

Aurora Highland Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

13 February 2020

**** DRAFT ****

Send correction/revision requests to recordingsecretary@aurorahighlands.org

Feb 13th AHCA Meeting Minutes:

Arlington County Police Department Update

Officer Wallace – brief overview of current situation

Year to Date Stats: automobile larceny, please lock your doors. You can sign up with the ACPD for reminders to lock your doors.

Criminal Investigation Division, Capt. Butler: There has been a big push to get officers trained up and sent out into the community, including undercover officers.

There was an attempted rape at 18th and Joyce St. on Feb 12th. The victim was paying attention, heard the attacker running up from behind her, attempted to fight him off and screamed. It caught the attention of passersby, the police were able to respond within minutes and caught the attacker. Capt. Butler said it was her paying attention to her surroundings which helped her, please pay attention when you're out and about.

For those who want to stay up to date on day to day news, Police and otherwise, visit: Newsroom.arlingtonva.us

Don't leave your valuables in your car, don't leave your keys in the car, lock your doors. 99% of car thefts and thefts of valuables out of cars lately have been from unlocked cars. Do not leave any keys in your car, house keys or car keys. Not seeing any increase in burglaries. Aside from cars taken from the Mall, there haven't been any uptick in car thefts.

Question: Would more patrol cars help deter crime?

Answer: We are trying that, and it can help. Right now we're having some issue with staffing and trying to staff-up. Whenever we have the opportunity to deploy visible policing, we do.

Question: What's our best guess that car theft is up?

Answer: Why? It's convenience. Also, it's younger kids and stealing cars and valuables are crimes of opportunity. You can visit communitycrimemap.com It will let you look up your local statistics, types of crimes, etc.

Question: For a woman walking home alone, are there any other types of self defense would you recommend?

Answer: ACPD offers self defense classes for children, but not for adults. There are several companies offering classes.

Question: How are people checking for open cars?

Answer: They come in groups, each taking sides of the street, walking down the sidewalk/street checking for unlocked cars.

Answer to why this became a hot crime area, some criminals found it to be easier, the word got around the criminal community, and more followed. Therefore, the police have to respond and deter copycats, etc.

Two of the three cars stolen from the Mall have been recovered.

Know your surroundings, look for things that look out of place. Don't hop into your car and sit there. Head to where you're going.

Climate Reality Leadership Project – Carolina Pena

Presentation: http://aurorahighlands.org/wp-content/uploads/Civic_Association_Presentation_2_12_2020.pdf

Three questions:

1. Must we change?

Yes. We're seeing hotter temperatures, more wildfires, greater flooding.

2. Can we change?

Yes. There are many solutions available. Solar and wind energy installations have increased rapidly, faster than original projections. Energy storage is also rapidly increasing. Many companies are moving to electrify vehicles.

3. Will we change?

Yes. Over 190 global companies have pledged to move to 100% renewable energy. There are many people around the world moving to change.

Community Energy Plan – Rich Dooley

Presentation: http://aurorahighlands.org/wp-content/uploads/CEP_Update-AHCA_Meeting_2-12-20.pdf

What is the Community Energy Plan? It is part of the County's comprehensive plan, the overall development document the county. It is a long-term vision for transforming how we generate, distribute, store, and use energy. It was adopted as an element of the county's comprehensive plan in 2013. The CEP has been incrementally implemented starting from 2013 until now. We've made steady progress, even though we've had growth in population and housing. The County is pledged to reach Carbon Neutrality by 2050. Presented Energy Lending Library.

Question: What is being done to improve building codes?

Answer: Energy code is updated every 3 years. To make it more stringent for building requirements. We have to follow state code but can't mandate anything more. However, we can incentive building above and beyond the state code.

Question: What are we doing on strategy to incentive homeowners?

Answer: County Programs include Green Home Choice and the Solar and EV Charging Co-op.

Question: What has the county done to help with renovation of buildings?

Answer: We have a commercial program to help with renovation with buildings.

Question: Is there a way to increase the county code for residential renovation? To also include adding trees as a benefit?

Answer: We're looking to pass a bill on factoring in trees to help with storm water and other climate benefits.

Livability Framework – County Transportation Staff & Matt de Ferranti 22202 Update on Data Collection Effort

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/22202-data/>

Presentation: http://aurorahighlands.org/wp-content/uploads/AHCA_02-13-2020_meeting_presentation.pdf

Ongoing Studies:

Transportation Study Area

We are taking all of this updated data, along with new tools, and will be releasing the updated information in the coming months for the public.

Question: Why is the County not collecting data on residential streets? What about the traffic counting machines?

Answer: The county is trying new technology, some of it has not panned out as planned. We've identified what the issues were with the machines and data collection.

Matt de Ferranti – as a County we have adopted a push for multi-modal transportation.

Question: We've asked for a cross-walk on Fern St., we want to see an action not just more studies. Also, what about County policy on addressing some of these issues?

Answer: We've recently been asked on this and will get back to you. On 21st St, we monitor the email account daily when people submit questions and comments.

The UBER lot is by far and away the largest generator of traffic on local roads in the county. We as the County have asked MWAA to remove the lot as soon as possible. We're looking at 2021 for when the Airport construction is finished, and the lot will move.

Question: We should increase the size of the traffic study.

Answer: We believe the entire area of 22202 is in the study, the map shown is more conceptual.

Question: How are we doing planning?

Answer: We try to develop a development goal first and plan to that, but here we lack the freedom of movement that newer cities have. We are using the 22202 Livability Framework that you all have provided. It has given us good insight into how to plan.

Question:

PDSP Planning Area