

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 neighborhood.
- 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.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

7:15pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting convened at 7:15 pm.

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Eric White, Susan Shincovich, Jennifer Stahl, Margaret Sebastianelli, Jim Shincovich, Peg Hambrick, Dave Stone, Stephen Babb, Ryan Geroulo, Paul McCormick
2. **Treasurer's Report and Dues Collection:** Current balance \$1,103.40
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Tabled for vote by quorum
4. **E. Fairmount Park Project and Grant Award Update:**
 - The HCA and Borough secured rehabilitation and future development funding through a PA DCNR grant in the amount of \$101,000.
 - A TreeVitalize grant was received earlier Fall 2019.
 - The project and Master Plan includes the construction of a pavilion, pedestrian walkway, parking area, ADA access, landscaping, installation of play equipment and safety surfacing, and other site improvements.
 - The project will provide opportunities for neighborhood residents to volunteer time and labor to make this park improvement successful.
 - A meeting will be held in the near future to initiate and coordinate community efforts to assist and maintain new landscaping.

5. Neighborhood Coalition Activities:

- On Dec. 3rd, the HCA participated in a meeting with the Penn State University, Borough staff, and other Neighborhood Coalition members to discuss the current status of and future expectations for the 1,670-space West Campus Parking Deck.
- The College Heights and Holmes-Foster neighborhoods stand to be most impacted by traffic routed through the neighborhoods (including the Highlands).
- A report on the next meeting will be provided.

6. Highlands Parking Pilot Discussion:

- The Borough Parking Department's report of the Highlands Parking Pilot is expected in late December or early January.
- The future of the pilot project and/or the necessary adjustments needed to make the program more accommodating will take into consideration all feedback received.
- To learn about the program's effectiveness, the HCA will request to meet with the Transportation Commission prior to the Commission's presentation to Council.

7. Other items for discussion:

- "Welcome to the Highlands" new neighbor program is underway. Gift bags have been assembled containing various community publications and pamphlets and the HCA President's welcome letter. All Highlanders have been asked to identify and share the names and addresses of new neighbors in their areas. The program relies on neighbor-to-neighbor identification to help achieve the program's goal for a timely welcome.
- Ryan Geroulo, IFC Vice President of Community Relations, generously offered parking relief over the holidays to those who may be affected by the cost of the Parking Pilot. The invitation to utilize fraternity parking was posted to the HCA LISTSERV. The HCA expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the participating fraternities and IFC for their community spirit and engagement.
- The "Summers on Allen" proposal and application was open for public discussion at the Borough Council meeting on December 2nd. The proposal is to turn the 100 block of South Allen Street into a pedestrian plaza with seating, landscaping, play area for children, small stage for performances and painted crosswalks. The target date for conversion is May 11, 2020 (after Penn State's graduation weekend and Mother's Day) for 8 weeks (before the Central PA Festival of the Arts).