

Meeting summary for Woodridge Civic Association - 2024, 2025 meeting (04/01/2025)

Quick recap

The Woodridge Civic Association meeting covered a range of community issues, including safety concerns, upcoming events, and legislative changes. Updates were provided on various projects such as the Bladensburg Bus Garage construction, the Providence Hospital redevelopment, and a new commemorative arts project. The meeting also addressed the importance of community involvement in decision-making processes and the potential impact of recent legislative changes on community representation.

Next steps

- All attendees to attend the hybrid meeting on April 5th at 7 PM regarding the street mural proposal.
 - Jeremiah to send out email and text message reminders with meeting link for the April 5th hybrid meeting.
 - Jeremiah to update the Woodridge Civic Association website with links to the April 5th hybrid meeting.
 - Michaela to provide information about the Woodridge Farmers Market to Jeremiah for inclusion on the Woodridge Civic Association website.
 - Jeremiah to circulate information about the April 12th commemorative works tour of Ward 5 to association members.
 - Woodridge Civic Association to develop a proclamation recognizing Mr. Mason's contributions to the Woodridge Warriors organization for the May meeting.
 - Jeremiah to finalize the Woodridge walking tour, reducing it from 2 hours to 1.5 hours.
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Summary

Stained Glass Project and Projector Issues

Jeremiah discussed the final design of a stained glass project [Philip Reed Commemorative Arts], expressing concerns about its durability in the face of strong winds. He also addressed technical issues with a projector, including a faulty wire and the need for updates. Jeremiah also mentioned a potential issue with a chair's comfort and the need for a backup plan.

Woodridge Sign and Screen Sharing

Jeremiah and Sandra discussed the Woodridge sign and the need for people to show up. They also talked about the time and the need for screen sharing. Sandra had some issues with her screen and Jeremiah guided her to adjust her position. They then proceeded with a piece called "We Go Together" featuring Jeremiah, Miss Maria, and his granddaughter. They also discussed an issue related to the Open Meetings Act and the need for proper notice and agendas for meetings. The conversation ended with 7 participants and a discussion about the time.

Woodridge Civic Association April 1st Meeting

Jeremiah opens the April 1st Woodridge Civic Association meeting and reviews the agenda. Michaela Blanchard from DC Squared presents on their work supporting the Rhode Island Avenue and Upper Bladensburg Road Main Streets, including upcoming events and projects. She announces a new farmers market in Woodridge and a commemorative work to be unveiled on Rhode Island Avenue. Jeremiah then discusses the importance of the DC Comprehensive Plan update and its potential impact on zoning. He also provides updates on the Bladensburg Bus Garage construction and the upcoming Better Bus changes.

Safety Concerns and Community Outreach

Jeremiah discussed the concerns about the safety of a location, particularly for children, and the potential risks of artwork drawing people into dangerous spaces. He mentioned a letter sent to ANC 5B and ANC 5C expressing these concerns. Jeremiah also highlighted the need for community outreach and the importance of attending a meeting requested by the original designer, Ms. Deussom. He emphasized the need for each person to show up at the next meeting to avoid claims of lack of community involvement. Maria Jones, a resident of Woodridge, shared her concerns about the installation of poles for parking, which she believes has made the area more dangerous for older people and handicapped individuals.

Community Safety and Artwork Installation

Jeremiah emphasized the importance of community members attending a hybrid meeting scheduled for the next day. He expressed concerns about the safety of the community, particularly in relation to the proposed installation of artwork in an unsafe space. Jeremiah also mentioned the need for data to support the safety of such installations. He encouraged community members to attend the meeting and share their concerns.

ANC's Exclusion in Open Meetings Act

Jeremiah expressed concerns about a bill introduced by the Council, specifically the exclusion of ANCs from the Open Meetings Act. He argued that this exclusion would reduce the role of ANC commissioners to that of independent contractors, limiting their ability to gather information from constituents. Jeremiah emphasized the importance of commissioners acting in the interest of the people who elected them and the District of Columbia, rather than just following the consent of the government. He suggested that this piece of legislation should be excised, or the bill should be delayed.

Emergency Legislation and Council Amendments

Jeremiah discussed the recent legislative changes, specifically the emergency legislation passed by the Council. He clarified that emergency legislation is temporary, lasting only 90 days, and does not require the typical congressional review process or mayoral signature. Jeremiah also mentioned that the Council is considering amendments to allow members to meet without having to hold a public meeting every time, which could be beneficial in discussing sensitive issues. However, he emphasized that he is not an apologist for the legislation and needs to review the actual text of the bill to fully understand it.

Woodridge Community Updates and Projects

The meeting covers several topics including an upcoming DC Federal Federation of Civic Associations awards celebration, an update on the commemorative arts project for Philip Reed Park, and the Providence Hospital redevelopment deal. Jeremiah shares details about a new perimeter fence at the Bladensburg Bus Garage and an upcoming Emancipation Day parade. Melissa from Councilmember Parker's office provides updates on the Providence Hospital site redevelopment, including plans for a family urgent-care center, affordable housing, and green spaces. The group also approves developing a proclamation to recognize

a long-time Woodridge Warriors organization member and discusses an upcoming walking tour of Woodridge being developed by Jeremiah in collaboration with DC History.

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