

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, September 4, 2018

7:15 – 9:00 pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting convened at 7:15pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, David Stone, Vinnie Scanlon, Margaret Sebastianelli, Janet Engeman, Matthew Thompson, Eric White, Tyler Fuller, J. P. Brady, Kelly Johnson, Tonya Shomettel, C. D. Fishel, Nathan Betts, Garrett Toothman, Susan Venegoni, Daniel Lee, Gabrielle Lombardo, Laird Jones, Elizabeth Shirey, Tsultrim Datso, John Zwart, Paul Scanlon
2. Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$999.95. Checks in the amount of \$5.00 (change of address) and \$254.00 (t-shirts) to be posted
3. Approval of August 7th Meeting Minutes: Approved
4. East Fairmount Park Improvement Project: Initial Planning Outreach – Maureen Safko, Senior Planner, and Alan Sam, Environmental Coordinator/Arborist:
 - Playground equipment showing its age
 - Park not heavily used other than by Friends School (Childspace) and Bennett Childcare Center activity
 - Input from neighbors on potential park improvements is requested
 - Project budget: \$32,500 from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$10,000 from Borough General Fund (\$42,500 total)
 - Estimate of proposed budget to cover cost for 2 playground items plus cost to install; additional funds may be needed to complete the project
 - Project Priorities:
 - a. reduce safety hazards
 - b. improve accessibility
 - c. accommodate multi usages
 - d. increase community enjoyment of open space
 - Timeline:
 - a. 2018 gather public input
 - b. 2019 identify additional funds, if needed
 - c. 2020 implement activity (fall)

- Usage of open space, hard surfaces, sports activities in addition to new concepts such as a community garden, more trees and parking access were discussed
- Comments and recommendations may be sent to planning@statecollegepa.us or (814) 234-7109

5. Neighborhood Enforcement & Alcohol Team (NEAT) Introductions – Captain Christian D. Fishel, Officers Nathan Betts and Garrett Toothman:

- Program piloted in 2010
- Team Goals: improve quality of life for residents in Holmes-Foster and Highlands neighborhoods; build bridges by getting to know residents and having the same officers in the neighborhoods over the course of time; foster respect among residents
- Team Composition: a partnership of 2 State College Borough and 2 Penn State Police officers assigned to be highly visible, assertive and consistent in their assessment and treatment of nuisance crimes (e.g., noise, criminal mischief, public urination, open container violations, furnishing alcohol to minors, underage drinking and public drunkenness). Team follows Penn State Rules of Conduct, IFC policies and PA laws
- Additional Resources: PA State Police Liquor Control Enforcement agents join the team on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays weekly during the semester.
- Good Practices:
 - a. Early intervention
 - b. Compliance checks in common areas (police don't have access to check inside the premise)
 - c. Response to increasing calls for police assistance to help handle uninvited guests at fraternity gatherings (increase support of police helping to control those not in compliance at socials and annex houses [senior houses])

6. Borough's Overnight Parking Ordinance – Status:

- Approved by Borough Council in April, a 18-month proposed pilot for the Highlands neighborhood is expected to go into effect October 1st
- Under the pilot program, each Highlands address (same for all single-family dwellings, apartments and fraternities) is allow to pay an annual \$24 registration fee for access to 24-hour non-event overnight parking for one year - for home football weekends and during Arts Festival, a \$10 fee per vehicle for an overnight permit will be required
- At a recent Council meeting, HCA board members acknowledged that the pilot project is not what HCA asked for; however, recommended that codification to the current ordinance be delayed until after the pilot period and final assessment by the Transportation Commission and Council is completed
- Public Hearing on the new ordinance will be held at the next Council meeting on September 17th pending outcome of the Transportation Commission's review
- Waivers of any ordinance should be transparent and provide the public with an opportunity to comment and to provide consistency in Council's review and decision making

7. Zoning Re-Write Discussion – Fraternity Property Conversations – HCA Position Statement:

- HCA position statement will support no changes to current R2 zoning (keep it as is without change)
- Existing opportunities for fraternity property conversions provide a myriad of commercial and residential options
- Currently, only a small number of properties are open for conversion under review.

8. LION Bash Follow-up:

- Good engagement station experience
- Highlands the only neighborhood participating
- Good crowd, reasonably priced street food
- T-shirts a hit; a second order will be placed

9. Other Business or Items of Interest: IFC Exchange:

- Social Expectations handout was shared for review and discussion
- Fraternity risk managers are calling more frequently for SC police to help manage social event crowds
- Sanctioned events are to be held from 12:00 to 4:00 pm and adhere to house/yard occupancy rules; a 10-day notice prior to social events is required
- Some concerns were expressed for how effective sophomore presidents are at managing social events at the house and off-site events in senior houses (also known as annex houses)

Meeting adjourned at 9:17pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, September 2018