

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.

Minutes

Wednesday June 10, 2020

7:00 pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:10 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Vinnie Scanlon, Susan Venegoni, Dave Stone
2. Treasurer's Report: \$1,124.40
3. Borough Updates:
 - Covid-19 moved to the green phase – businesses (including restaurants) are free to open and transition as they become ready
 - The Redevelopment Authority (RDA) will offer financial support to existing small businesses to assist with re-opening operating expenses - thirty \$5,000 loans with zero interest payable over a period of 2 years will be awarded– application for consideration is required – those receiving the funds may determine how the money will be used in the re-opening process – it is uncertain if the awards will be limited to business owners living in the Borough or directed to assist with community health safety (e.g., masks, hand sanitizers, etc.)
 - Downtown parking enforcement isn't generating customary revenue due to a lack of staff – future status for the HCA supported Highlands Parking Project is unknown at this time

- Concern was expressed that Council's work may be what Penn State wants with its phase-back plan with little or no concern for community issues (e.g., safety and well-being of residents and commerce)
- How the Emergency Management System community partners will manage after Penn State pulled its participation away is unknown – concern for student health and safety issues may be pushed on the Borough and/or county

4. Open Discussion:

- Annual Highlands yard sale is cancelled, however, residents may host yard sales
- E. Fairmount Park project is making slow progress toward its proposed plan – some landscaping work (e.g., tree removal) has begun
- Concern for public safety was expressed for outdoor restaurant seating in areas that may not be approved by ordinance for food service (e.g., on narrow sidewalks, in adjacent parking lots)
- Major concern expressed regarding student conduct and its effect on the health and safety of residents living in the Borough neighborhoods - how will State and Federal Covid-19 restrictions be enforced and how committed is Penn State and its student body in protecting all members of the community?
- Discussed the role the police force has played in handling mental health issues and the need to create a mental health unit to provide a professional service to the Borough community
- The Neighborhood Coalition meetings have been scheduled on a 2-week cycle – no updates at this time – future topics for consideration may be health and safety of the community in the current environment
- Swimming pools to open next week

5. No HCA meeting is scheduled for July

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm