

**Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes**  
**Meeting Date: February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

7:00pm: President Glascock called the meeting to order.  
With no changes January 2018 minutes were approved.

**Announcements:** Welcome new residents/attendees

**Police: Officer King attended**

Officer King is the 3-11pm shift for the 323 beat which includes Highland Park, Redmont and part of 280.

**Incident Report** (this month 2.1.18-2.13.18): Burglaries: 3, UBEV: 6, Auto Theft: 6, Robbery: 0  
(last month): Burglaries: 6, UBEV: 11, Auto Theft: 3, Robbery: 0

**Success/Follow Up Report:**

Male, African-American perp was caught who had stolen multiple vehicles.

Numerous car break-ins on Milner Crescent - suspect was detained but had no stolen goods on him.

Burglar caught on video matched description from a prior call, and police were able to find him.

**General Safety Information:**

If you see something, say something! Call South Precinct: 205-254-2793

ALWAYS report suspicious activities or items, etc. to the police. Non-emergency number is 205-328-9311.

Do not leave bags valuables etc. in your car.

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.

Car key fobs are potentially being hacked; some suggest keeping them in a metal box, foil, or in your freezer.

**Fire Department: did not attend**

**Public Works:**

Contact **Tammie Wheeler** at [tammie.wheeler@birninghamal.gov](mailto:tammie.wheeler@birninghamal.gov) or 205-254-2061 re: inoperable cars and overgrown yards (and furniture and large trash dumped on street by apt. dwellers without dumpsters. She can contact apt. bldg. owners to let them know).

**Request to host event in Caldwell Park:** June Weir with First Lutheran Church asked permission to host an Easter egg hunt at Caldwell Park Saturday 3/31 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM. C. Sosnin made a motion to approve, C. Glascock seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**Request to install bat house in Rushton Park:** Igrainne Hill asked permission to build and install a bat house in Rushton Park. She is a fifth year Girl Scout and a student at Alabama School of Fine Arts. This is her silver award project to raise awareness, make a sustainable project, and spend 50 hours on it. It will be 10 to 12 feet high with a bark cover on a proposed tree on the slope on the east side of Rushton Park. Bats are fun to watch, eat mosquitoes and other bugs, and pollinate plants. Guano (their waste material) is non-toxic and fertilizes soil. There was a question about rabies. Less than 1% of bats have rabies. D. Dinehart made a motion to approve C. Glascock seconded. All in favor, None opposed.

**Proposed variance for townhomes on 30th St. at Rhodes Circle:** requested variance in required setback was denied by city on 2/8/18. They have 15 days to appeal in Circuit Court.

**Report from City Council President Abbott:** We thanked her for attending our meetings. Today's City Council meeting had many public speakers including a group of outreach volunteers planning to go door-to-door to talk to people about crime.

Resident concern: 32nd St., South curbs are breaking up. They were told to call 311 with the address/intersection.

Mayor Woodfin is doing things a little bit differently and is giving department or money based on requests – not automatically. Woodfin is paying more attention to residents.

Street lights on Highland Avenue were out. Alabama power fixed them and are now contractually obligated to maintain them.

Inquiry re: Parking Zones: Traffic engineering update - Mr. Dawkins is looking into the parking zones and is having trouble getting information from other cities.

Resident concern: graffiti on brick wall on Highland between 30th and 31st St. in front of Avalon condos. Question about Hanover Circle getting repaved and no progress as of yet. ALDOT is funding this but it may take longer than we had hoped.

Resident Question re: Southtown redevelopment a recent lawsuit was dismissed, and no plans have been brought before the City Council. Abbott was unsure of the current status and will check with Woodfin.

Police Chief: ongoing nationwide search for new police chief.

**Candidate for Domestic Relation Judge:** Damon Watson spoke.

**Highland Park has a new community resource officer - Andre Watson.** He is covering 17 neighborhoods; normally it would be 12 but he is filling in for other vacancies.

Email: [willie.watson@birminghamal.gov](mailto:willie.watson@birminghamal.gov). Office number 205-254-2066. Cell: 205-873-1158. He previously worked in community policing and proposed cameras throughout the city.

**NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) Conference is coming to Birmingham May 23<sup>rd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>.** It includes 800-1200 visitors and 600 volunteers throughout the city. Contact Hands on Birmingham to volunteer. Attendees sign up by 3/15/ 18. \$200 per attendee.

Resident question about gentrification...is it part of the problem or part of the solution?

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Sanfelippo  
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association