

Subject: AHCA support for Ives Park community improvement plan  
From: "Scott Miles, Aurora Highlands Civic Association" <president@aurorahighlands.org>  
Date: 3/18/20, 4:42 PM  
To: Jane Rudolph <jrudolph@arlingtonva.us>  
CC: CountyBoard <CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us>, Scott McPartlin <Smcpartlin@arlingtonva.us>, Marco Rivero <Mrivero@arlingtonva.us>, Simona Cristanetti <simcri2011@hotmail.com>, Kari Klaus <keklaus79@gmail.com>, Kasey Spriggs <Kspriggs@arlingtonva.us>



## AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 18, 2020

Dear Ms. Rudolph and County Board Members,

I am very proud to relay that AHCA members voted unanimously (20 yay, 0 nay) at our March 11th meeting to support the AHCA working group proposal to improve the new ¼ acre casual use pocket park in Aurora Highlands, which we have temporarily named “Ives Park.”

This space at the corner of 20th and Ives St in Aurora Highlands was approved for purchase by the Board in 2017. The existing structures on the site were just recently demolished, leaving the space in an unimproved state. Arlington’s Public Spaces Master Plan (pg 62-63), states that this type of casual use space should be “equipped with features that encourage use (e.g., benches, picnic tables and walking paths)”

AHCA formed the Ives Park working group (WG) last year to help beautify and activate this tiny casual use space park with placemaking and natural elements, including pollinator and native plantings and large tree species. With no county resources or funding planned for this space for the foreseeable future, we felt that this was an opportunity to utilize our knowledge and skills to create a community park as well as ensure a transparent and inclusive process.

The 16 residents of the WG included current and former commissioners and a landscape architect, who have developed a terrific plan for modest improvements the community can implement over time. In addition to plantings, elements such as boulders, moveable chairs, tables, birdhouses, and mosaic patio stepping stones created by neighborhood children are envisioned. Please see the attached summary about the community outreach, working group and communication with the county and the WG’s presentation with details on the proposed elements for the park.

We are delighted that DPR staff stated that they are “happy to work with the community on potential pop-up neighborhood-funded activities.” AHCA and the WG will continue to work directly with DPR

to ensure that the plants, trees and elements are all within the scope for the county's policies for public parks.

We were very fortunate to host County Board member, Katie Cristol, at our meeting during the Ives Park working group's presentation, who offered to help further the community's desire for a simple water spigot on the site with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) staff. We congratulate Arlington for its successful membership into the [Biophilic Cities Network](#) and are encouraged that the county will ensure that the essential tools such as water and tree maintenance are provided for the well-being of the proposed new plants and trees in Ives Park and others.

AHCA asks the Dept. of Parks and Recreation to kindly review the WG's detailed plan attached and provide feedback to AHCA if any adjustments need to be made. The WG plans to proceed with funding, implementation and maintenance of these elements and will work with the county along the way.

Sincerely,

/Scott Miles/

President

Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Attachments

[Ives Park Working Group Summary](#)

[Ives Park Improvement Plan](#)