

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, December 2, 2020

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:04 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Vinnie Scanlon, Dave Stone, Neal Sullivan, Jennifer Stahl, Susan Venegoni, Michael Stumpo
2. **Annual Dues Collection** - \$5 per household (arrange with HCA Treasurer, Vinnie Scanlon, at mvinnies@icloud.com); current account balance is \$1,184.41 with an additional \$45 for deposit; looking forward to 2021, PayPal may be employed for monies from annual dues and fundraising initiatives (e.g., t-shirt sales).
3. **Borough Updates:**
 - The Neighborhood Coalition and Borough staff biweekly meetings will continue through the month of December; topics for discussion have been the 2021 Borough budget, work by the Oversight Study Committee, COVID-19 mandates from the State Department of Health. Next meeting will be on Friday, December 4th.
 - The Borough's budget was in a better fiscal position prior to the pandemic; greatest loss is in parking revenue (once not considered a revenue source but became an integral part of balancing the budget). Other, less stable, revenue sources come from Real Estate Transfer and Earned Income Taxes. Recommendation is for Council to look for other, more reliable, revenue sources.
 - Mayor Filippelli asks all permanent Borough residents to review the proposed 2021 budget and voice their opinions. Especially important is

public response to the recommendations for police staffing. A number of residents support funding a fully-staffed police force and establishing a new Civilian Response Team (seeing viable overlap opportunities of currently employed staff). Public opinions may be expressed online at the Council's web site or at the Council's meeting on Friday, December 4th.

- Restrictions on parking are: 2-hour limit of free street parking and 3-hour limit of free parking in the garages; overnight street parking is not permitted and violations will be enforced; holiday parking in all areas is free until the new year.
- Committee Oversight Study Committee recommendations and report will be made at the December 14th Council meeting.
- Questions remain about testing after traveling in-state, across state lines, and internationally.
- Short-term rental issues continue but seemingly of little interest for Council consideration. Data are not available on the number of short-term rentals but parking issues and damage to personal property have been reported.
- E. Fairmount Avenue Park project's work is mostly behind the scenes. Playground equipment is being ordered. Volunteers will be needed to help with ground work in the Spring.
- An unofficial Highlands video recently shared on the HCA LISTSERV received positive comments, unfortunately, as was pointed out, coverage was lacking in other areas within the Highlands.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, December 2020