

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

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Vinnie Scanlon, Theresa Lafer, Svitlana Budzhak- Jones
2. **Annual Dues Collection: \$5 per household (arrange with HCA Treasurer, Vinnie Scanlon, at mvinnies@icloud.com);** current account balance \$1, 459.41; online collection for dues to be revisited
3. **Ukraine Support – Sister City Update:**
 - The agreement between cities process is arduous and until there is agreement to be sister cities, a resolution (intent to sign the agreement) is in play; still needed is Borough Council's support; lots of red tape between countries
 - The most urgent need is to connect with a non-profit organization (e.g., church, Rotary Club, International Kiwanis, AAUW) willing to receive donations for transfer to Ukraine
 - Tax implications prevent individuals from collecting funds for transfer
 - Recommendations: 1. check with already organized groups working to resettle Ukrainian refugees in our neighborhoods, 2. reach out to known states with sister cities (e.g., Birmingham, AL and Athens, GA) to learn how to manage cash donations
4. **E. Fairmount Park Project Update:**
 - The park is closed; work to secure the boundaries to prevent usage has been established
 - A schedule of work projects for the month of August has been shared with HCA
 - Timeline to completion is estimated for September/October
 - Opening celebration to follow; interest expressed to extend an invitation to Penn State President, Neeli Bendapudi, as a way to introduce her to the Highlands

5. Neighborhood Yard Sale Update:

- The sale scheduled for Saturday, August 20th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; rain date scheduled for Saturday, August 27th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- All inquiries regarding participation and locations go to Susan Shincovich, ishappyvalley@hotmail.com

6. LION Bash – Thursday Sept. 8th, 5-8pm, South Allen Street (www.statecollegepa.us/298/Living-in-One-Neighborhood-LION):

- HCA will host a table again this year
- All volunteers are to let Mark know of their availability

7. Neighborhood Coalition Update:

- Meeting schedule is based on issues that arise; currently, College Heights is experiencing short-term rental issues as has the Highlands for some time
- Borough is working to review and refine (tighten up) policy to help manage current and future rental issues

8. Borough Update:

- Neighborhoods report speeding on their streets and avenues; Borough Police are aware of the issue and are targeting certain areas of concern; see something, say something – to alleviate the speeding stress on neighborhoods, contact Chief of Police, John Gardner, to report where speeding is occurring; construction on Atherton Street is causing greater numbers of vehicles to use neighboring streets adding traffic issues to otherwise quiet and peaceful living environments
- Penn State's Lyft Ride Smart pilot is now a fully-funded and permanent program for students in downtown or in the neighborhoods wanting a ride back to campus Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings between 2:00 and 7:00 am; neighborhoods heavily visited by students attending fraternity social events were not included in discussions with the university prior to the 2021 pilot rollout; cost to students is \$10 per month (8 calls max); 800 students have signed up to participate; Highlands residents report sleep disruption with horn blowing and door slamming during pickup; spring semester 2022 data reports 221 calls for pick up from the Highlands: highest number between 2:00 and 4:00 am, heavier at 5:00 am and uptick in calls between 6:00 and 7:00 am; permanent residents want to know what safety issues exist with the program

9. Other items and discussion:

- Let police know of parcels-on-porch theft or attempted theft; some activity in the Highlands has been reported through camera surveillance

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, August 2022