

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

Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened 7:04 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Eric White, Dave Stone, Peg Hambrick, Ron Filippelli, Neil Sullivan, UB Bakker, Susan Venegoni, James Rosenberg, Don Han, Jennifer Stahl
2. Treasurer's Report: Annual Dues Collection: \$5 per household – instructions for submission will be posted to the HCA LISTSERV; request made to amend the 2020-09-02 meeting minutes to include pertinent information; current account balance \$1006.41
3. **Special Guest – Mark Higgins, Centre County Commissioner: “Voting Options for November Election”** PowerPoint: **2020 General Election Centre County Update** available online at <https://www.statecollegehighlands.org/hca-meeting-minutes/> The presentation provides information and data current as of 9-17-2020.
 - Two web sites to learn more about voting in Centre County are www.centrecountyvotes.com and www.votespa.com; track mail-in applications at www.centrecountyvotes.com
 - Register to vote by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 19
 - Apply for absentee or mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27
 - Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Seven secured ballot drop boxes and one secured mobile ballot drop box scheduled to be in place by October 1st; locations are Willowbank in Bellefonte, State College Borough Building, HUB-Robeson Center,

Ferguson Township Building, Patton Township Building, Centre Hall MDJ Office, Philipsburg MDJ Office, Mobile Drop Box

- Daily data (M-F) updates on the number of ballots placed in each drop box will be available at <https://centrecountypa.gov/votebymaildata>
- Vote-by-Mail numbers as of Wednesday 9-16-2020 follows: Democratic 15,741; Republican 5,866; No Affiliation/Third Parties 2,824
- To ensure Centre County Elections can process and open 40,000 absentee and mail-in ballots, the Board of Commissioners has an agreement with Penn State for the use of Presidents Hall at the Penn Stater to be used as the Vote-By-Mail Room
- More than 200 County residents volunteered to work a shift
- Assumption is the county will have the majority of absentee/mail-in ballots processed by the time polls close at 8:00 pm
- At 8:01 pm on Election Night the information will be uploaded to the PA Dept of State's Election Result webpage and the County webpage
- Processing will continue through the evening and into Wednesday, if needed
- If mailing in ballot, follow the instructions: Complete the ballot, date and sign the ballot, enclose the ballot in the smaller security envelope then place the security envelope in the outer envelope before submitting
NOTE: Do not add additional information/a message to the ballot. A hearty Thank You or similar message added to the ballot may invalidate the ballot
- Last minute submitters may go to the Bryce Jordan Center Ticket Office to request a ballot. It may be filled out and given back to the ticket agent to be counted. Voters may take the ballot they received in the mail, complete and drop it off at the Borough Building drop box

4. Borough Updates:

- Borough/Neighborhood Coalition Update:
 - Meetings were held on September 30 and October 1 to gather feedback for recommendations for Police Oversight Board
 - Katherine Oh Yeaple was appointed and sworn in October 5 to fill the seat on Council vacated by Dan Murphy
 - The Borough, PSU and other stakeholders are working to address crowd control measures for watch and tailgating parties for upcoming football games – reminder parking isn't permitted on streets from 2 am to 6 am and on lawns; greater than 10-person parties (inside/outside) is a citable offense

- B & B owners renting within the ordinance regs are not responsible for renters cited for offensive behavior and/or party size or noise violations
- PSU police officers are authorized to enforce the local COVID-19 ordinance on campus
- Trick-or-Treating in the Borough is set for October 29, 6:00-8:00 pm
- Multiple groups are working to address the surge in COVID-19 cases in the county – PA-DOH has Centre County on its radar screen to help to contain and track the spread of the virus
- 2020 Census will remain open until October 31 – current rate of return is 64.5% compared to 70.3% in 2010
- Congratulations to police officers receiving promotions and acknowledgement of their value to community health and safety
- Two-hour free parking is available downtown – enforcement expected
- Citizens Oversight Board seeking resident input regarding living in the neighborhood with COVID-19 – comments being accepted on the Borough Council web site (permanent residents urged to comment) - Council will review proposals presented regarding the role and authority granted for the Board's oversight responsibilities and investigative purview – process may involve a vote to amend current charter
- E. Fairmount Avenue Park project moves forward with the continuation of brush and tree clearing, opportunity to select playground equipment forthcoming (one set for children ages 2-5 and one set for older children)

5. Open discussion:

- Multiple, high-visitor activities occurring simultaneously over the October 31st weekend is a serious concern regarding the health and safety of the community and current number of public service providers (e.g., police force, firemen, emergency medical providers)

Meeting Adjourned 8:47 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, October 2020