

HERNDON YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2024

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Contreras called the December 5, 2024, Herndon Youth Advisory Committee regular meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. in the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Co-Chairs for the December 5, 2024 meeting: Daniela Contreras and Adrianna Rideout; Committee Members Joe Aksu, Zach Calsetta, Zoe Kimsey, Claire O'Connor, Rexford Richardson, and Autumn Smith; and Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick, Town Council Liaison (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)

Committee Members Ethan Fabro, Stanley Joseph, Emilia Korsvall, Natalie Nossal, and Prisha Sharma, were absent.

Determination of a Quorum

Co-Chair Contreras determined there was a quorum, with eight Committee Members present. Committee Members Fabro, Jospeh, Korsvall, Nossal, and Sharma were absent.

2. Comments from the Committee

There were no comments from the Committee Members.

Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick: provided information on the following upcoming events: (1) Saturday, December 7, several events in downtown Herndon, including: Holiday Homes Tour, Model Train Display and Caboose Open House, and the Holiday Tree Lighting and Sing-Along; (2) on Sunday, December 8, Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at the Herndon Community Center; (3) on Saturday, December 14, Holiday WinterMarkt and Wreaths Across America at Chestnut Grove Cemetery; and (4) the Town offices will closed at noon on Tuesday, December 24, and will be closed all day on Wednesday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. September 5, 2024 HYAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Smith moved to approve the September 5, 2024 HYAC Meeting Minutes as presented.

The motion was seconded by Committee Member Aksu.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by an 8-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Committee Members Aksu, Calsetta, Kimsey, O'Connor, Richardson, Smith, and Co-Chairs Contreras and Rideout voting "Aye." Committee Members Fabro, Joseph, Korsvall, Nossal, and Sharma were absent.

4. Discussion

a. Bennett Street Safety and Operations Assessment - Mike Shindeldecker, Transportation Engineer

Mike Shindeldecker, Transportation Engineer, provided a presentation on the Bennett Street safety study near Herndon High School and reviewed the operations' assessment. Mr. Shindeldecker reviewed the crash data and outlined the safety concerns expressed by residents for the intersections near Herndon High School. He reviewed potential solutions, including a crosswalk across Bennett Street near the Herndon United Methodist Church, and asked the Committee for their input. He emphasized their input was especially valuable, since many of the Committee Members are students at Herndon High School, and all the members use transportation systems in Herndon.

There was discussion among staff and the Committee about the project and transportation near Herndon High School, including: (1) public safety personnel in the area; (2) current and potential other crosswalk locations on Bennett Street; (3) addressing speeding on Bennett Street; and (4) light or motion sensors at the new crosswalk to show that pedestrians are crossing.

Mr. Shindeldecker stated that another alternative to the crosswalk was a "road diet" which would narrow Bennett Street and allow more room for a crosswalk with a refuge in the median. Other ideas discussed included adjusting signal timing to allow for a more efficient crossing at Dranesville Road and Bennett Street; modifications to Herndon High School's arrival and dismissal schedule; and considering adding a traffic control officer at the high school.

b. Youth Programs & HCC Tour - Bob Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation

Bob Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, led the Committee Members on a brief tour of the Herndon Community Center. He explained the various facilities in the Center and discussed the events, classes, and activities that occur at the Community Center. He highlighted that the staff wants the community to feel like they can gather at the Community Center and discussed the importance of community building.

Mr. Williams briefly provided an overview of the youth programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. As the meeting was going to have to end due

to losing a quorum, Mr. Williams indicated that he could continue his update at the next Herndon Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

c. Open Discussion - Upcoming Topics

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that they would meet at the Herndon Community Center for their next meeting on March 6, with the time to be determined, with a focus on parks and recreation.

Additional topics requested included: (1) athletics and activities; (2) activities for those with disabilities; and (3) request for a marketing discussion and an update on the branding exercise that the HYAC participated in during their meeting in September.

5. Adjournment

Due to several members having to leave and losing a quorum, Co-Chair Contreras adjourned the December 5, 2024, Herndon Youth Advisory Committee meeting at 6:07 p.m.



Amanda E.M. Kertz
Acting Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Herndon Youth Advisory Committee: March 20, 2025