

## 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, October 13, 2021

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

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#### Meeting Convened at 7:06 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Jennifer Stahl, Dina Liberator, David Stone, Vinnie Scanlon, Elizabeth Berryman, Tom Gesell
2. **Treasury Report:** Current balance \$1,344.41; dues of \$5 per household requested for October 2021-October 2022 paid to treasurer Vinnie Scanlon at [mvinnies@icloud.com](mailto:mvinnies@icloud.com)
3. **E. Fairmount Park Project Update:**
  - Inquiries about the replacement of the previous playground equipment: It does not meet current safety standards and will not be brought back; new playground equipment has been purchased and is in storage until all of the ground work is completed.
  - A request was made to have picnic tables and trash cans returned in the interim for residents using the park. Mark will look into the possibility of its return.
  - Mulching will take place on Saturday, October 16. Volunteers are welcome to assist with the project.
  - Watering of the newly planted landscaping has been managed by neighbors living near the park. Thank you to all who stepped up to help the plants get a good start.
  - Anticipation for the project's completion is late Spring 2022.
4. **Annual Meeting and Elections Discussion:**
  - Annual meetings pre-pandemic included a potluck dinner social gathering, dues collection, yearly report of the HCA contributions to Borough Council's ABCs (Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees) activities, and every-other-year election of officers as stated in the bylaws.

- The committee discussed how we might hold our annual meeting and election of officers on Zoom on November 10<sup>th</sup> and schedule the potluck social for spring 2022, hoping we are in a place safe for in-person gatherings.
- Ezra Nanes, unopposed mayoral candidate, was suggested as special guest.
- The goal is to have a full slate of officer candidates by the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Current officers are welcome to run for re-election.

#### 5. Other items and open discussion:

- Transportation Commission (<https://statecollegepa.us/469/Transportation-Commission>): report of a student-driven request to Penn State to subsidize a Lyft/Uber-like ride initiative with app to assist in their safety concerns walking back to their rooms in the early morning hours; concurrent is a CADA pilot program offering late night rides with local drivers to pick up students and take them back to their housing.
- A new Penn State's electric scooter program, with app, is being implemented to assist students in getting to their destinations safely; alternative transportation for students and community members is in discussion.
- Concern was expressed for the repurposing of a nonprofit organization at 614 Locust Lane currently functioning as a mental health treatment unit. A grant application was submitted to change the program's mission to a 24/7 intervention service for clients/patients with more severe needs/more critical issues. A recent incident involving a gun and resulting in police engagement have neighbors concerned about safety and quality of life. Members of the HCA board will continue their participation in discussions around this change.
- The Borough Council will hold a public hearing for the reauthorization of the State College Downtown Improvement District (<https://www.downtownstatecollege.com>). Scheduled for October 29th at 12:00 pm in Borough Council's chambers, community members wishing to speak on behalf of the SCDID will be given an opportunity to express their support. Comments may be made in person, through participation on Zoom or by email to the Council President, Jesse L. Barlow, [jbarlow@statecollegepa.us](mailto:jbarlow@statecollegepa.us).

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 pm**

**Meeting minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, October 2021**