

**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora Highlands Civic Association**  
**May 10, 2023 via Zoom**

**Opening & Approval of Minutes**

President Cory Giacobbe opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome to the membership and an overview of the agenda for the evening. The group approved the minutes for the April meeting that had been posted to the AHCA web site for review.

**Ranked Choice Voting – Tania Griffin, Communication & Outreach Coordinator**

Arlington County will be using ranked choice voting for the first time in the June 20 Democratic primary to select two candidates for County Board for the November general election. Tania explained the process of ranked choice voting, tabulation, and the fact that the final results could take up to seven days to determine as the County waits for mail-in and provisional ballots. The big change will be to give voters the option to select their first, second, and third choice candidates. Poll officers will be able to answer questions on Election Day, for more information, visit [vote.arlingtonva.gov/ranked-choice-voting](https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/ranked-choice-voting).

**Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation – Kurt Moser, President**

Kurt presented on the efforts of the Foundation to improve this nearby natural resource that serves a 20 square mile watershed supporting 250,000 people as it feeds into the Potomac River. The group works in the lower Four Mile Run area, from Shirlington to the Potomac with lots of public programming, clean-up days, and opportunities for summer internships. For more information visit [www.fourmilerun.org](http://www.fourmilerun.org).

**County Requests for Comments**

No new requests to consider. Cory briefed on letters that had recently been sent to the County, texts are available on the web page at [aurorahighlands.org/documents](http://aurorahighlands.org/documents):

- 1) Crystal City Signs:** AHCA signed on to a letter to the County initiated by the Crystal City Civic Association regarding a request to modify a site plan for signs and also a proposal to amend the process to make sign changes go through administrative processing with the staff rather than the County Board.
- 2) Oakridge Elementary School:** AHCA signed on to a letter to the School Board and Superintendent by the Livability 22202 Schools Working Group expressing concern with the degradation of education at our neighborhood elementary school as well as the ongoing departure by the experienced teaching staff due to deteriorating conditions.
- 3) Farmers Market:** [ArlNow](#) covered the new popup farmers market that will run for four weeks beginning June 24 at the new park at Met Park. AHCA had supported the market and the article notes that, “As part of the agreement, the county is requiring EatLoco to work with the Aurora Highlands Civic Association and the county regarding signage, parking locations and noise restrictions.”

**Crystal and Pentagon Cities Council, Jill Braun, AHCA Rep**

Jill gave an overview of the first meeting of the newly expanded Council (along with Susan English, ARCA's rep). The highlight of the April 13 meeting was a presentation on the demographics of the area, which is available on the Council's web page at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Crystal-Pentagon-Cities-Council>. The expanded Council was established by the County Board to monitor, identify issues and ensure the success of the Crystal City Sector Plan and the Pentagon City Sector Plan. Both sector plans present the future vision to transform the area and make it a more complete, inviting, lively and walkable community.

#### **New Business/Announcements**

Cory announced that there will be no membership meetings in July and August.

There was a discussion on how to increase participation in the Civic Association.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.  
Recording Secretary