

Highlands Civic Association (HCA)

- 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

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Vinnie Scanlon, Jennifer Stahl, Jacob Werner, Dina Liberatore, Patrick Sebastien Excellent (Interfraternity Council [IFC] VP for Community Relations), Elaine Shuckers, David Stone, Tsultrim Datso, Theresa Lafer, Elizabeth Berryman (Sigma Chi)
2. Treasury Report and Dues Collection - \$5 per household (contact HCA Treasurer, Vinnie Scanlon, at mvinnies@icloud.com): Current balance of \$1,419.41
3. HARB review of demolition request at 420 E Foster Ave:
<https://www.statecollegepa.us/563/Historical-Architectural-Review-Board-HA>
 - Reviewed mission and review of request process (elements of the review found at the website)
 - Discussed historical property at 420 E Foster (student rental permit; currently occupied) and the demolition request (supported by the owner's theory that demolition is cheaper than renovation)
 - Proposed to HARB the inclusion of guidelines for structural change to new home owners in the historical district
 - Property neglect should not be a reason for demolition; HARB will work with owners to find a suitable substitution or replacement
 - The importance of the HARB's recommendation to Borough Council and the precedent the Council's decision will have on future requests will set the tone for how future requests will be managed and how the historical charm of the Highlands will fare
 - Membership is encouraged to attend the HARB meetings scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm by Zoom or in person. Check the Borough Council's

site for posted agendas and meeting location <https://statecollegepa.us/563/Historical-Architectural-Review-Board-HA>

4. Neighborhood Safety - PSU Lyft Program and F8 (crime statistics for the first 8 weeks of classes (now F10) Data:
 - PSU Lyft – safe ride subsidized for students who need a ride back to campus between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 am
 - Decision to institute PSU Lyft did not include any discussion with residents who live in the highly populated student traffic area, no information was provided about what drives the need for such a project, safety issues in the early morning were not identified; use of local CATA drivers never considered as part of the safety protocol (rather than unknown out-of-the-area responding drivers without benefit of background checks)
 - Efforts have been made to include HCA leadership and IFC representation in the February 25th meeting to hear and voice opposition to the manner in which the project's pick-up sites impact residents (including noise, trash, damage, students' drunken behaviors, etc.)

5. Atherton Street Tree Removal:
 - Older, well-established trees along Atherton Street between Beaver Ave to Westerly Parkway will be removed or damaged in the PennDot road improvement project
 - Hearing in January by the Street Commission opposed the loss of trees
 - Penn Dot has a tree replacement program and verbalized their commitment to saving as many trees as possible; replanting young trees will take years to achieve the same welcoming visual that currently exists
 - PA State Preservation office is aware of the community's resistance to losing deep-rooted trees that frame the historical district and will help to preserve and protect the valued trees
 - A 30-day reprieve to the start of the project was granted to give time for an acceptable plan to be made
 - Future topic for discussion is the diverted traffic patterns associated with the project

6. E Fairmount Park Update: No update available at this time

7. Open discussion and other topics:
 - Announcement of the February contribution to Hearts in the Highlands; Ted Sebastianelli, A Life Well Lived
 - Neighborhood Coalition and Borough Staff meeting on Friday, February 4 reports the Police Department is under staffed by three officers from its goal of 62 total
 - N2N (neighbor to neighbor) project reported two new fraternities coming to the program in the spring; residents interested partnering with a fraternity should reach out to Dina

Liberatore; after COVID, the program will be re-energized and standards of excellence guidelines will be provided for all N2N participants

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, February 2022