

2025-09-02 Woodridge Civic Association

Meeting summary via zoom unedited

Quick recap

The meeting began with technical difficulties. It opened addressing COVID-19 concerns, including preventive measures. Additionally, the opening presentation discussed responding to the federal overreach occurring since August 11, 2025. Jeremiah discussed community rights and local governance issues, highlighting the importance of vigilance and providing updates on various federal and local developments. The meeting covered upcoming events and projects in Ward 5, including community celebrations, recreational center developments, and zoning changes, with the group voting on a letter of opposition to a proposed zoning change at the New York Avenue New City site.

Next steps

- Jeremiah to craft a letter of opposition to the proposed zoning change for the New City Triangle development, incorporating concerns expressed by Treasurer Battle.
- Woodridge Civic Association members to consider attending the Ward 5 Day on Saturday, September 20th, 2025, at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center from 12 PM to 5 PM.
- Interested members to sign up for the Ward 5 mobilization to Congress on September 9th from 11 AM to 4 PM at ward5.us/onthehill.
- Interested members to attend the Langdon Park Recreation Center Redevelopment Kickoff meeting on September 8th, 2025, at 6:30 PM (in-person only).
- Interested members to attend the Friends of the Woodridge Library book sale on Saturday, September 13th from 10 AM to 2 PM.
- Interested members to attend the Woodridge Neighborhood Walking Tour on September 13th from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

- Interested members to attend Art All Night on September 12th, 2025, on Bladensburg Road and Rhode Island Avenue.

Summary

In this summary, Jeremiah is the President and meeting Host.

COVID-19 Meeting Discussion

Jeremiah began the meeting by addressing technical difficulties and apologizing for initial communication issues in the hybrid meeting. The group discussed the agenda, with the primary focus being on COVID-19-related matters. No further details were provided in the transcript.

Community Response to COVID-19 and Insurrection

Jeremiah discussed the resurgence of COVID-19 in the community and shared preventive measures, including vaccination options. He also addressed responding to the Federal Overreach in the District of Columbia, August 11, 2025 to the present, expressing concerns about the militarization of the District of Columbia, and the undermining of local governance. Jeremiah criticized the mayor's response as inadequate and suggested that the public's expectations were not met. He concluded by offering suggestions on how to react to the ongoing situation, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and the need for a strong response from local leaders.

Understanding Rights in Police Interactions

Jeremiah discussed the importance of knowing and asserting one's rights, emphasizing the need to avoid violence and remain calm during interactions with law enforcement. He advised recording any encounters with police, as officers are required to identify themselves, and explained that individuals do not have to consent to searches or provide identification without a valid reason. Jeremiah also highlighted that residents of the District of Columbia lack certain protections compared to other areas, but encouraged asking for warrants signed by a judge, and not interfering with arrests, as well as, not acting in a manner to cause being arrested

District Advocacy and Budget Updates

Melissa Littlepage, of Councilmember Parkers Office [via Jeremiah host] discussed the current federal overreach in the District of Columbia, highlighting Council Member Parker's opposition and recent town hall efforts to equip residents with resources and calls to action. She introduced a toolkit, mentioned weekly protests, and announced a September 9th mobilization to lobby Congress, while urging neighbors to report federal activity. Ms. Littlepage [Jeremiah host] also provided updates on the FY26 budget vote, where Councilmember Parker voted against it due to harmful cuts, and the RFK Redevelopment deal, where Parker secured labor agreements and environmental protections before the final vote.

Ward 5 Upcoming Community Events

Ms. Littlepage [via Jeremiah host] discussed several upcoming events and developments in Ward 5. She mentioned the RFK Stadium deal, which passed its first vote on August 1st and has another vote scheduled for September 17th. Ms. Littlepage also talked about the Annual Ward 5 Day, a community celebration scheduled for September 20th at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, which will include various activities and an interactive exhibit about Ward 5's neighborhoods. She noted that the DC State Fair is taking place in Ward 5 this weekend, September 6th at Bryant Street Market. Further, she also announced a series of events leading up to Ward 5 Day, including a children's story time, bike ride, and free golf lessons. Finally, he mentioned the upcoming community meeting for the Langdon Park Recreation Center Redevelopment on September 8th at 6:30 PM, and addressed a question about a fatal shooting at the Brentwood Recreation Center by directing people to the director of constituent services for more details.

Woodridge Signs Permit Resolution

Jeremiah discussed a long-standing issue regarding signs belonging to the Woodridge Civic Association along South Dakota Avenue. The signs, originally permitted in 1998 with DPW and NPS, were replaced without proper permits in 2018 by ANC 5C contractor as part of a negotiation for construction of a public storage space building at Queens Chapel Road

and Bladensburg Road NE. Jeremiah spent the summer resolving the issue by filing permit applications, which were accepted and scheduled for hearings in October and November. He noted that while the Association cannot apply for permits due to a 2018 law requiring a physical address, he submitted the applications as responsible property owner.

Woodridge Neighborhood Updates and Projects

Jeremiah discussed several community events and projects. He mentioned a \$100 donation to the Ward 5 WEEC children's supplies drive and promoted an upcoming Woodridge Neighborhood Walking Tour on September 13th. Jeremiah also highlighted a book sale hosted by the Friends of the Woodridge Library and their book club meeting. He provided updates on the Burroughs Elementary School Modernization Project, which is moving forward with construction. Jeremiah also mentioned his personal beautification projects in the neighborhood, including enhancing fire and police call boxes. Finally, he discussed a zoning commission case regarding the rezoning of a triangular area at Montana Ave, New York Avenue, and Bladensburg Road NE, noting changes in the long proposed development plans, and zoning from MU-5B to PD (Production, Distribution and Repair).

Woodridge Opposes Warehouse Zoning Change

The Woodridge Civic Association discussed a proposed zoning change from MU-5B to PDR for a warehouse development, with Jeremiah moving to oppose the change due to concerns about promises, market conditions, and community interests. Leroy [Battle] provided context about how the office and multifamily markets have changed, noting that office buildings have lost significant value while some multifamily buildings have been lost recently. The group agreed to proceed with crafting a letter of opposition despite the changing market conditions, as the hearing process is already in motion.

ANC 5C Community Updates Meeting

Jeremiah discussed several upcoming events and issues in the community. He mentioned that ANC 5C will meet on September 13th

[actually September 11, the second Thursday of the month] to discuss the Zoning Revision Request property matter. Jeremiah also provided information about Art All Night DC on September 12th, 2025, and the Langdon Park redevelopment kickoff meeting on September 8th [in-person only]. He highlighted improvements and issues with the Better Bus service initiated June 29, 2025, including new routes and problems with stop locations, service intervals, and newly created Transit deserts in Brookland, and historic Woodridge between Vista Street and Rhode Island Avenue NE. Jeremiah noted the completion of the Bladensburg bus garage replacement phase one and its success. Additionally, he announced the next meeting date of October 7th, 2025. The conversation ended with a vote on a letter of opposition to a proposed zoning change, which carried with a request to include specific concerns.
