

## HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

- To strengthen the sense of community, responsibility, and livability in the Highlands for all residents.
- To protect, preserve and further the residential quality of the Highlands area.
- To maintain an open line of communication among the Highlands neighborhood, the Borough of State College, the University community, and other Borough neighborhoods and agencies.
- To facilitate the exchange of information among HCA residents.

### HCA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

7:15 – 9:00 pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

#### Meeting Convened at 7:15 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Eric White, Gabrielle Lombardo, David Stone, Susan Venegoni, Gary Miller, Cindy Adams, Laird Jones, Elizabeth Shirey, Vinnie Scanlon
2. **Treasurer's Report :** Vinnie Scanlon reported \$1,136.86 as the HCA account balance.
3. **Approval of December 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Approved by Susan Venegoni; seconded by Eric White; all present in agreement.
4. **Neighborhood Yard Sale and Potluck Picnic in Late Spring/Early Summer:** All in attendance agreed to schedule June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the event. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am and a potluck picnic on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Fairmount Park (Friends Meeting House for shelter in inclement weather), time TBD. Mark will check with the Borough to confirm date/time/location. An enlarged Highlands flyer will be used to indicate resident yard sale locations. A small donation may be collected to defray the cost of enlarging and staking the flyers. Susan Shincovich may serve as coordinator for the two-day event with support from HCA volunteers. Neighbors are encouraged to bring comfortable seating (e.g. lawn chairs, blankets, etc.) for the social gathering on Sunday. Local social service agencies will be encouraged to participate to further enhance their fund raising campaigns.
5. **Fraternity Appeals and Use in the Highlands:** Mark gave an update on the continuing discussion around the use of vacant houses. Options were reviewed; however, little progress has been made to clarify the limitations for usage or a report on current fraternity status. HCA hopes to influence an accountable assessment (use of collected data from the New Score Card for 2017, as an example) to guide recommendations.
6. **Historical and Architectural Review Board Update:** Eric reported the proposed HARB ordinance passed Borough Council by a vote of 6:1. Implementation of the ordinance is anticipated by mid-June 2018. Also, Eric received an email from a PSU OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) curriculum instructor regarding the Highlands Sears and Roebuck designed homes and her interest in incorporating their historical significance to the community by sponsoring a walking tour of the neighborhood in June/July (exteriors only). Members of the committee expressed an interest in the proposal.
7. **Neighborhood Parking During Special Events:** Mark provided an update on the use of the data compiled on Borough garage, street and lawn parking during special events (e.g., home football games). The data analysis will go to the Transportation Commission then on to Borough Council for discussion and action. To date, there is no evidence of how or when the data will guide decision making. Pedestrian safety is of great concern in the discussions around current and a significant number of rental property proposals. The impact of an increase in

traffic volume and its emissions along with inadequate sidewalks to handle higher volumes of walking residents and visitors must be assessed. HCA members interacting with the Transportation Commission and Borough Council hope to assist with data interpretation and its impact on the Highlands neighborhood. Improved collaboration and consultation between the Borough and University is needed to achieve an acceptable outcome for residents. It was noted HCA members attending Borough meetings found that discussions may not be fully documented in meeting minutes. A recommendation was made that HCA members attending take a written copy of their concerns and recommendations for posting to the minutes.

8. **Other Items of Business or News:** David Stone reported on continued efforts to ensure safe and drinkable water for the progressive community. Concerned citizens want to keep the conversation active and encourage greater collaboration between the community and university in support of the health and welfare of its citizens. Other topics briefly discussed were student alcohol and drug abuse and the ineffective management of bad behavior, broken laws and unenforced ordinances. HCA strives to bring a reasonable and effective outcome for residents and students alike.

**Meeting Adjournment at 8:44 pm.**

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli January 2018