

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 neighborhood.
- 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

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

7:15pm

State College Municipal Building, Room 241

Meeting convened at: 7:17 PM

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Margaret Sebastianelli, Eric White, Vinnie Scanlon, Peg Hambrick, Maureen Safko, Alan Sam
2. Treasurer's Report and Dues Collection: Balance of \$970.95 (same as reported at the March meeting); additional deposits for dues collected and t-shirt sales and withdrawal for a t-shirt order will be reconciled and reported at the May meeting
3. Approval of Dec. 4, 2018, Jan. 8, 2019, and March 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Approvals tabled to May Meeting (lacking a quorum to vote)
4. E. Fairmount Park Improvements – Grant Submittal Update from Maureen Safko and Alan Sam:
 - Project concept plans were approved by all levels (regional and county, tree commission)
 - Letters of support are due by Tuesday, April 9 (Centre County Commission will provide a letter of support.)
 - Construction is planned for summer/fall 2020; planting for fall 2020/spring 2021
 - Planning group was encouraged to ask for much needed funding; additional pledges of support will be accepted and appreciated; HCA is considering a pledge of \$500 (The HCA LISTSERV may be used to encourage funding partners and volunteer gardeners to help with planting.)
 - Park users such as religious organizations (Congregation Britt Shalon, State College Friends Meeting, and First Church of Christ Science) and fraternities may be encouraged to pledge
5. Neighborhood Yard Sale Discussion: Tentative date set for Saturday, June 22 (alternate date set for Saturday, June 29); the HCA LISTSERV will be used to advertise the event

6. International Town & Gown Association Conference – May 19-22, 2019:
 - Neighborhood Coalition/Borough: Registration funding will be provided for one representative from each of the three neighborhoods; Peg Hambrick reported she will attend

7. Annual Meeting and Elections – Pre-planning Discussion:
 - Tentative date is set for Thursday, September 12 (alternate date is September 19) at the Friends Meeting House; Susan Venegoni will work on the annual meeting
 - Eric suggested a sheet cake to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of “Hearts in the Highlands” and encouraged past HCA officers to attend
 - Eric suggested Lee Stout as speaker for the meeting; Sarah Koenig also should be considered
 - Eric proposed an environmentally-friendly give-a-way tote bag with the Highlands logo for all dues paying members (Additional bags could be purchased for a small fee.)

8. Neighborhood Coalition Activities:
 - The Coalition went to the County Commission to advocate for the proposed retail alcohol tax; some members of the Commission seemed more knowledgeable of the Borough’s challenges around alcohol abuses, the Coalition members felt the Commission had little interest in supporting the project; it was decided as was suggested not to survey Penn State students because most are underage; HCA discussed another option: collecting data through an election survey and enlisting the support of the League of Women Voters at a meeting on April 30 at 7:00 pm in the State College Borough Chambers; HCA could provide a list of questions for discussion
 - Mark reported that the Borough has funding for 62 police officers (down 3-4 officers); Steven Bair, Chief Fire Officer, Alpha Fire Department, hired a media promotion group to help recruit more volunteer firemen to meet staff needs

9. Other items for discussion:
 - Summer Music Fest scheduled for May 30-June 1

Meeting adjourned: 8:29 PM

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, April 2019