

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 the HCA residents.

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 1, 2018
7:15-9:00 pm
State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting Convened at 7:15 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Vinnie Scanlon, Eric White, Elizabeth Shirey, Cindy Adams, Margaret Sebastianelli, Christian D. Fishel, Jackson Fitzgerald, James Brady, David Stone, Jonathan Ziegler, Mary Gorman, Matt Petrarca, Mitch Ballas, Natasha Tirieo, Vincent Agresto, Sharon Herlocher, Paul Scanlon
2. **SPECIAL GUEST: Lieutenant Chris Fishel, State College Police Department**

Lt. Fishel outlined his goals and objectives to enhance the Department's ability to develop a communication model to more effectively share information with Borough residents. A summary of his ongoing efforts is as follows:

- a. **Communication:** Establish a dialog to address issues that affect quality of life for Borough residents – what residents deal with on a daily basis. By keeping in touch with the community, he hopes to establish a partnership with residents. Efforts are being made to establish a force that meets the local demography of citizens.
- b. **Collaboration:** Starting summer 2017, two State College officers were appointed to work with Penn State police to more effectively manage town and gown relationships and student-related incidents. Two strategies in place for special events are using the bike patrol and locating command posts near high traffic events.
- c. **Staffing and Training:** Currently 33 officers work in the unit. Officer academy training takes 6 months. Soon-to-be officers are tested on fitness, written understanding of the work, interviews, and ability to speak and engage with citizens.

- d. Response to Calls: When a resident calls to report an incident, the response team starts on scene to assess the situation before connecting with the caller. Some residents would prefer police to contact them indirectly for fear of retribution. Officers are equipped with computers that enable a prompt review of the case. In most cases, police will provide feedback to the caller within a reasonable amount of time.

3. IFC Update: Projects in Progress:

- a. Soundproofing fraternity houses (most were built around 1900 without considering the effects of noise on surrounding neighbors).
- b. Best practices for the N2N program: what is expected in the relationship between neighbors and fraternities.
- c. Clarification on the enforcement of the current noise ordinance: what constitutes a warning vs a citation.

4. Treasurer's Report: \$1,136.86

5. Approval of April 3rd Meeting Minutes: Approved

6. UPDATE – Neighborhood Yard Sale and Picnic Gathering, June 9th and 10th:

- a. June 9, 2018 Yard Sale will be open between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Neighbors participating will display a Highlands placard prominently in their yard or driveway.
- b. June 10, 2018 Potluck Picnic will be held from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at Fairmount Avenue off Glenn Alley. HCA will provide plates, flatware and variety of drinks. Hamburgers, hotdogs and vegetarian alternatives will be available. Neighbors are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. All attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Games for kids will be provided.

7. UPDATE – Neighborhood Parking during Special Events: A review of the HCA proposal and subsequent Borough Council's action for event parking in the Highlands stimulated a vibrant discussion among neighbors in attendance. Key in the discourse was the 1990s established 2:00-6:00 am ordinance and current enforcement. Thoughts were expressed regarding the importance of examining the daytime parking and inconvenience to the neighbors from a sanitation (garbage/litter) and safety (clear vision of oncoming cars along the high traffic streets and intersections) perspective. At the April 16 meeting, Council approved an eighteen-month pilot period beginning October 1, 2018 to fully enforce overnight parking restrictions at all times with limited exceptions for public safety or construction mitigation and a permit system developed to allow residents to obtain parking permits for guests on the streets with overnight parking restrictions. The Transportation Commission will submit a final report of its recommendations for discussion at a future Council meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, May 2018