

## 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.

### HCA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

7:15 – 9:00 pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

#### Meeting Convened at 7:15 pm

- **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Eric White, Gabrielle Lombardo, Susan Venegoni, Laird Jones, Vinnie Scanlon
- **Treasurer's Report :** HCA account balance \$1,136.86
- **Approval of January 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Approved by Eric; seconded by Susan; all present in agreement.
- **Neighborhood Yard Sale and Potluck Picnic June 10, 2018:** Mark checked with appropriate Borough officials regarding the use of the Fairmount Avenue Park for the HCA potluck picnic June 10. Susan Shincovich inquired about the use of the Friends Meeting House in the event of inclement weather. The facility is not available until 2:00 pm and a rental fee will be charged of its use. The decision was made to utilize the Fairmount Avenue Park for the event.
- **Increased Lighting "Downtown" and Borough Street Lighting Policy:** Discussions about an increase in street lighting within the Borough continue. Susan reported that in March or April a change to the alley lighting policy may be coming, adding it as a Capital Improvement Project. Additionally, at the recent Neighborhood Coalition meeting it was revealed street lighting will be discussed in April. Currently, Borough policy supports intersections and mid-block lighting but has no provisions to assist in pedestrian locations. To date, there has been no public debate of existing lighting issues. HCA supports an open discussion among all residents and encourages a majority vote for changes to current policy that reflect the general public's interest. Also, HCA members felt that cogent rationales should be established and clearly defined in policy to guide decision making. Susan reported that in a previous discussion, UPUA encouraged private property owners to install lighting that would brighten the alleys.
- **Update on Neighborhood Parking during Special Events:** Parking data collected fall 2017 indicate an increase in traffic and uptick in violations. Borough Council has acknowledged the problem and passed on to the Transportation Committee a request to review the HCA concerns and recommendations. The committee's report addressing the management of event parking is due by February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Council favors keeping lawn parking restrictions, lifting restrictions for overnight parking, and maintaining restrictions for State Patty's Day. Arbitrary and capricious decisions have are not guided by sound policy. Residents may well be concerned for quality of life, safety and health created by overburden street parking in the Highlands
- **Other Items of Business or News:**
  - a. In response to a Borough Council request for HCA feedback to a three-question survey, Mark sought group feedback. Survey questions to be answered are what are the 3 most pressing issues facing the

neighborhood, what are the three pressing issues facing the Borough and what information may Borough staff share with the Neighborhood Coalition?

- b. Fraternity appeals: What can be expected from Centre County Court? Sans proper codes or rental agreements to help with violations, process/procedure is in limbo.
- c. Susan reported on the Inclusionary Housing (IH) units being built in The Rise. The design of bedrooms meets the minimum square feet for a single occupant thus not suitable for family occupancy (2 people in a room). Also, each person in a household that leases one of these units has to have a bedroom to themselves. Susan had direct contact with a family who inquired about leasing and although these new units will help some people, they are not appropriate for anyone to lease that is otherwise eligible under the IH ordinance.
- d. Eric reported that the OLLI/HCA coordinated tour of historical Sears and Roebuck homes in the Highlands is a go for June or July. In a national contest, State College is running neck and neck with Iowa City as the best University town in which to live. Eric encouraged all to go online to vote.
- e. Peg Hambrick reported that co.space is interested in re-establishing the HCA potluck social.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm.**

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli February 2018