

Meeting Notes from April 22, 2025

Quick recap

The meeting covered various topics including community projects, organizational changes, and historical commemorations. Discussions focused on grant proposals for a community park, the progress of ongoing projects like Arnac and Camp Casey Marker, and the need for new officers in the Civic Association. The group also addressed personal matters, planned future meetings, and considered ways to engage more community members in their initiatives.

Next steps

- Sarah: Monitor and follow up on the status of the equity grant funding from ARNAC for the Cleveland Park playground project
- Sarah: Monitor ARNAC funding timeline and update the group about streetlight project progress
- Sarah: Organize community meetings to gather input on the Cleveland Park playground design once funding is approved
- Patrick Moore: Take on secretary role and responsibilities including writing meeting minutes and answering correspondence
- Ron & Sarah: Create and coordinate on a new flyer to promote Civic Association membership for the farmers market booth
- Sarah: Create updated document explaining reasons to join the civic association
- Edward: Share future CHCA meeting announcements through Arlington Village's Friday email communications

- Edward: Check with the village board about available meeting room dates for the next meeting, particularly for Monday or Tuesday evenings
- Ron: Send Michael's contact information and details to the group regarding the historical marker project
- Ron: Coordinate with Alex and Michael to organize a presentation about the Civil War colored troops encampment
- All Officers: Plan farewell event for Marion at Arlington Village before she moves to South Carolina
- Ron: Help organize refreshments for the social gathering before the next meeting at the village
- Sarah: Transfer streetlight project neighborhood representative role if another volunteer can be found
- Sarah: Send Gmail account details to Ron for transcript distribution
- Ron: Hold off on inviting Alfonso Lopez until after the grant announcement and community engagement increases

Summary

Team Discusses Meeting Tools and Outreach

In the meeting, Ron, Jerry, Edward, and Patrick discussed various topics. Ron mentioned that he had a tool that generates a summary report from their interviews, which he shared with the team. Edward suggested that they should be aware that their meeting is being recorded. Patrick joined the meeting

while driving and mentioned that he was about to retire. The team also discussed the upcoming farmers market event and the need for more outreach.

Community Park Grant Proposal Discussion

The team discussed the possibility of acquiring a grant to create a community park in the neighborhood. Sarah mentioned that they had submitted a proposal for the Equity grant, which would address equity issues in the neighborhood. The proposal included the idea of excavating the area and putting a retaining wall between the edge of the park and the property next door. The team agreed to explore this option further. They also discussed the potential of having meetings with neighbors to discuss what they would like to see in the park. The team also mentioned the possibility of using a piece of land between the Barclay and Arlington village for future projects.

Civic Association Leadership Transition Discussion

Ron, Sarah, Edward, and Jerry discussed the departure of a member, Marion, who is moving to South Carolina. They also discussed the need for new officers to join the Civic Association, particularly younger members. Sarah announced her retirement from her federal job, which is set to take effect on May 31st. The group also discussed the potential challenges of the current political climate affecting retirement benefits.

Summer Grant Meeting and in-Person Gatherings

In the meeting, Sarah and Edward discussed the upcoming summer and the potential grant. They considered the need for regular meetings and the possibility of in-person gatherings. Edward suggested scheduling meetings for the summer months, even if they were cancelled, to ensure they were on record. Sarah proposed meeting at the Arlington Village meeting room, and Ron offered to invite Alfonso Lopez to increase attendance. They also discussed the possibility of an award in September and the potential for Alfonso to attend the celebration.

Arnac Project Funding and Streetlights

Edward and Sarah discussed the progress of the Arnac project, which has been a priority for the past year. They noted that the project has moved up the list from number 24 to 15, and with the recent increase in funding from the bond, the project could potentially be funded within the next year and a half. Sarah also mentioned that the project would benefit the neighborhood by improving traffic safety and comfort for people walking down the street. Edward added that the new streetlights would use less energy and be more efficient, with a continuous light throughout the street.

Appointing Patrick as Secretary

Ron, Sarah, Edward, and Moore's discussed the need for a secretary and agreed to appoint Patrick to the role. They also planned a meeting at the village, inviting Sarah and Marianne for support. The group considered reaching out to families with kids and dog owners as potential community members. Edward shared that he would be deployed to Bristol, Virginia, for work until September 26th.

United States Colored Troops Camp

Ron, Edward, and Sarah discussed the historical significance of the United States Colored Troops camp during the Civil War in the Penrose neighborhood. They considered co-sponsoring an event to commemorate this history and possibly placing a memorial in the Pocket Park. Edward suggested a historical marker similar to those found throughout Virginia. The group agreed to further discuss the event and potential memorial site with the knowledgeable individual they've been in contact with.

Pickleball Courts and Grace Hopper Center

Ron informs the group about a project involving Michael, a retired historian who is interested in local history. The group discusses the ongoing construction of pickleball courts, which are replacing old tennis courts, and they express relief that the large trees in front of the area are being preserved. Ron also mentions a new development project, and it is revealed that a facility near the library will be named the Grace Hopper Center, after Ron's suggestion to honor the computing pioneer.

Camp Casey Marker Project Progress

In the meeting, Ron, Sarah, Edward, and Jerry discussed the progress of their project, Camp Casey Marker. They agreed to send a transcript to Patrick and decided to meet again to discuss further. They also discussed the possibility of having a social gathering outside their meeting room and agreed to finance the refreshments. Edward offered to find out the availability of their meeting room for a future meeting. They also discussed the idea of having a guest speaker to talk about the camp, which Sarah suggested could generate interest.

Personal Topics and Bike Repair Shop

The group discusses various personal topics, including Alex's availability due to his dog moving to Florida, Sarah's dog's behavior, and Jerry's retirement and travel plans. Ron mentions a new bike repair shop owned by Jason, whom he knows, and offers to connect Jerry with him. The meeting concludes with well-wishes for Sarah and a motion to adjourn, which is seconded and agreed upon by all participants.