



Aurora Highlands Civic Association

Minutes from Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, 12 October 2016

MINUTES

Attendees: 32 members (see attached sign-in sheet pages).

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 by President Natasha Atkins.
- *Community updates:*
 - *RiverHouse* - Vornado has reapplied to build 900+ more residential units at RiverHouse, potentially with commercial, which will require up-zoning. Their application has been submitted to the county, but it still being reviewed for completeness. Once it has been accepted, AHCA expects to have a fuller discussion and may invite Vornado to address residents.
 - A member indicated that Vornado has a meeting regarding this topic on October 13 in the James party room at 6:30.
 - *Free trees* - October 13 is the last day to apply for a free tree from the county.
- *Request for donations for Kinesthetic desks at Oakridge*
 - Dana Dougherty provided a briefing on the wellness activities going on at Oakridge. These started with the 2 fit 2 quit programs outside of school started two years ago by the PTA, which prompted the county to ask the school to pilot a full wellness council for activities within the school. One of the projects is the kinesthetic classroom, started last year, which provided pedal desks, standing desks, and yoga ball desks to help kids focus better in the classroom.
 - The kinesthetic classroom has been a hit with teachers, parents, and students, and they'd like to obtain more equipment this year. The program is still volunteer funded. Individual pieces of equipment that are more durable can cost up to \$2400. The Oakridge PTA has matched donations in the past, and may again this year after the Spring Fling.
 - Dana requested a donation of \$250 to help reach their goal of \$6000 for November.
 - A question was raised about whether AHCA coordinates and prioritizes donations every year so that these can be decided upon at one time. This is



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not currently done, mostly because we haven't been able to get people to solicit requests and opinions. Calls have been put in newsletter, but with minimal response. We traditionally support Miracle on 23rd, Spring Fling, Wakefield music, etc.

- A question was raised as to why APS does not pay for this. They may in the future, but Oakridge is just ahead of the curve.
- Galo indicated there are sufficient funds to cover the donation.
- **A motion was made to donate \$250 for this program, which was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- *Q & A with Audrey Clement*
 - Audrey Clement is the Independent candidate running for the Arlington county board seat against Libby Garvey. She discussed her platform and answered questions from members.
- *Discussions of Fern Street cut-through traffic*
 - Residents in the area around Fern and 25th described a dramatic increase in cut-through traffic over the past few years. One morning between 7:30 and 9am 25th & Fern, a total of 277 cars were counted going northbound.
 - Residents made many observations: The majority blow through or do rolling stops at the stop sign. One car has been hit twice in one year. Residents are worried about the safety of children and pedestrians. Fern streets north of 23rd is wider, but narrows south of 23rd, making through traffic more dangerous. Construction trucks, delivery trucks, hotel vans, and buses are using Fern. Drivers trying to get through and around the 23rd and Route 1 intersection may be causing the problem.
 - Police have been contacted, and an officer came out to observe the situation, and wrote some tickets. The officer suggested that to solve the problem, no turn signs to reduce cut-through traffic will be needed.
 - There were similar problems on 20th from Arlington Ridge, but the signs that were put in did result in a noticeable reduction in traffic.



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- This was also discussed at the September meeting where Katie Cristol attended. She has been receptive to helping and has moved to get traffic engineering to work on traffic counts.
- Residents requested that a resolution be issue requesting Arlington place four no left turn lanes 7 to 9am along Eads street at 26th Rd, 26th St, 25th St, and 24th St and one no through traffic sign at Fern and 23rd street for southbound traffic
- **After discussion, a motion was made to pass the following resolution, which passed with a visual majority and two opposed:**

The Aurora Highlands Civic Association requests Arlington County to erect four signs in the Eads Street median at the intersections of 26th Rd S, 26th St S, 25th St S, and 24th St S and one no through traffic sign at the intersection of 23rd St S and South Fern St for southbound traffic.

- Joe Petty from the Crystal City BID followed the discussion by noting that the county has a web site for Pentagon City and Crystal City for all transportation projects that are ongoing or under design.
 - 23rd street ntersection at Route 1 and Eads and Crystal Drive is under design right now – huge project with VDOT
 - Pilot program bike lanes is not complete yet because of ART bus shelter, but will be part of project and go up to pen place, connecting to army-navy drive
 - Joe will provide information on the web site to Natasha, who offered post it to the Nextdoor, 4DA, and the newsletter.
- *AHCA 2017 Officer nominations*
 - Officer elections will be held in November and is open to all dues paying members.
 - Natasha presented the following slate of candidates who volunteered to run for 2017 AHCA officer positions:
 - **Natasha Atkins, President**
 - **Rob Sidman, 1st Vice President**
 - **Scott Miles, 2nd Vice President**
 - **Gallo Valarezo, Treasurer**



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- **Maureen Quinn, Recording Secretary**
- **Heather Spence, Corresponding Secretary**
- The floor was opened for anyone clamoring to be nominated for an officer position, but no other nominations were made.
- **A motion was made to approve the proposed slate of candidates, which passed unanimously.**
- Brent Spence has graciously agreed to participate as the Zoning Committee chair. Volunteers in other areas such as membership are still very much needed.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

I certify that these minutes are a true and accurate representation of the business conducted at the meeting and were adopted as the official meeting minutes by the membership of AHCA.

Robert Sidman
Recording Secretary

Date: _____