

Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: September 11th, 2018

7:00pm: President Glascock called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve August 2018 Minutes (motion to approve, seconded). August 2018 minutes were approved.

Announcements: Welcome new residents/attendees

Neighborhood Officer Elections will take place on October 30, 2018 from 7 AM to 7 PM at Avondale library. Residents (incl. renters) 16+ should bring their ID (or utility bill or voter registration card showing current residence) to vote. Alison Glascock is seeking reelection for president, Carl Sosnin is seeking reelection for Vice President. Elizabeth Sanfelippo is running for President. Jessica Powers is running for Vice President.

Police: Officer King attended

Officer Charlie King is our normal 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. His new shift is Monday through Thursday 11 AM to 9 PM. South Precinct Officers are going to 4 10-hour shifts/week per week.

Citizen complaints: faded/illegible “no parking” signs. James Fowler (new director of City Traffic Engineering) will be coming to the next meeting to discuss issues of concern. Parking in the HP area in general is a problem. They are looking into hiring a person is solely for parking enforcement. Update: CVS on Clairmont (next to Piggly Wiggly) was robbed last week – a gunman robbed the pharmacy at opening and stole narcotics. That is part of the 325 beat (and HP is technically part of the 323 beat).

Incident Report for 323 Beat: no stats this month due to computer problems with reporting system.

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@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).

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

Contact Randal Smith (randald.smith@birminghamal.gov) with urban forestry re: sidewalks being damaged by trees.

Agenda Items:

St. Vincent's presentation of their updated master plan and details about the new parking deck and request for approval for permits for the curb cuts for the parking deck's new entrances and exits. Chuck with Penuel Architecture presented the updated master plan. Michael Ward, Senior

plan Examiner with the City of Birmingham also attended with Brenna Powell and Cindy Nelson - heads of construction for St. Vincent's. They are requesting approval of their updated master plan and permits for two new curb cuts – one on 28th St., South and one on 10th Ave., South.

Citizen questions/concerns:

What is being done to address ongoing problems on 28th St. S. with parking illegally?

Shouldn't the master plan have been updated prior to the permit for the new back deck being issued?

Will this deck provide adequate parking for the hospital and other staff?

Why can't the hospital (who owns the property) include a clause in the leases for the Professional Office Buildings that requires remote parking for all of their employees?

Response from St. Vincent's: POB employees professional office building aren't technically St. Vincent's employees so St. Vincent's can't control where they park. The master plan was never meant to show details such as building heights. They have provided remote parking and shuttle is for staff and they have paid to shadow construction workers to them from the site. All Dax will have a new automated system for better tracking of specific cars – employees versus POB employees versus hospital visitors, etc.

Citizen suggestions: Do not approve this master plan and Do not approve request for curb cut permits. R. Reinhardt made a motion to deny approval of this master plan and deny the request for the curb cuts. B. Lanier seconded. In favor 21, Not in Favor 11. Motion to DENY approved.

Graffiti update from Darryl Mason: She has surveyed the neighborhood and noted areas needing cleanup. Citiesofservice.org is a program to help with graffiti, and Mason has contacted the mayor/administration to get this program going.

Spending Committee Update: (Horace Hulsey represented the committee)

Short term spending of \$6300 provided from Council President Abbott's discretionary funds needs to be allocated by 12/31/18. Longer-term spending of some of our \$46,000 in NA funds to be determined after the new year. Survey will be sent out on nextdoor.com, Facebook, and email to gather neighborhood input and finalize short term spending to be voted on at next NA meeting. A separate committee to address sidewalks will be formed to work with the city to repair. Ideas discussed for short term: replacement trees (for ones damaged/cut down, FIDO/Poop bags to refill stations in parks, sponsorship of an arts/theater related field trip for Avondale Elementary School students, play ground in Ruston Park - additional mulch and replacement of rusted equipment, donation to community garden in Rushton Park. We also looked into graffiti removing tools/equipment but due to liability issues decided it is best to work with the city and private property owners to remove ASAP. We also looked into surveillance cameras, but a system we would need is cost prohibitive. Decided to look into a discount code for Ring or Arlo cameras so that individual residents can purchase. Longer-term goals to be determined after initial survey.

Five Points South Park Renovation Conceptual Plan: Five Points South Neighborhood Association Vice President Stephen Foster shared conceptual park upgrade ideas specifically in Brother Brian Park which is 2 acres just outside of Five Points South. This would be a multi- phase project starting with removing the fountain, then a green space and dog park approximately 125' x 250' with woven turf, then a play area, then a picnic area, then plaza and garden, then amphitheater. The Five Points Alliance a 501(c)(3) will work with the city to maintain the park. They currently have a budget of \$2 million.

Citizen questions/concerns: Question about the status of the residential towers between brother Brian Park and Five Points South. They are currently in litigation. Complaint regarding the 17 story building on Highland Avenue across from the Chevron currently under construction.

Report from City Council President Valerie Abbott:

When emailing Abbott, please copy Darryl Lee and Marcus O'Dell

valerie.abbott@birninghamal.gov, darryl.lee@birninghamal.gov,
Marcus.Odell@birninghamal.gov.

Abbott voted not to spend the \$10 million surplus until the mayor presents a more detailed proposed plan. They do want to put \$1.1 million into neighborhood revitalization, and allocate other money to IT upgrades, deferred maintenance, etc.

Question about any news/updates about potential parking permits for 28th St. S. - Head of traffic was replaced, so new head (James Fowler) is looking into it. Ticketing continues along 28th St. S.

Three members of the city Council are vacating their positions. The city had 15 applicants which are being narrowed down and will be open for a public vote in the next general election. (Councilors Scales and Tyson will become County Commissioners in November 2018.)

City Council is working on state legislation that would tie parking/moving violation tickets to car tag renewal.

The city does not do “speed bumps.” They do use “speed humps”/“speed tables.”

Citizen complaint: problems with traffic on 29th St. South.

New Business:

Old Business:

Highland Halloween's Trick or Treat Trail: Destination Birmingham's Director Jasmine Allen (also a HP resident) gave information about the event – “Bring those costumes out... let's celebrate this Halloween as a community! Highland Halloween's Trick or Treat Trail is NOT your typical trick or treat but a community-based trail with hosted porch/yard parties along the route for neighbors to meet and mingle. We will also have three categories of Halloween Contests for neighbors to win great gifts and bragging rights for a year (•Best Trick or Treat Station •Best Porch/Lawn Party •Best Haunted House)! Lastly, as part of our #MyBirmingham Campaign, Destination Birmingham will also host a lawn party for the neighbors with live music, free food, drinks and plenty of entertainment! Prizes for. Would you like to help make this event a success???” Contact Jasmine Allen at O. 205-690-1334 C. 205-719-9019 www.destinationin.com to get involved.

Updates on abandoned properties – resident asked for update on abandoned properties in our neighborhood at next meeting. E. Sanfelippo to follow up with Building Dept. to get updates. E.Sanfelippo has list with previous updates on properties in our area. Email her for specific updates at esanfelippo@gmail.com.

Candidates for November 13, 2018 election:

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

Will Dawson spoke on behalf of Danny Carr for District Attorney.

Adjournment: With no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 9th, 2018 at 7pm Upstairs at Highland Golf Clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Sanfelippo
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association