasing the space. Federal Realty has signed a lease with a national bookstore but cannot move forward without removing the site plan condition. To make it easier for Federal Realty in the future, they are requesting complete removal of condition 52. After much discussion about the importance of the grocery store for the neighborhood, the members present agreed to send a letter to the County supporting the request to remove the requirement for a drug store at Westpost with no change in the grocery store requirement of site plan condition 52.

**Discussion Items**

- **Special Meeting with Legislators** – AHCA will host a session on April 9 with Delegate Adele McClure and Senator Elizabeth Bennett-Parker to discuss housing legislation from the recently

concluded session, especially Faith in Housing, as well as the proposal to bring Route 1 to grade. There will also be an opportunity for general questions.

- **Block Party** – May 2 beginning at 5:00 p.m. on 18th Street from Joyce to Kent. AHCA will distribute membership flyers.
- **Referendum on April 21** – Volunteers are needed to distribute AHCA membership info at the polling places.
- **PenPlace** – Alex Chakrin briefed on the discussion at the recent CPCC on Amazon’s request for potential temporary uses of the PenPlace site pending construction. Alex welcomed new ideas.
- **Crystal House Construction Update** – Regina summarized the many concerns raised by residents at a meeting the prior evening, to include noise, late night work, outages of gas, electricity, and heat, degraded air quality due to loss of canopy trees and a shortage of parking spaces. Parking is now being made available at the Quimby on 23rd Street with a shuttle running mornings and evenings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.  
Recording Secretary