

Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: June 12th, 2018

7:00pm: President Glascock called the meeting to order
Due to delay in April and May 2018 meeting minutes going out (technical issue), we will call for any edits at next meeting.

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 Clairmont Ave. to Crestwood, Redmont, and part of 280.

Incident Report (this month 6.1.18-6.12.18): Burglaries: 1, UBEV: 0, Auto Theft: 0, Robbery: 0 (last month): Burglaries: 2, UBEV: 10, Auto Theft: 4, Robbery: 1

South Precinct Facebook page is up. Search "Birmingham Police South Precinct" in FB.

Citizen Concerns/Questions:

Squatters in abandoned house at 1022 28th Pl. S.
2 cars stolen near 33rd St. S. and Cliff Rd.

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.

Fire Department: did not attend

Public Works: (Tammie Wheeler attended)

Contact **Tammie Wheeler** at 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).

Environmental Code Supervisor: Debra Dubose (Debra.Dubose@birninghamal.gov)

For sidewalks being damaged by trees, contact Randal Smith (randald.smith@birninghamal.gov) with urban forestry.

Citizen Concerns: Abandoned White Ford at Hanover Park

Abandoned Cars Procedure: 1.Citizen reports it to BPD; 2.city puts sticker on it; if still there after 24hrs call to ask BPD to "Issue Citation;" and if still there after 24 hours call to request it be towed.

NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) Conference in May 2018 in Birmingham. Highland Park sent three attendees - Elizabeth Sanfelippo, Rob Burton, and Anne Sunkel. A. Glascock has attended five conferences over the years. **E. Sanfelippo's recap:** Mayor Woodfin's welcome speech included things like the "family is the central unit of our communities" and "Nothing stops a gun like a job. Bring me your guns and I will help you find a job." A neighborhood association and volunteers used clever temporary artwork in crosswalks (footprints, dog paw prints, etc.) to get the attention of drivers (with temporary permits from city). Another printed colorful designs on graffiti resistant stickers and used them to cover electrical/junction boxes that were graffiti targets. Session on Keeping Neighborhoods Safe: Concept of "2 foot 6 foot Rule" -your trees should not hang lower than 6 feet and your shrubs and hedges should not be taller than 2 feet. Purpose is to prevent potential thieves from having places to hide. Strategy for preventing graffiti: "hostile landscaping" (Spanish bayonet, Holly, etc. planted in front of graffiti prone surfaces). **R. Burton recap:** Neighborhood associations working with the urban planning department in other cities. Not all cities give money to their neighborhood associations. This is a good and bad thing because it means they have to raise their own money but they have more flexibility in projects and spending. Rob will send a link to the recordings of sessions he attended. **A. Sunkel recap:** neighbors in Rochester, MN (home of Mayo Clinic) developed as a nonprofit to fun small grants to execute projects and mitigate negative impacts of the Mayo Clinic growth. Check out their website: www.rNeighbors.org. Session on Japanese Community issues and solutions: for growing number of elderly residents in Japan neighbors created community space to prevent isolation and engage socially and provide residents with resources in their homes. Session on Using Arts to Improve Communities: Memphis, TN is using theater and other arts through Blues City Cultural Center to address issues of gangs, graffiti, and disenfranchised residents in several areas. Session on Birmingham's "Sister Cities" in Ukraine, Japan, China, and the UK. Representatives from these discussed how they work to bring new business and cultural connections to Birmingham. Neighborhood in Indiana presented successful projects and detailed how to pick neighborhood goals and find resources using non-profits as partners and making sure those that benefit from the projects are involved in efforts. Visit www.muncieneighborhoods.org

Issue of abandoned properties in Highland Park: Suzanne Baker raised concerns re: squatters, crime, home values, etc. "Sister houses" (two dilapidated historic homes on south end of Rhodes Park) – hopes for restoration but no action over 10 years. They are currently in tax sale. Crestwood Development Corp. has paid the taxes for them for last 3 years and hopes to restore them. In Alabama, the law favors the property owner. After three years if the owner has not repaid taxes plus interest then someone can file for a tax deed. It then goes to probate court and is either granted to new owner or original.

Resident Idea: idea to form a land trust to buy properties and find investors who will maintain historic properties, keep single family whenever possible, etc. Residents want a more proactive approach to owners neglecting their properties in our area.

Resident announced that a lawsuit has been filed against Keller, the owner of the Sister Houses, as a nuisance. Alabama legislature is lowering lowering the interest rate on delinquent tax properties.

The office of community development can help with the maintenance code. Residents can complain about properties via calling 311 (or online system) and owners cleanup or sell them.

Report from City Council President Valerie Abbott and her Assistant Marcus Odell:

When emailing Abbott (Valerie.abbott@birninghamal.gov), copy Odell (marcus.odell@birninghamal.gov).

City budget is being discussed in meetings with the mayor. The five year paving plan has been postponed (except for money from ALDOT). This is due to contract overruns with Trane and maintenance of city buildings (leaking roofs, HVAC). An annual allowance of \$2,000 has been put back in for each of the 99 neighborhood association in the city.

Process for Funding Projects with NA Funds: NA picks a project and votes, submits to city for review by legal dept., and it gets approved or denied. E. Sanfelippo to follow up and get list of pre-approved projects we can use our funds on.

Motion by J. Powers to form a task force/committee to get information and advise NA on projects for us to consider/vote on. L. Contri seconded the motion. In favor: all. All opposed: none.

Citizen Question: If a school asked us for money could we consider it? Yes. It must have a specific purpose and a method for tracking and must be voted to be accepted by the Board of Education. (Forest Park gives to Avondale Elementary)

Citizen Concern: Lights at Caldwell Park are all out. E Sanfelippo to email Councilor Abbott to rectify.

Check out new website with helpful information: www.birminghamdistrict3.com.

July 17th Runoff Elections - Candidates for various positions introduced themselves:

Visit <https://sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/upcoming-elections>

Sandra Little Brown – current County Commissioner for District 2 – seeking re-election.

Mark Pettway (represented by his daughter Marquisa Pettway) - running for Jefferson County Sheriff.

Deborah Weston Pickens – running for District Court Judge Place 9.

New Business:

Old Business:

5 Pts. South Neighborhood Association (Stephen Foster not in attendance) spoke at April meeting about upcoming Pop Up Dog Park event June 16th, 2018 (all day event) and park clean up day on June 9th. 1/3 of park to be green space, 2/3 to be dog areas. Plans to show Goonies and other movies this summer (Avondale is not doing them this year).

<http://www.fivepointsbham.com>. 5 Pts Neighborhood Association meets 4th Mondays of each month at 6pm, Southside Library 1814 11th Ave South.

Southtown Redevelopment news: website is up and more details coming soon.

www.southsidebham.com

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

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10th, 2018 at 7pm Upstairs at Highland Golf Clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Sanfelippo
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association