



Meeting Summary for Woodridge Civic Association - 2024, 2025 meeting

May 05, 2026, 05:35 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 823 5728 2327

Note: References to Jeremiah often reflect the Host Computer as the recording point. Corrections are added to reflect actual in-person comments as appropriate.

Quick recap

The Woodridge Civic Association held its May meeting on Cinco de Mayo, with President Jeremiah Montague calling the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. The treasurer's report showed current balances of \$1,344.98 and \$519.30 across two accounts, with plans for upcoming reimbursements and a \$50 down payment secured for the silent auction venue at Goddard Baptist Center. The association discussed upcoming fundraising efforts including a silent auction scheduled for September 12th in the Crystal Ballroom and a neighborhood residence sign identification project. Grayson Jones presented his Eagle Scout project involving neighborhood cleanup and tree planting scheduled for May 23rd. The meeting covered ranked choice voting implementation, with webinars scheduled for May 12th, 28th, and June 4th to help residents understand the new voting process. Councilmember Parker's office representative Melissa Littlepage provided updates on various community initiatives including the Healthy Community Spring Cleaning on May 30th, ongoing budget oversight hearings, and concerns about WMATA's bus network redesign. The conversation ended with discussions about local traffic safety issues and police community engagement opportunities.

Next steps

Carol Fleming

- Send Ms. Thomas's (Romaine Bell Thomas) home address to Jeremiah for posting on the website.

Grayson Jones

- Send details about Eagle Scout project tool needs to Jeremiah as soon as possible for potential CISO support.

Jeremiah

- Forward Grayson Jones's tool needs information to CSOSA and Salvador Saudea-Guzeman for tool share support

Mr. Battle

- Review documentation from Mr. Montague regarding website and related expenses (\$120.xx) and process reimbursement.

Collaboration

- Fundraising Committee/All Members: Canvas membership and local businesses for silent auction item donations and sponsorships for September 12th event
- Fundraising Committee/All Members: Collect and catalog potential auction items (including photos if possible) and update the website with an Excel catalog for collecting donations.
- John Hampton (and relevant team): Take the neighborhood sign address prototype to potential fabricators and consider design adjustments.
- All interested members: Sign up to volunteer for Grayson Jones's Eagle Scout neighborhood cleanup on May 23rd (backup May 30th), see WCA website.
- All interested members: Attend ranked choice voting webinars (May 12, 28, June 4) and/or watch Channel 16 presentations to learn about new voting procedures.
- All interested members: Register for the Bladensburg garage quarterly meeting (May 21st, 6pm, Woodridge Library) if attending virtually.
- All interested members: Register for the Metropolitan Police Department Community Engagement Academy (link on website)
- All interested members: Submit written comment for DPR budget oversight hearing (link on Council website)
- All interested members: Submit feedback on the draft future land use map (DC-OP) by May 17th.
- All interested members: Attend Burroughs Elementary School modernization meeting (May 7th, virtual) link: <https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fmeet%2F25887393193470%3Fp%3D06vA5Q3aupjPgANTLE&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1778521140000000&usg=AOvVaw2Td4wSeVqcfK5xirfYlXnW>

- All interested members: Submit feedback on DDOT's new HAWK signal at Rhode Island Ave & 17th St (via notice of intent, NOI)
- All interested members: Sign up to host or participate in Councilmember Parker's Healthy Community Spring Cleaning (May 30th)
- All interested members: Send email to Woodridge Civic Association or to wah.hamp@verizon.net to be added to the Evarts St/Queens Chapel/traffic listserv.
- Councilmember Parker's office: Encourage Committee on Transportation and Environment to secure local funding for C63 and D36 bus improvements.

Summary

Technical Setup Discussion Pre-Meeting

The transcript appears to capture a brief technical discussion where Jeremiah checked if Carlos could hear him, but no substantive decisions or action items were discussed. The conversation was primarily focused on technical setup issues rather than business content.

Woodridge Civic Association Meeting Update

The Woodridge Civic Association held their May 5th meeting, with Jeremiah presiding as chair. Treasurer Battle reported the current account balances totaling \$1,864.28, with plans to make reimbursements of approximately \$170 for venue deposits and website expenses. The conversation ended with a brief mention of fundraising committee activities, though no specific updates were provided during the transcript.

Community Events and Updates Meeting

Janae Grant announced a protest rally scheduled for May 11th at 5pm to “stop the war”. Mr. Battle reported progress on a fundraising event planned for September 12th at the Crystal Ballroom, including plans for a silent auction and neighborhood sign identification project. The group discussed the DC Federation of Civic Associations' upcoming October 24th awards luncheon and Friends of the Woodridge Library book sale and book club events, with Ra Amin (5D-CAC) announcing that the CAC would join as a member for \$15. The conversation ended with an acknowledgment of the passing of Romaine B. Thomas, wife of Harry Thomas, who passed away on April 27th.

Community Updates and Projects Meeting

The meeting began with a discussion about the passing of Mrs. Thomas, a former principal at Ketchum Elementary School and active community member. Participants shared memories and discussed sending condolences to her family.

Grayson Jones, a senior at McKinley Tech High School, presented his Eagle Scout project focused on neighborhood cleanup and tree/flower planting, scheduled for May 23rd with a backup date of May 30th.

The conversation ended with an announcement about upcoming webinars on ranked choice voting, scheduled for May 12th, May 28th, and June 4th. Links on the WCA Website.

Ranked Choice Voting Process Overview

Jeremiah explained the ranked choice voting process (as he understood it) that will be implemented in the upcoming primary election, emphasizing that mistakes in one contest

will not invalidate the entire ballot. He clarified that ranked choice voting only applies to contests with three or more candidates and detailed the voting algorithm where candidates must reach 51% to win, with votes being redistributed among the top five candidates if no one reaches the threshold.

Jeremiah strongly recommended attending Board of Elections seminars to understand the process better, noting that the Board had researched successful implementations in other jurisdictions like Alaska and had prepared materials to help voters avoid common mistakes.

DC History Center Walking Tours

Jeremiah announced upcoming walking tours in conjunction with the DC History Center, scheduled for May 13th and June 27th at 10 AM, with a maximum of 25 participants and electronic registration required.

He detailed changes to the tour route, including an optional extension through Woodridge South due to popular demand from previous tours.

Jeremiah also discussed public budget hearings held by the Council, highlighting issues with DGS (DC government's landlord) and DPR regarding Langston Rec Center staffing and construction processes, noting that Councilmember Denise Lewis-George chairs the facilities committee overseeing these agencies.

DGS and DPR Budget Concerns

Jeremiah discussed the issues with DGS and DPR regarding maintenance and long-term sustainability of projects, highlighting concerns about cost calculations and transparency in budgeting. He also addressed Metro's FY27 budget approval, expressing deep disappointment that bus improvements for the District of Columbia were withdrawn at the last minute by the D.C. Representative to the WMATA Board, and called on the Council to address this with the mayor.

Jeremiah announced an upcoming Bladensburg quarterly meeting on May 21st at 6pm at the Woodridge Library, which will be hybrid with virtual registration required.

He also mentioned Councilmember Parker's Youth Alternative to Team Takeovers roundtable, which he attended and found valuable in addressing preventable issues.

Community Issues and Updates Meeting

The meeting focused on several community issues and updates. Jeremiah discussed challenges with youth safety and access to recreational spaces, highlighting concerns about closing times at community centers and the need for safe gathering areas.

Lisa mentioned Metro's efforts to address fare evasion on buses, which may result in increased enforcement.

The group also discussed transportation issues, including changes to Queen's Chapel Road and concerns about the EVARTS one-way project.

Melissa Littlepage, Councilmember Zachary Parker's Communications Director, provided updates on various initiatives, including the Ward 5 weekly newsletter, upcoming community cleanup events, and ongoing budget oversight hearings. She also addressed concerns about traffic safety changes and emphasized the importance of community feedback on the draft future land use map (FLUM).