

## 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.

### AGENDA

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

7:15-9:00 pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

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Meeting Convened at 7:15 pm

1. Introductions: Vinnie Scanlon, Mark Huncik, David Stone, Jim Shincovich, Susan Shincovich, Susan Venegoni, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Laird Jones, Peg Hambrik, Paul Scanlon, Madison Starr, Douglas Shontz
2. Treasurer's Report: A deduction of \$136.91 posted to the account for June 10<sup>th</sup> picnic supplies. Current account balance is \$999.95. Note: Picnic food was distributed to a local charity; non-food supplies were stored for future use.
3. Approval of July 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes: Minutes were approved.
4. Presentation on 2017 State College Borough Annual Report – Madison Starr and Douglas Shontz: Note: Annual report is available online at [www.statecollegepa.us/annualreport](http://www.statecollegepa.us/annualreport) or in paper at Schlow Library or the Borough Administration Office.
  - Organizational Core Values as a basis for all decisions and actions: integrity, honesty, innovation, accountability, transparency, fiscal responsibility, customer service, diversity, high professional standards, and value of staff.
  - Organizational Mission Statement: to enhance the quality of life by fostering a **safe, vibrant, diverse and sustainable community**; providing quality innovation, cost effective service and allocating resources efficiently with professionalism, integrity, transparency and accountability.
    - Borough safety through parking improvements, repairs and upgrades, completion of a viable street policy, systems for data loss prevention and intrusion protection, neighborhood and community services data collection. Police Department partnerships, letter on Use of Force, crisis Intervention team training, SCPD/PSU pedestrian safety campaign, full staffing maintenance.
    - Vibrant community for all residents and visitors through partnerships & events: First Night State College, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, LION Bash, Heritage State College. Additionally, Borough staff contributions to community above and beyond job responsibilities through volunteer work with State College Police Department, United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots, and United Way.
    - Diversity policies and practice through Resolution No. 1766 – commitment to equity and inclusion and Resolution No. 1180 – expansion of No. 1766 emphasizing the

importance of diversity, inclusion and equity and proclamation of State College as a welcoming city.

- Sustainability in the Borough through notable projects: Gold level recognition for State Electronics Challenge, State College Public Works Service Facility certification as a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED rating, construction of rain gardens to minimize storm water runoff, preview of sustainability plan for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, increase in public recycling (no further resolution to the current plan is expected), upgrade of Municipal Fleet to hybrids or electric vehicles, reduction of electricity usage, sustainable housing through design, construction and demolition, Greenbuild duplex homes equipped with green technology and energy efficiency, neighborhood sustainability program (NSP) intended to diversify the neighborhoods by breaking down the concentration of student rentals, Sustainable Communities Collaborative (SCC) brings together students and professors from Penn State with community groups to address local issues.

5. LION Bash August 29<sup>th</sup>:

- HCA will host an engagement table and walk-about by members to describe living in the Highlands.
- A HCA t-shirt design was approved and orders taken.
- A 5K LION Dash run will be held on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am. The route will pass through the Highlands. Information signs along the way will speak to the Highlands demographics, history and fun facts about living in the neighborhood.
- LION Bash and LION Dash LISTSERV announcements are forthcoming.

6. Zoning Re-Write Discussion - Fraternity Property Conversations, Use, Re-use:

- A HCA working group's compiled list of opportunities not unlike the current zoning parameters for R2. Suggestions include a boutique hotel, live/work situations, condos, affordable housing, theatre, professional offices, museum and medical space for doctors in resident programs. Many university communities have chosen to use vacated fraternity properties as research facilities or institutes.
- Members feel that preserving the R2 status as it stands is most important (without allowing for overlays, etc.). A HCA position statement draft will be written and voted on at the next HCA meeting. Pending approval, it will be presented to ZRAC and then to Council.
- Sigma Nu is an example of re-purposing a fraternity property as a rooming house. The campus-located fraternity will house 20—30 female/male Chick Evans Scholarship golf caddies who apply and meet specific standards. Eligibility for admission is based on a strong caddie record, excellent academics and demonstrated financial need. The full tuition and housing scholarship is renewable up to four years.



7. Borough's Overnight Parking Permit Proposal (August 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting):

- Council will make a decision on street parking (including special events) at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. No change to the proposal presented in April is expected; however, additional ideas may be presented at the meeting.

- A footnote to safety in the town and neighborhoods: pedestrian and bike safety (parking in areas designated for street crossing, bike lanes and newly constructed high-rise housing) and ever-increasing alcohol-related citations. With an increase in student housing in town, predicting an increased need for emergency management services is yet to be determined and State funding support is unknown.
8. Proposed Fairmount Park Improvements:
- Funds in excess of \$31,000 will be used to upgrade playground equipment and safety.
9. Other Business or Items of Interest:
- International Town and Gown Conference held in State College Summer 2019 may provide opportunities to add value of Highlands and Borough to conversations around building viable communities. Questions remain: what role will there be for town and residential issues and how does HCA fit in as part of the PSU discussions?
  - Highlands residents requesting access to the HCA LISTSERV or an email address change may contact Mark Huncik by email at [mhuncik@cs.com](mailto:mhuncik@cs.com).

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, August 2018