

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019

DRAFT

Attendees: 19 people signed in (although there were at least 40 in attendance)

Proceedings:

President Miriam Gennari called the meeting to order at 7:21 in the Aurora Hills Senior Center

President have an overview of the goals for the new Executive Committee

- Expanding membership and engagement, especially among residents of multifamily buildings
- Creating new materials to promote the civic association to neighbors
- Purchase materials (tablet, credit card reader) to facilitate dues payment

Raeni Sroufe gave an update about the improved website, newsletter, and social media efforts

Initiatives:

Find new advertising clients (Reach is about 1,000 single family homes, also distributed online (Nextdoor, etc)

The EC is also interested in increasing the hours of the community center and the library.

1. Shared Mobility Devices Pilot Program

Jim Larsen, Bureau Chief, Arlington County Commuter Services (Department of Environmental Services) gave a presentation about the County's Shared Mobility Devices Pilot Program.

Arlington County is using the pilot program to determine what regulations should be placed on Shared Mobility Devices (dockless e-scooters, pedal bikes, and pedal assist e-bikes). The program began on October 1, 2018 and runs through June 1, 2019. Right now, 4 companies have been approved and have deployed devices. The limit is 350 devices per type per company. The companies pay a permit fee, agree to data sharing, and pay a surety bond.

Data so far shows nearly 200,000 trips and nearly 200,000 miles. The biggest concern has been the speed limit and underage riding. Arlington has created parking corrals in unused curbside space, and companies are creating incentives for users to park in these locations.

The formal feedback period will be from April through May. The Pilot concludes on June 30, after which the County staff will begin to decide whether to extend the pilot during the evaluation period. The evaluation period will be July through August. The final report will be submitted to the County Board and on the agenda at the September meeting.

Contact information:

Jim Larsen - jlarsen@arlingtonva.us

Greg Matlesky – greg@metrobike.net (daily operations)

Mobility@arlingtonva.us (citizen comments, opinions, report crashes)

2. Amazon and National Landing

Representatives from JBG Smith gave a presentation about the anticipated roll-out of Amazon's presence in the neighborhood, the transportation improvements we can expect, and other plans JBG Smith has for its properties.

JBG Smith reported that Amazon wants to grow within the established environment and create an urban campus that integrates with the rest of Crystal City. They value placemaking and are known for commissioning iconic structures that become neighborhood landmarks. They name their office buildings after dogs owned by employees. They want employees to be out in the neighborhood eating and shopping, so those businesses are a critical component of the campus.

Non-car community is a major part of Amazon culture, JBG Smith also said. They emphasize biking and include biking amenities in excess of current Arlington requirements.

As for the phasing of the development, currently Amazon will occupy vacant space in Crystal City, and then build two buildings at Met Park 7 and 8 (15th and Eads, in Pentagon City).

Attendees discussed the community amenities that residents feel are lacking in the neighborhood and which JBG Smith should consider finding space for as Amazon moves in. One is emergency medical services and primary medical services. JBG Smith responded that they've heard this concern and they are looking at their portfolio of properties for the best fit. Day cares are another business type they are talking about. Arlington's proposed zoning regulations are helpful for making this happen.

Neighbors are also concerned about the loss of routine retail space (small grocery store, sundry, hardware store – places to pick up ordinary items). JBG Smith said they expect to announce a grocery store tenant for the new development in Crystal City soon.

Attendees also asked about arts space, programs for youth, the loss of Tech Shop. Someone asked if there might be higher education space, maybe even an outpost of Northern Virginia Community College.

The second topic was infrastructure improvements in Crystal City. JBG Smith discussed their desire to create better connections across Route 1. One component of that is to realign 23rd Street and provide better signaling. There will also be a second entrance to the Crystal City Metro Station.

The JBG Smith representatives emphasized the desire to create a neighborhood with activity throughout the full day, all seven days of the week (not just 9-5).

One attendee asked how many Site Plans would be submitted for the new Amazon buildings. JBG Smith expected a single site plan for the Met Park 7&8 development, and another for Penn Place. A contact person will be identified as these projects move forward.

3. AHCA Business

The AHCA Executive Committee plans to introduce a number of items for a vote from members at the March 13th meeting.

The Executive Committee circulated a DRAFT resolution requesting a Community Sustainability Plan for 22202. We expect to vote on this resolution at the March 13th meeting.

The Executive Committee would like to work with residents to identify ways to expand the hours of the Aurora Highlands library and community center. We expect to vote on a resolution at the March 13 meeting.

The Executive Committee will discuss a budget for the year that will include anticipated spending on neighborhood events, as well as marketing and outreach materials, such as signs, a banner, and a map that shows the boundaries of the civic association. A budget will hopefully be available in advance of the March 13th meeting so members can review before voting.

Miriam Gennari introduced a motion to purchase a 1 or 2 tablets and card readers, not to exceed \$500, to facilitate dues payment at neighborhood outreach events. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09.