

Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: March 13th, 2018

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

Announcements: Welcome new residents/attendees

Police: Officer King attended

Officer Charlie King is our 323 evening beat Officer and patrols from Tom and Jerry's (Chevron near Western on Highland) to Claimont to Crestwood, Redmont, and part of 280.

Incident Report (this month 3.1.18-3.13.18): Burglaries: 3, UBEV: 6, Auto Theft: 1, Robbery: 0 (last month): Burglaries: 11, UBEV: 13, Auto Theft: 9, Robbery: 0

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: (Chris Pinke attended, Tammie Wheeler did not attend)

Replacement trees along Highland Boulevard are going in this week, and flower beds are being planted on or around April 15 throughout the city.

Randal Smith (randald.smith@birminghamal.gov) with urban forestry is the one to contact regarding sidewalks being destroyed by trees.

Contact **Tammie Wheeler** at tammie.wheeler@birminghamal.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 for permission to close a block of lower 31st St. South by Independent

Presbyterian Church on May 2nd, 2018 from 9 to 1. Motion to approve. Motion seconded by L. Contri. All approved. Zero opposed. Request granted.

Request for permission to renew zoning variance at 2608 Highland Ave. (two buildings located next to 2600 Highland Condo Building where a dry cleaner used to be, and the new owners have had a Phase 1 and 2 performed to determine property is safe.) Wendy Cruise bought building and has gotten the OK to apply for a permit to open a family friendly café and catering

operation. Permit to be obtained in 6 to 8 weeks. L. Contri made a motion to approve. J. Powers seconded. All approved, zero opposed. Variance granted.

Discussion on crime with Captain Sellers of the Birmingham Police Department - South Precinct, who has the 23 years on the job (formerly working in narcotics).

Each call into BPD or 911 gets a case number, is passed onto the dispatcher, is prioritized, and officers are sent. Sellers gets reports each day and checks them and makes officer adjustments accordingly.

Crime tends to ebb and flow because of arrests. There are professional criminals and nervous criminals, and some of the recent break-ins have been nervous in execution. There been a few recent key arrests including two male perps who were breaking into cars in our area and then went into Mountain Brook and got caught with evidence and charged with 16 counts of UBEV. All cars were opened with unforced entry (not locked).

Common occurrences are very early morning car break-ins.

Last month there were multiple car jackings in Glen Iris, so every extra officer was there performing roadblocks and traffic stops to catch the perpetrators and all except one car were recovered.

Milner Crescent have seen a major recent surge in crime, and all extra officers are currently focused in Highland Park due to recent surge.

Transients and homeless in our area. Officers talk to them and sometimes can offer assistance and know a lot of them.

Bond amounts have unfortunately been lowered, and sometimes perps are released with a signature.

If you call BPD they will send an officer. It may take time as higher priority calls are responded to first.

To speak with Captain Sellers call 205-254-2793, and if he is not in the office ask to leave a voicemail.

City Ordinance for securing abandoned buildings has not been being enforced. Now they're enforcing it.

Citizen concerns: 13th Ave. South (former Alethia house) apartment. Property owner told to board it up.

Abandoned apartment across from music store in Clairmont (3015 Clairemont Ave.) 7 transients were found inside, some with warrants (only way to rest vagrants because of private property laws.) Police can't enter abandoned properties without specific cause.

2754 Miller Court South not being maintained. Sellers will report environmental police and zoning.

Lynnwood/Lindale apartments reports of prostitution.

Fentanyl and other drugs remain a big problem in our area/city.

Understaffed Police Department: Recruiting officers is a big priority. Recently sent out 500 letters, of that about 250 responded, of that about 150 passed a physical screening, and 33 candidates passed the polygraph and drug test and made it to The Academy. The city is down 105 officers due to retirement, going to other municipalities, etc.

In the month of December, the city fielded 55,000 calls for service.

Surveillance Cameras:

The city is looking into more surveillance cameras with Hitachi system where people or organizations can purchase and install cameras with content recorded by Hitachi. The city

currently has 11 Ion cameras spread throughout the city. There's a task force using citizen camera footage to arrest and prosecute perpetrators, so continue to collect and share footage with BPD.

South precinct is going to create a Facebook page so they can post photos and information after someone is arrested and charged. And check the Jefferson County city bookings website.

Tips from Detective Lacally and Det. Hambright (work on UBEVs). **Lock your car. Keep all values valuables or items hidden or removed. Do not hide spare keys in the car.**

They recently asked a criminal why he took things from someone's car and he said it was because it was open. Det. Grimes with burglary says to **make sure you secure first floor air conditioning units. Lock your doors and windows, have good lighting, surveillance.**

Neighborhood Block Watch Program managed by Devoris Ragland Pierce. To schedule a training to get your block organized contact her at devoris.ragland@birninghamal.gov or 205- 933-4146.

June 5th Elections - Candidates for various positions introduced themselves:

Richard Dickerson running for county commissioner for district 2.

Sherri Coleman Friday, Probate Judge

Jacqueline Grey Miller, House District 54

LaShunta "Shun" White-Boler – Jefferson County District Court, Judge Place 3

Wilson Hale – Sheriff

Peter "Pete" Johnson Davis –Circuit Court Judge, Place 16

Alaric May – Circuit Court Judge

Clotele Hardy "CH" Brantley – Jefferson County Family Court Judge, Place 3

Mike Anderton – District Attorney

Sandra Little Brown – Jefferson County Commission, District 2

Heath Boakle- Jefferson County Sheriff

Raymond Johnson, Jr. – District Attorney Jefferson County

City Council President Abbott attended but did not report due to time.

New Business:

Mayor Woodfin will have his 100 Days meeting at the Alabama Theater this Thursday, March 15th at 7 PM.

Adjournment: With no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Next Meeting: Our April 2018 meeting will take place Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7pm Upstairs at the Highland Golf Course Clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Sanfelippo

Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association