

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.

AGENDA

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting Convened at 7:00 pm

1. **Introductions: Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Susan Venegoni, David Stone, U.B. Bakker, Laird Jones, Ron Filippelli Terry Melton, Bob Melton, Paul Scanlon, Vinnie Scanlon, Jim Rosenberger**
2. **Borough Updates on COVID-19 Response:**
 - Reminder of the Borough and Neighborhood Coalition meetings held each Friday and meeting outcomes to be shared on the HCA LISTSERV
 - Review of the parameters for businesses (retail and restaurants) moving to the 'yellow' phase of the Covid-19 shelter-in-place effective Friday, May 8, regarding social distancing and occupancy limitations (50% occupancy)
 - Discussion of the Penn State strategy for student move out (removal of possessions from dormitories by invitation and by residency in the 'yellow' phase) is expected to be completed in 1-2 months
 - Discussion of students seen in the neighborhood and downtown and their disregard to the university's Returning to Campus letter pointing out the reality and gravity of the pandemic
 - Review of Borough and community resource sites addressing changing standards and meeting recommendations to aid in controlling the spread of the virus can be found at

<https://coronavirus-response-state-college-borough-statecollegepa.hub.arcgis.com/pages/community-covid-19>

3. Open discussion:

- Update given on a recent meeting with Tom King and working group of landlords planning a move out strategy for Penn State student renters; plan calls for a 2-hour block of time per student with assistance of staff in full protection between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm 7 days a week over a 1-2 month period to start soon (no date given); Borough and university communication with stated guidelines for moving out is forthcoming; accommodations for International students has not been made public but an inquiry will be made
- A substantial number of students are here despite the request for staying in place and avoiding traveling; scenes of graduating student families around the shrine and wall by Beaver Stadium were reported requiring police force investigation
- The annual Trash to Treasure sale was cancelled
- Acknowledgement of and gratitude was made for the work of State College Downtown Improvement District's ongoing efforts to help businesses and restaurants effectively transition to the 'yellow' phase
- With little or no county tracking of or testing for the virus in place, concern was expressed for residents/students returning to the region in controlling contagion brought in and what is being discussed in the event of an outbreak
- Police enforcement is limited to "engaging and persuading" unless ordinances are broken requiring citations
- Mount Nittany Medical Center has designated space to accommodate Covid-19 patients including a pop-up facility if needed; a partnership with Altoona, Lewistown and Geisinger hospitals can provide added support

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, May 2020