

## **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.

### **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

**7:00pm**

### **Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

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Meeting convened at 7:05 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Jennifer Stahl, Neil Sullivan, Vinnie Scanlon, Elaine Shuckers, Dave Shuckers, U B Bakker
2. Annual Dues Collection: \$5 per household (arrange with HCA Treasurer, Vinnie Scanlon, by email at mvinnies@icloud.com or US mail to 922 Old Boalsburg Road, State College, PA 16801); Account balance is \$1,134.41. The Board discussed creating an organizational account (e.g., Zelle through M&T Bank, PayPal) to accept receipts such as dues and donations and will research viable options for discussion at a future meeting.
3. Borough Updates:
  - The Neighborhood Coalition meets biweekly on Fridays with Borough Staff and managers, Mayor Ron Filippelli, and other key members of the local government to update all on Borough and Penn State activities, manage COVID-19 among visitors for home football games, enforce the Masking and Social Distancing Ordinance and subsequent case data collected from the Department of Health at local and state levels. Appreciation was expressed for the thorough and speedy way in which meeting minutes are taken and shared.
  - Game-related calls to police reported activity numbers same as normal. Police may cite violations as warnings or fee-based citations. Any comparison between seasonal violations is difficult due to the new normal of COVID-19. It was noted that residents felt more students responded to the many requests to honor the masking and social distancing directives during the Ohio State game than the first away game at Maryland when numerous in-house and outside parties were evident. In preparation for the Ohio State game, the Borough, Penn State and apartment landlords cooperated in communicating and monitoring personal responsibility among students.

- On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Borough Council will review the budget and discuss strategies for managing the 3-5 million-dollar deficit in large part due to the absence of street and garage parking revenue. The meeting agenda is available on the Council's web site at [statecollegepa.us](http://statecollegepa.us)

#### 4. Annual Activity Review 2019-2020:

- Monthly meetings changed from in-person to virtual on Zoom thus negating personal interaction and changing how communication was shared. Public access to the Borough Building was prohibited forcing new ways to access the service centers. Greater use of LISTSERVs was promoted and frequent referrals to updated web sites served to provide relevant and up-to-date information.
- The E. Fairmount Avenue Park Project was delayed but moved forward in the selection of playground equipment. In the new year, volunteers will be asked to help in various capacities to further meet project goals.
- Get Out the Vote initiative produced record number of voters by early mail-in options and at the polls.

#### Topics for Consideration 2020-2021:

- What happens to fines collected from citations? A suggestion was made to submit a proposal to the Magistrate requesting a proportional amount of the funds be given to HCA as a restoration fee for the community to assist property owners with repairs for damages incurred by disrespectful persons and individual disregard for property.
- A yard sale for the neighborhood has been requested. Caution is needed to meet the masking and social distancing requirements with an increase in foot traffic.
- A potluck dinner for fall 2021 was suggested if the COVID-19 requirements permit.
- The Highlands residential borders are being challenged with the new housing and business construction pushing its limits. encroachment is spreading. For more information about the zoning assessment, the current ordinance and the advisory committee's work, go to <http://zonestatecollege.org/assets/state-college-assessment-zrac-09-22-17-final.pdf>.
- Ongoing concern for short-term rentals and the challenge it creates for enforcement of ordinances and neighborhood health and safety will continue to be a topic for discussion.

5. All requests to be added to or deleted from the HCA LISTSERV are to be sent to Mark Huncik, HCA President, by email at [mhuncik@cs.com](mailto:mhuncik@cs.com).

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, November 2020