

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

Opening of Meeting

President Stacy Meyer opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. with a welcome to the membership and an overview of the agenda. Stacy also made a few announcements:

- Primary season is underway with early voting now open and in-person voting on Tuesday, August 4.
- There is an art contest announced in the newsletter, the theme is bugs and bees, please give it a look and submit by August 1.
- Adam Henry, the sculptor of the dinosaur across from Nelly Custis Park, just won a commission for a sculpture of a dog in Shirlington.
- We are still accepting ideas for Amazon's temporary use of the PenPlace site.
- Volunteers are needed for lots of roles in the Civic Association, including the Presidency when Stacy's term is up.
- We will take our usual summer break and not meet in August.

Minutes' Approval

The draft minutes for the June 2026 regular meeting were approved.

Law Enforcement Community Oversight Board (COB) and Independent Policing Auditor (IPA)

Joshua Dansby, a neighbor who is on the COB and Mummi Ibrahim, the County's IPA, talked about the organizations the County put in place in March of 2022 to increase and maintain trust between the public and the Arlington County Police Department. The COB and IPA investigate all complaints (about 100/year) regarding police activities and give an independent recommendation to the Chief of Police, who decides if discipline is warranted. They also evaluate training and policy to ensure that there is transparency and no unintended systemic biases.

When there is a critical incident, the IPA is always one of the first called to the scene and any time there is a firearm discharge it is investigated by a Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) – and that CIRT is always from a different jurisdiction.

As of July 1, the IPA reports to the County Board, previously the IPA reported to the County Manager. This is intended to give more independence and a higher policy review.

For more on the COB and the IPA, or to submit a complaint or commendation, visit this [link](#).

Discussion Items

- **Melwood** – In spite of the good showing from the neighborhood in support of the local historic district, the County Board voted in favor of demolishing the former Nelly Custis School. The County will contribute \$11 million in funds for the project.
- **Survey** – After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided against proceeding with a survey on missing middle. There are several organizations already working on both sides of the issue.

- **Residential Parking Program** – We will invite someone to our next meeting to explain how the new electronic program works and how to apply for increased hours beyond just 9-5.
- **2721 South Grant Street** - We were notified of a subdivision application to divide the lot into two to permit two EHO dwellings.
- **601/701 12th Street South** – The ex-TSA/MCI headquarters adaptive reuse application for 600 apartments goes to the County Board on July 18 (we had a briefing last month and submitted a letter).
- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** - We submitted a letter to the County Board supporting the continued bond funding of the Arlington Neighborhood Program and encouraging the County to consider moving up the master plan for Virginia Highlands Park to match the RiverHouse redevelopment that adds land to the park. We also encouraged trees and benches in Ives Park.
- **Library Funding** – There was an article in ARLNow, [link](#), about a Crystal City resident who testified at the July 7 CIP hearing recommending that the \$6 million set aside for a library in Crystal City be moved to improvements at the Aurora Hills library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m., following unanimous consent on motion to adjourn.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
Recording Secretary