

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.

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

7:15-9:00pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting Convened at 7:20 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Susan Venegoni, Eric White, Cindy Adams, Elizabeth Shirey, Vinnie Scanlon, Paul Scanlon, Peg Hambrick, Charima Young, Mary Gorman, Jonathan Ziegler, Felecia Davis, Lee Washesky, Margaret Sebastianelli
2. Treasurer's Report: \$1,136.86; HCA dues will be collected at the September meeting; picnic expenses for reimbursement should be given to the treasurer
3. Approval of June 5th Meeting Minutes: Approved by Cindy Adams and seconded by Eric White; all agreed
4. LION Bash Participation Discussion:
 - a. Dates: Pre-event dinner to be held on Thursday, August 23rd; 3-hour Lion Bash engagement is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th.
 - b. Notification: Invitations were recently sent to encourage sign up for an engagement station table; HCA is discussing potential value and outcomes for participating. Other Borough neighborhoods engage through block parties, welcome letters, and informal connections and have not felt the need to participate. To increase visibility and add value to HCA's participation, consideration to become a co-sponsor (staffing/man power) in partnership with the University/Borough was suggested.
 - c. Action: As the only incorporated neighborhood in the Borough, the committee brainstormed the intention of participation based on identifying target participants (e.g., community, businesses, young professionals, students). HCA has participated the last 3 years. After much discussion, the committee agreed to host an engagement table with Highlands map and brochures. Using the community resource fair model, HCA volunteers will wear Highlands t-shirts and orange-colored wrist bands in a walk-about effort to engage with others who have not visited the engagement table. The more welcoming concept was approved by all.

5. Zoning Re-Write (ZRAC) Discussion: A joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Borough Council to be held Monday, July 9th
 - a. Fraternity Property Conversions, Use, Re-use (repurpose) – to determine how to use existing properties going forward
 - b. Transitional Areas – to discuss the zoning needs/interests between downtown and the Highlands (Note: R-2 districts will not be altered from the current status)

Action Items: To answer the question about alternate uses for vacated fraternity properties (in addition to the proposed concept of a nursing facility, club, daycare center, elderly housing unit or private school), a small interest group made up of HCA board and Highlands members will develop an additional list of re-uses to guide HCA recommendations to Council and Commission.

6. Other Business or Items of Interest:
 - a. Trailhead Awesome Foundation (TAF): Peg Hambrick spoke about the Foundation's mission to award \$1,000 grants monthly to individuals or groups whose goals are to make the community more welcoming. One recipient's idea for making it more friendly is to place 8-9 picnic tables in designated locations in the Borough to encourage public gathering. The East Fairmount Park was mentioned as a potential site for a table. The application link to receive a picnic table is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe95HVvpBIbp1YWsNr5IYwiE66VjSTPt-2T_SUxG3ZB7kd8wg/viewform.
 - b. Cancelled Picnic June 10th: HCA is searching for another date and location for the Highlands Picnic. All foods purchased for the event have been properly stored or shared with non-profit local food/meal services.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 pm

Submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, July 2018