

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.

MINUTES
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
7:00pm
Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Theresa Lafer, Elizabeth Berryman (Sigma Chi Fraternity), Patrick Sebastian Excellent (IFC Community Relations)
2. Treasury Report and Dues Collection - \$5 per household (arrange with HCA Treasurer, Vinnie Scanlon, at mvinnies@icloud.com): Current balance \$1,419.41
3. Borough Information from April 1 Neighborhood Coalition Meeting:
 - Council's agreement with the State College Area School Board (SCASB) to use the outdoor field and lighting across the street from the high school for marching band practice for 1-2 seasons now exceeds 5 years
 - Surrounding neighbors to the current practice field report noise and lights interfere with night time sleeping rituals for children and adults
 - SCASB is asking for more time stating hardship on members taking instruments and equipment to practice areas at greater distances (new field behind the high school)
 - Sports quality lighting is not needed for band practice
 - Request for an extension to the agreement is under review
4. Update - HARB review of demolition request for home on E Foster Ave:
 - 420 E. Foster Ave house was purchased by sister corporations; negotiated price and never listed on the market; owner was made aware of the HARB's policies for demolition at the time of purchase
 - Property has a rental permit for student housing
 - Demolition application was denied by the HARB based on stated financial hardship
 - Borough Council denied the request in support of the HARB recommendation
5. Update - Atherton Street Tree Removal:
 - Plan has been completed and accepted
 - Arborist will have oversight responsibilities of the project and, if needed, available to make decisions beyond the approved plan
6. Update - E Fairmount Avenue Park Update:

- Funds available late April or early May; anticipate shovels in the ground by June
- Public Works staff and community volunteers will manage the park's landscaping and pavilion requirements
- Project completion anticipated by late summer

7. Open discussion and other topics:

Update on Penn State's Lyft Ride pilot:

- Pilot runs from October 2021 to the end of spring semester 2022 between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 am; a debriefing with Penn State is expected to follow
- Zoom meeting with HCA, Tom Fountaine, Borough Manager, and Charima Young, Assistant Vice President for Local Government and Community Relations, to discuss the need to gather data identifying valid reasons for sponsoring Lyft (e.g., for safety, stress or general inability to return to the dorm)
- Most calls are for pickup downtown or in the Highlands (closest to the density of fraternities)
- Should permanent residents have safety concerns as well?

Borough Council:

- Council position open leaving 6 members to vote on presented issues
- Borough has staffing shortages (may be due to non-competitive salary opportunities)
- Discussions continue with the Borough and County Government regarding the Mental Health Consultant home base and reporting line

N2N (Neighbor to Neighbor) Program:

- Formed 10 years ago to pair fraternities with permanent residents to inspire acceptance and understanding between the community members
- Only frats recognized by Penn State may participate in N2N
- Non-sanctioned groups may contact Dina Liberatore for information about partnering with their group
- IFC Community Relations representative Patrick S. Excellent also is available to discuss the parameters of the agreements
- HCA has no responsibility for the program but works with and supports its mission
- IFC and Panhellenic invite the community to their Egg Hunt on Sunday April 10, 2022, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, on the Business Building Lawn

Highlands Welcome Program:

- The new-to-the-neighborhood welcome program benefits when the community notifies Margaret Sebastianelli, red1224@comcast.net, once homes in their area become occupied
- Please provide a proper address so a HCA bag of information and publications about local activities and resources can be delivered

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, April 2022

