

2025-06-03 – WCA-Summary (ViaZoom)

My Summaries Meeting Summary for Woodridge Civic Association - 2024, 2025 meeting

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Quick recap

The meeting covered various community issues, including technical difficulties, upcoming events, and concerns about local governance. Discussions ranged from neighborhood history and inclusivity to proposed changes in bus routes and budget allocations. The meeting also addressed community initiatives, such as park renaming and redevelopment projects, while emphasizing the importance of public participation and open dialogue.

Next steps

- DPR: Schedule and announce the next community meeting about the Langdon Community Center redevelopment
- Council Member's Office: Monitor WMATA's Better Bus implementation to ensure service improvements for the neighborhood
- Woodridge Civic Association: Design and gather community feedback for new neighborhood signs to replace the existing ones from 1998
- Zahed Rathor: Continue working with Casey Trees and other agencies to address the Monroe Street alley issues
- Melissa Littlepage: to Follow up with information about the status of the 5D police station renovation
- Jeremiah: Upload the slide deck about ANC meetings and regulations to the Woodridge Civic Association website
- Deidre: Send an email to Jeremiah regarding the alley lot concerns for follow-up information
- Community Members: Register for the neighborhood walking tour on Saturday at 10:30 AM through the provided registration link

Summary

Technical Audio Troubleshooting Meeting

Jeremiah Montague Jr experienced technical difficulties with audio during the meeting, attempting to troubleshoot sound issues in the room. Despite these challenges, he managed to communicate briefly with others, mentioning the presence of a fan and confirming that the recording was functioning.

Jeremiah's Tour and Personal Musings

Jeremiah Montague Jr. discussed various topics, including a tour he was organizing, a report he needed to delete, and a conversation with a woman who had criticized his conduct. He mentioned being tired and eager to get past Saturday, and he expressed concern about a group sponsoring the tour. Jeremiah also briefly discussed a movie, Top Gun, and its plot.

Secret Meetings and Budget Concerns

Jeremiah discussed ongoing issues with A and C's, noting that ASCs are exempt from the Open Government Act according to the code. He mentioned that the council had attempted to hold secret meetings to discuss budget rollback to the 2025 fiscal year, but this was met with opposition and the resolution was backed off after former ANC commissioners questioned the decision. Jeremiah also touched on a recent event he attended, mentioning that he had taken pictures and shared them on Facebook.

Woodridge Signs and Community Governance

Jeremiah addressed concerns from a neighbor about the Woodridge signs, clarifying that the civic association is an inclusive organization and explaining the history of the signs, which were funded by a 1998 Allstate insurance grant. He mentioned that the association is planning to design new signs and will seek community input on the designs, with the help of an expert in fundraising. Jeremiah emphasized that the civic association is an important neighborhood governance structure and will continue to serve the community for years to come.

Woodridge Community Inclusivity Discussion

Jeremiah Montague Jr. discussed the history of Woodridge, emphasizing its transition from a predominantly white neighborhood to a diverse community, and highlighted the resilience and contributions of its residents. He addressed concerns about recent emails and invitations, clarifying that the association aims to be inclusive and encourages open dialogue. Anthony, the former president, defended the association's actions regarding permits and land transfers, urging continued collaboration and inclusivity. The conversation

ended with an invitation for community members to share their concerns and participate in future discussions.

Woodridge Community Updates and Initiatives

Jeremiah Montague Jr discussed upcoming events and initiatives in the community. He announced a walking tour of Woodridge on Saturday, which requires registration and will be shortened to 2 hours. Jeremiah also shared that a request to rename a park near the Bladensburg Bus garage to Philip Reid Park has been sent to the Council Secretary and will be scheduled for a hearing. Additionally, he mentioned that a commemorative artwork will be erected at the site to honor Philip Reed and others who lived on the Clark Mills estate. Jeremiah concluded by warning the community about a proposed text amendment regarding alley lots, which he believes should have been brought to their attention earlier.

Bus Route Changes and ANC Concerns

Jeremiah discussed the upcoming "Better Bus" changes, which will significantly alter several bus routes in the area, including extensions to West Hyattsville and Fort Lincoln. He emphasized the importance of reviewing the Metro website to understand the changes. Deidre raised concerns about alley housing development in Georgetown, and Jeremiah agreed to provide information to help her contest the development. The conversation ended with a discussion about Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), highlighting concerns about their meeting frequency and compliance with the Open Government Act, which requires meetings to be open, recorded, and accessible to the public.

Community Initiatives and Budget Concerns

Melissa Littlepage, Communications Director for Council Member Zachary Parker, provided updates on several community initiatives and concerns. She highlighted concerns about Mayor Bowser's proposed FY26 budget, which the office views as an austerity budget that would negatively impact many residents. Littlepage also discussed the extended summer hours at the National Arboretum and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, as well as the ongoing Langdon Community Center Redevelopment project, which remains fully funded and on track for 2026-2027 construction. Additionally, she mentioned the office's participation in the World Pride Parade and encouraged neighbors to join them.