

Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: June 13th, 2017

7:00pm: President Glascock called the meeting to order.
With no changes or objections, the minutes from the May 2017 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

Welcome new residents/attendees

Police: Officer King attended:

Incident Report (this month 6.1.17-6.13.17): Burglaries: 1, UBEV: 2, Auto Theft: 1, Robbery: 1
Incident Report (last month): Burglaries: 0, UBEV: 4, Auto Theft: 2, Robbery: 1
- owner of 2608 Highland Ave. (office building to the right of the former Store on Highland) cleared out items and debris left by homeless and posted "No Trespassing" signs
- Residents notified Officer King of graffiti on road signs near Caldwell Park and on Smolian and several abandoned cars on local streets

General Safety Information:

If you see something, say something! Call South Precinct: 205-254-2793
Burglaries tend to happen during the day.
Surveillance cameras are helpful for BPD, so share footage with them if you have/get it.
Continue to keep an eye out and call police if you see anything suspicious or are the victim of a crime.

If you see finger prints, notify the responding officer so prints can be taken.

Fire Department: Mike Seales attended

- "Get Alarmed" Program is providing residents with a free smoke detector. Contact the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department's Fire Prevention Bureau at 250-7540 or call the Department's Public Education Bureau at 785-1332
- Fire hydrant flushing in the area is now complete. Note that sometimes flushing hydrants will send sediment into homes, so try to avoid washing clothes during flushings.
- DO NOT PAINT FIRE HYDRANTS. Some are being repainted now, and different colors tell firefighters about flow rates and other details.
- Park as close to curbs as possible when street parking to allow fire trucks to pass more easily.
- **Summer Safety Tips:**
- Check on neighbors and stay hydrated
- Be Careful when cooking out
- Burn Ban is currently in effect
- General Information: Call Police or Fire Department (205-250-7540) if you see suspicious activity (relating to fires).

Public Works: Chris Pinke and Tammie Wheeler attended

- Contact Tammie Wheeler at tammie.wheeler@birminghamal.gov re: **inoperable cars** and **overgrown yards**
- Residents reported graffiti on Avalon Condo's front brick wall, dumping in alley near Highland Drive, and a possible drug house on Highland Drive (neighbors should report suspicious activity to police)
Chris Pinke – Horticulture Parks Maintenance Supervisor Christopher.Pinke@birminghamal.gov
- 2 trees at Virginia Samford Theater have been removed and stumps waiting to be ground up (stump grinder broke down so this is in the works)
- Three trees in front of Rojo/O'Henry's have been trimmed, two to be removed
- update on hill below Highland Drive (across Highland Ave. from golf course) – hydrangeas and azaleas to be planted in the fall
- update on replacement crepe myrtles on Highland Ave. along golf course – city contact to call Alison Glascock to meet and identify where new ones should go

- Vandalism/theft of trees and plants: several trees in the median along Clairmont Ave. between St. Vincents and Bogues were mysteriously cut down (not by the city) and flower beds on Clairmont Ave. across from the Piggly Wiggly have been replanted 5 times because someone continues to steal the plants.

Proposed Variance for townhomes on 30th St. S. (corner of intersection b/w 30th and Rhodes Circle)

- **Carter Hughes of H2 Real Estate** presented proposed Tudor style townhome design prepared by Nequette Architecture who did extensive research of area buildings to make design fit in with historic area. Estimated price for each home \$500,000 with each having a two car garage in the rear of structures.

- **Variance requested is for a 15' setback (where current requirement is 25')** (Avg. setback along west side of 30th is 16' and median is 11.5')

- **Concerns from residents:**

- variance was set for a reason, and if one is granted what prevents others?
- building will be too close to street and will be too tall and block light
- increased traffic and possibly more cars

- Highland Park Planning & Zoning Committee met and voted to approve the variance on 6/12/17

- **Vote on variance:** Motion to Approve (Bruce Lanier), motion seconded (David Dinehart), 8 for, 2 opposed

- City Planning & Zoning Committee meeting on the issue will be held July 13th, 2017

- **Residents may relay comments** to the city zoning office at 205 254-2478 or kasandra.brundidge@birminghamal.gov (reference case number: ZBA2017-00044).

Report from City Councilor Valerie Abbott (valerie.abbott@birminghamal.gov)

- When contacting her, please copy Darryl Lee, her assistant: (Darryl.lee@birminghamal.gov)

- **Valerie is running for re-election to City Council (elections in August 2017)**

- **Budget Hearing on Mayor's proposed budget** for fiscal year 2018 to be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall on Wed., June 14 at 4:30.

- Trinity Steel Building by Memorial Park being converted to **Humane Society Facility** where Animal Control (near airport) and Greater Birmingham Humane Society on Snow Drive will be relocated and add a K-9 training facility

- New complaints for roads needing repaving are taken on an ongoing basis for future consideration, so please report to 311

- **Use 311 (either call 311 or email 311@birminghamal.gov) to report issues** and ask for a confirmation number for easier follow up (City Council is not allowed to direct other city employees)

- **Next City Council Quarterly Evening Meeting will be Thursday, July 6th** at 6pm at Regions Field 1401 1st Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35233

- Citizens presented proposal to City Council that is being reviewed by law department seeking to give Birmingham "**Sanctuary City**" Status

- **Opening of Maxine Herring Parker Bridge in Collegeville** took place June 13th

New Business

- **District Attorney Pro-Tem of Jefferson County Danny Carr attended.** carrd@jccal.org, 205-325-5252. He is reaching out to the public via Neighborhood Association meetings. Working to remind young people to use good judgement. Contact him to shadow a prosecutor to learn how the court system works.

Old Business

- **Darryl Lee gave updates on requests from 2016** for trash cans to replace destroyed or stolen ones, replacement trees to be planted along Highland Ave., and a neighborhood sign. These are in the works and city officials are to contact Alison Glascock to discuss placement of trees and trashcans.

- **Sister Houses (on Rhodes Park)** Alison Glascock and Carla Calvert to contact owner re: new proposal from him and his architect and provide update

- **Rushton Park Community Garden** – going through approval process with Parks Dept. and fundraising for water line and several other items. Victoria McDonald is the new head of this project and can be reached at highlandparkgardens@gmail.com

- **Larry Contri (former interim Superintendent of Birmingham City Schools)** is running for Board of Education District 3 Board Seat against Mary Boehm

- **Ryan Jones** is running for City Council - District 3

- **First Lutheran Church (on Caldwell Park)** raised **\$258** during Do Dah Day by charging for parking in their lot and generously donated the money to FIDO (Friends in Dog Ownership) via the neighborhood association to be used to purchase bags for pet waste stations in the 3 parks.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

Next meeting will take place at Highland Golf Course (**UPSTAIRS** at the clubhouse) on Tuesday, July 11th, 2017 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Sanfelippo

Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association