

Meeting summary for Woodridge Civic Association - 2024 meeting (02/04/2025)

Quick recap

Jeremiah Montague Jr. led the meeting, addressing technical issues and discussing the financial status of the organization, including the Green Passport project. Jeremiah also introduced Jeremiah, an intergovernmental and community affairs specialist, who discussed the ongoing issues with dDOT presentation and the new affordable housing project. Lastly, Jeremiah highlighted the ongoing issues with lead pipes in the community and the upcoming construction update meeting with DPR.

Next steps

- Jeremiah to send out notice about DPR construction update meeting on Monday, February 10th at 6:30 PM via Zoom.
- Community members to attend the Bladensburg Bus Garage replacement project meeting on March 11th.
- Community members to register for Council Member Parker's Ward 5 budget meeting on February 25th at Ward5.us/Budgetforum.
- Community members to attend the Rhode Island Avenue planning study community engagement meeting in late February.
- Community members to review the January 6th transcript on ABRA's website regarding the Aurora Market cannabis application.
- Community members to submit written testimony to the DDOT oversight committee expressing concerns about bicycle and e-bike enforcement.
- Homeowners to consult the Homeowner Center at the Department of Buildings before modifying their properties.
- Community members to use 311 to report suspected illegal construction.

Summary

Resolving Technical Difficulties and Scheduling

Jeremiah experienced technical difficulties during the meeting, including an echo and issues with the speaker. He instructed participants to turn down their speakers and to plug in headphones if necessary. Jeremiah also mentioned that he would be starting the meeting shortly and that he was working to resolve the technical issues. Additionally, a participant named Unknown Speaker 0 indicated that they would need to leave the meeting by 7:30 p.m. due to a conflicting church meeting.

Woodridge Civic Association Meeting Summary

Jeremiah Montague Jr., the President of the Woodridge Civic Association, led the February 4th meeting. He introduced the agenda and welcomed Dr. Oye Wolowa, the current US Representative, who discussed his role, the fight for DC Statehood, and community work. Dr. Wolowa also mentioned initiatives like the Expungement Clinic, the Capital Business Seminar, and the Childhood Movement. Jeremiah then presented the December and January minutes from the previous meeting, which will be uploaded to the website. The conversation ended with a brief report from the Treasurer, Mr. Battle.

Financial Status and Green Passport

Jeremiah presented the current financial status of the organization, which includes a cash balance of \$2,058.93 in two checking accounts. He also mentioned that they have received some dues payments and made a \$50 payment to the Federation of Civic Associations. Jeremiah also discussed the QR code on their website for online payments and the option to write checks. He then moved on to discuss the Green Passport project, which includes an interactive map with 71 points of interest and is tied to walking trails and tours starting in spring. He also mentioned a project with the DC Library Federation Foundation for the Hillcrest Woodridge Library Project.

Jeremiah's Role in Community Affairs

Jeremiah, an intergovernmental and community affairs specialist from the District of Columbia's probation and parole agency, introduced himself and his role in the community. He explained that his agency supervises adults, with some having juvenile charges, and they start seeing individuals at 18. He clarified that they handle cases from the DC Superior Court and do not handle cases from the US District Court. Jeremiah also mentioned that his agency is responsible for supervising a population of around 200 to 500 individuals in the 5th District, including those in prison and those on parole. He also discussed the possibility of

community service initiatives, such as flyer distribution and community cleanups, and the ability to put limitations on the type of clients participating in these events. CM from Council Member Parker's office expressed their appreciation for Jeremiah's agency's partnership and responsiveness.

Addressing dDOT Presentation and Safety

Jeremiah discussed the ongoing issues with the dDOT presentation on Taylor Street and the need for community input. He highlighted the lack of engagement from dDOT and the need for better communication with the community, particularly seniors who are not digitally connected. Jeremiah also addressed concerns about bike lanes and road safety, emphasizing the need for enforcement and better management of traffic. He encouraged community members to submit written testimony to the oversight committee regarding their concerns about dDOT's operations.

Affordable Housing and Homeowner Permits

Jeremiah discussed the new affordable housing project at the corner of Newton and Rhode Island Avenue, with 100 units proposed. He emphasized the importance of understanding the affordability of these units and the potential for additional parking spaces. Jeremiah also warned homeowners about modifying their properties without proper permits, as this could lead to fines and liens on their property. He encouraged homeowners to use the Homeowner Center at the Department of Buildings for guidance on necessary permits. Lastly, he advised against signing unsolicited contracts with contractors, urging homeowners to carefully consider their options before making any decisions.

Lead Pipes, Construction Updates, and Grants

Jeremiah discussed the ongoing issues with lead pipes in the community, mentioning that the program to replace them has been affected by a change in funding. He also mentioned the upcoming construction update meeting with DPR and the importance of attending the Bladensburg Bus Club meeting to understand the progress of the project. Jeremiah also highlighted the upcoming budget forum and the Rhode Island Avenue planning study. CM provided updates from the Council member's office, including the South Dakota Avenue project, the Fort Lincoln project, and the Rhode Island Avenue planning study. CM also mentioned the need for safety measures for small businesses and the support for them through the Great Streets Grant program.

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