

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

11 March 2020

I. Call to order

Scott Miles called to order the regular meeting of the Aurora Highland Civic Association at 7:02 pm on March 11, 2020 at Aurora Hills Community Center.

II. Updates

- a) Official Livability workshops (more info at livability22202.org)
 - (1) **[POSTPONED]** March 28- Future of the Underground workshop
 - (2) **[POSTPONED]** April 18- Route 1/East-West Corridor workshop
- b) 2020-2021 Residential Parking Permit
 - (1) <http://rppp.arlingtonva.us/>
- c) **[CANCELLED]** 23rd street festival will take place on March 21-23 (more info at 23rdstreetfestival.com)

III. Meeting Minutes

- a) 7:06 Motion to approve February meeting minutes

IV. AHCA Ives Park Working Group Presentation ([more info here](#)).

- a) The house that was standing on the lot has been demolished
- b) Three phase beautification plan.
 - (1) Phase 1 (Spring 2020): Seating and trees will be put in. Seating will be movable, depending on the activity. Mature trees will be planted to give immediate cover.
 - (2) Phase 2 (Over next 12 months): Deal with bamboo overgrowth. Suggestions include creating a bamboo maze, trim it back by a third, make a low hedge, cut out bamboo completely.
 - (3) Phase 3 (Future possibilities): Water basin with solar fountain, gravel/mulch path.

ii) Questions

Q: Since this is Arlington land, does Arlington pick up the bill for land maintenance, electric, lighting, etc.?

A: Park Planners are working with Arlington County about the county putting a spigot in. The county is responsible for watering grass. Planners will follow up with Katie Cristol about it. Lights have been discussed to keep the park secure at night. One of the planners scoped out the park and saw that street lighting is pretty good already. Solar lighting could be considered if additional low lighting needed.

Q: Is there a group to focus on the grass? Its rocky.

A: The county is responsible for seeding. Scott Miles is emailing the county about making sure the grass is better. Also need tree stump removed.

Q: Who empties the dog poop?

A: The county

Q: Who is funding the park?

A: The community will have to fund the park. Suggestions: bake sales, yard sales. Donations?

(7:30) Motion to vote in support of the plan and move forward with the county. Motion supported.

V. Feedback from our first workshop on housing affordability, Ben D'Avanzo
(presentation [can be found here](#))

- a) Ben D'Avanzo recently facilitated two Livability workshops on Housing Affordability.
 - i) Workshop 1 – January 25. 35 attendees. Summary [can be found here](#).
 - ii) Workshop 2 – March 8. 45 attendees. Summary forthcoming.
- b) Currently presenting findings with AHCA, ARCA, CCCA, working with attendees to draft report, seeking more opportunities to weigh in with private and public actors.
- c) Arlington is a very unique area. We have really dense urban clusters around metro stations, and then lots of single-family homes. Not much diversity in housing in between.
- d) Questions

Q: Are we going to serve Arlingtonians first with AH in Arlington?

A (Katie Cristol): It's tough legally to discriminate by residency, but 80-85% Arlington residents are in Arlington affordable housing units.

Q: Who is paying for affordable housing?

A (Katie Cristol): Federal programs, other state funding, private capital.

VI. Presentation of the County's Missing Middle Housing Study, County Board

Member Katie Cristol ([presentation can be found here](#))

- a) Missing middle housing plan is meant to expand the housing supply, broaden the types of housing, and increase the supply of affordable housing units.
- b) Livability means schools, parks, stores, community center, etc. Not just houses. The county needs to update the school's element of the comprehensive plan.
- c) Many community members talked about the need to track and understand housing data. To see where the growth is coming from and predict what the community will look like in the future. It was mentioned that Arlington GIS data is available ([data can be found here](#)).
- d) There was a lengthy discussion on the need for an Arts Review Board to standardize the architectural and landscaping style of the neighborhood. There are similar types of regulations, but the county does not enforce it well.

VII.

Scott Miles adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Calvin Wiley

Minutes approved by: Name