

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

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

7:00pm

Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm

1. **Introductions:** Mark Huncik, Eric White, Vinnie Scanlon, Margaret Sebastianelli, Jennifer Stahl, David Stone. Acknowledgement of U.B. Bakker's passing and his many contributions to the HCA and various Borough and University initiatives.
2. **Annual Dues Collection and Treasurer's Report;** \$5 per household (arrange with HCA Treasurer, Vinnie Scanlon, at mvinnies@icloud.com); current account balance is \$1,329.41.
3. **E Fairmount Park Project Updates:**
 - A recent meeting was held on-site to initiate a landscape watering plan to augment the weekly rain cycle.
 - The completion of landscape plantings will follow the proposed walking path development.
 - Funding sources are slow in arriving delaying the placement of playground equipment and completion of the project. Project completion expected by spring 2022.
4. **Neighborhood Yard Sale – Saturday, August 21st, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (tentative):**
 - More information will be provided at the next HCA meeting on August 11th.
 - Laird Jones will provide publicity and list of participating neighbors.

5. Borough Updates:

- Neighborhood Coalition meets monthly on the Fridays following Borough Council meetings.
- A public hearing to discuss downtown housing construction and street closing proposals and subsequent inconvenience for local residents is scheduled for July 28th.
- LionBash will be held on September 11th from 5-8pm; HCA will sponsor a table and call for volunteers to share their living in the Highlands experiences with visiting students and families.
- NEAT (Neighborhood Enforcement Alcohol Team) made up of two Borough and two Penn State police officers have committed to enforce neighborhood alcohol-inspired violations revolving around large sports gatherings on Thursday through Saturday this fall.
- The Borough Police Department's staffing goal is complete at 60 officers.
- Connectivity, a State College Downtown Improvement District project for Calder Way, promotes family activities such as creative lighting shows, live music, and family-friendly movies Thursday through Saturday beginning Thursday, July 15th.
- A new Borough position has been created to engage in and respond to mental health, alcohol, drug and equity issues.

6. Other items and discussion:

- As part of the Highlands welcome to new neighbors, Margaret Sebastianelli, Helen Kearney, Nina White and Kirsten Jensen provide an HCA tote with print materials highlighting regional activities and opportunities. They rely on the real estate transfers section of the Centre Daily Times to become aware of potential newcomers but have found it to be less reliable than if Highlanders pass along information when they become aware of new neighbors. An email to Margaret, at mia2@psu.edu, will be very helpful.
- This is HCA Board Election Year: Induction of new HCA Board Officers will be held this fall. More information will be provided at a later date. Anyone wishing to nominate themselves or others for consideration are encouraged to contact HCA President, Mark Huncik, at mhuncik@cs.com.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, July 2021