

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**.

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:02 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Eric White, Vinnie Scanlon, David Stone, Ron Filippelli, Dina Liberatore, Neil Sullivan, UB Baker
2. Treasury Report: Account balance \$1,329.41; special thank you to Mark for helping the Scanlons get out of their drive during the recent snow storm; the HCA executive board will have a discussion in April regarding an electronic payment option (PayPal) and appropriate email address for managing income and fund disbursement.
3. Borough Updates:
 - No refuse pickup on Monday, January 18th, Martin Luther King Day.
 - Penn State Spring Semester begins remote classes on Tuesday, January 19th and expect to convert to in-person classes mid-February.
 - Update on the Neighborhood Coalition and borough staff bi-weekly meetings to discuss COVID related topics, Borough and special group task force activity, and Council agenda – Mark shares timely minutes of the meetings on the HCA LISTSERV .
 - Report on borough staff attrition in planning, engineering, parks and public works; the ABCs have volunteer needs (Authorities Board has 2 open positions, Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) has 1 open position for a licensed realtor, Transportation Commission has 1 open position, and LGBTQ Advisory Committee has 2 student positions). Go to <https://www.statecollegepa.us/civicalerts.aspx?aid=2721> for more information.

- Mayor Filippelli reported the Biden Inaugural Committee asked for communities to join in a national remembrance of COVID deaths at 5:30 pm on January 19th. Any show of reverence such as turning on a porch light or the chime of church bells or ringing bells at this hour on this day will add to the nation's observance.
 - Update on Mt. Nittany Medical Center's current COVID patient numbers: 41 with a rise in the use for ventilators; some elective surgeries are now being allowed.
4. "Awesome Grant Brainstorming" - Dina Liberatore
- 3 Dot as the sponsor, Dina reported on a skill share program (Highlands residents who present a unique skill or interest through a Zoom presentation) for grant funding. Each resident chosen to share their love and skill in one particular area through a Zoom presentation will be given \$1,000. Brainstorming ideas include but not limited to skills in art, architectural history of homes in the Highlands, birds living among the residents, lore of Penn State football from one of Joe's boys from the 1960s, master gardens and more. Penn State undergraduate and graduate students living in the Highlands could provide more diversity in topics of interest to them. Mark will share the grant proposal with others and HCA will assist with Zoom needs. The proposal may be submitted as early as late January.
5. Open discussion:
- Request was made to post the February and March meeting minutes to the HCA web site to assist in keeping current with HCA Board activity.
 - UB Baker expressed his appreciation to Mark for donating toys for Guatemalan children. The need for household and kitchen items continues. Anyone having items to donate should contact UB at ubb440@gmail.com for pickup. Mayor Filippelli suggested sending out a list of items to help with meaningful donations.
 - The mayor was commended for the Borough's budget passing, for providing resources for a strong police force and community mental health services.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, January 2021