

Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes  
**Meeting Date: October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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

L. Contri made a motion to approve the September minutes, M. H. Crowe seconded; September 2018 minutes approved.

**Announcements:** Welcome new residents/attendees

**Public Works: (Tammie Wheeler attended)**

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).

**Citizen Concerns/Questions:**

Hanover Circle – paving

32nd St. South

Mattresses behind the Greenbriar/Altamont nursing home

Dead tree at 1231 29th St. S. – limbs hanging in the street.

Area between Highland Avenue and Highland Drive large dead limbs and dead shrubs.

**Environmental Code Supervisor: Debra Dubose** ([Debra.Dubose@birninghamal.gov](mailto:Debra.Dubose@birninghamal.gov))

**For sidewalks being damaged by trees**, contact Randal Smith

([randald.smith@birninghamal.gov](mailto:randald.smith@birninghamal.gov)) with urban forestry.

**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.

**Police: Officer King attended**

He is our 323 Beat Officer from 11 AM to 9 PM Monday through Thursday. 323 Beat area covers from Tom and Jerry's (Chevron near Western on Highland) to Clairmont Ave. to Crestwood, Redmont, and part of 280.

**Incident Report** (no information due to computer problems. E. Sanfelippo to follow up with Cpt. Sellers.)

**Citizen Concerns/Questions:**

Request for more Parking Enforcement.

Contact police if fire hydrants are blocked 328-9311.

Police can ticket and/or tow if cars are blocking driveways or limiting one's ability to enter/exit a driveway.

Crime is trending down because of increased patrols, resident reports and information, and a major perpetrator was caught and arrested several months ago.

Package theft is a big issue right now. Utilize pick up services at UPS stores, have packages delivered to work, ask delivery people to put packages in less visible areas, ask neighbors to take them inside. Two package thieves have recently been arrested.

**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**

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

##### **Dept. of Transportation Director James Fowler spoke.**

[james.fowler@birninghamal.gov](mailto:james.fowler@birninghamal.gov). Transportation department telephone number is 205-254-2450. He was recently recruited from UAB. They have 70 people in the dept., and he is working on creating a parking team including parking enforcement officers and meter technicians.

Strategy and Innovation Senior Manager position - they had 60 applicants and are about 30 days away from hiring. They will be working on parking enforcement, signals/timing, maintenance, striping, signings, engineering and street management.

**St. Vincent's overflow parking issues.** The planning and engineering apartment permit department process was "not the best." They are requiring that the Fire Lane be gated. They are going to monitor parking along 28th St. S. and encouraging parking enforcement to focus there. They are also working on a potential Parking Permit Zone. Working on details, estimated time frame approximately six months(?). It will be a matter of collecting ordinances, policy/program/legal details.

**Traffic calming** is another thing that they are working on. Especially in our historic neighborhoods there are big, sweeping intersections. Solutions are very expensive to implement. Striping wears off in about two years. Fowler suggests the neighborhood picks a top priority street or intersection and work on solving issues there, and then move to the next priority. The intersection of 31st St., South and 30th Pl., South at the northern end of Rushton Park has already been done; the former yield sign from 30th Pl. onto 31st is now a full stop sign with new striping.

Infrastructure issues are big challenges in keeping up with increased demand in our area especially in terms of car traffic. The department has dwindling resources and a lot of time is being spent on repairs and dealing with issues, etc. They are going to present a citywide transportation plan that will hopefully get funded with next year's budget. They have had lots of requests for stop signs and speed humps. (Problem with too many stop signs is that it often leads to people ignoring them or doing rolling stops). They also need to coordinate the transportation plan with fire department and police department to make sure first responders have access to all areas.

How areas are prioritized: Requests/complaints are submitted and the department studies them. Sometimes it is only a perceived speeding problem. Then they review the physical aspects of the area in question, then check with PD/FD, and then move forward. They cannot legally redirect traffic, but they can try to calm it.

Question re: Are there historic district restrictions on traffic calming? No, none that anyone is aware of.

They also want to make the process more public and involve the neighborhood association. And they want to focus on "context sensitive" solutions.

**Citizen Complaint:** Parking problems on 30th St. S. b/w between Clairmont and Highland.

They are working to move their focus from downtown which is been a high productivity area and high development area and focus on other areas. Strategy and Innovation Senior Manager's first tasks will be meter technology, policies, transportation in general. Parking enforcement manager is Trenton early. They currently have nine parking enforcement officers and are looking to add more.

**Complaints/Questions/Suggestions:**

Tickets are not real punishment especially if they are not tied to ones tagged or license renewal. Council President Abbott reported that they are working on state legislation to allow the city to tie tickets to tag renewal.

What are the cameras at the intersection of Highland and Niazuma for? Motion detection.

Suggestion for St. Vincent's to lower cost to park there.

Suggestion when new stop signs are installed to temporarily install a flashing light on them to bring them to people's attention.

Complaint re: problem at 28th and University.

Request for designated spots in front of houses without driveways.

Question about jurisdiction regarding alleyways specifically nonresident speeders.

Complaint re: Milner Crescent has large hole in the alley. Fowler encourages us and the city to grow differently and look at alternative transportation and multimodal transportation solutions and start using "smarter" signals that adapt to traffic situations. They are considering parking variances and want to make the city more walkable. The parking deck/lots for Avondale and Lakeview are managed by Parking Authority.

Report items to 311 by calling 254 – city. Can you also email [sandra.ray@birninghamal.gov](mailto:sandra.ray@birninghamal.gov) to report 311 issues so that the city can track them and we can follow up on them with the specific ID #.

St. Vincent's traffic study that was done by Skipper Consulting will be reviewed by Fowler.

Question about whether another will be done prior to the next city planning commission meeting which will be (To be confirmed) the first Wednesday in November.

**Spending committee report from Anne Sunkel:**

Committee has met 3 times and reviewed "Pre-Approved Projects" from the city. Sent out survey to email list and posted on Facebook and Nextdoor. Received 225 responses and will focus on suggested projects in a long term plan to be established in 2019. Survey results to be sent to all officers.

\$6300 of discretionary funds from Council President Abbott are to be used by 12/31/18.

\$2,300 for tree purchase and planting (for damaged or cut down ones)

\$1,000 Bags to refill dog waste stations

\$1,000 Avondale Elementary arts/theater related field trip

\$1,000 AEC (Alabama Environmental Council

\$1,000 Rushton Park playground improvements

L. Contri made a motion to approve the funds as suggested by the committee, J. Somerset seconded the motion. all approved, zero opposed. Motion approved.

Committee will work with current leadership and city departments to fund and implement these projects.

Longer term planning to address: graffiti removal, master plan and tree planting, playground improvements at Rushton Park, Community Garden donation, sidewalk and brick repairs, potholes and lightings in alleys.

Laney DeJonge talked about the AEC (Alabama Environmental Council) and how they are in their 51st year working to promoting recycling and sustainability. Working with the city specifically to get glass recycling going again. They pick up recyclables from schools and restaurants in the area.

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

When emailing Abbott ([Valerie.abbott@birminghamal.gov](mailto:Valerie.abbott@birminghamal.gov)), copy Odell ([marcus.odell@birminghamal.gov](mailto:marcus.odell@birminghamal.gov)).

**Check out District 3's (7 neighborhoods) website with helpful information:**

**[www.birminghamdistrict3.com](http://www.birminghamdistrict3.com)**

\$916,000 was approved for six new trash and brush trucks the old trucks were falling apart and not running on schedule. They will probably be running on a three week schedule cycle. District 7 City Council member to replace Jay Roberson (Lakeshore, Oxmoor area) appointment will be made soon.

**Neighborhood Elections October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Candidates:**

Jessica Powers running for Vice President of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association

Elizabeth Sanfelippo (represented by fiancé John Somerset) running for President of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association

Alison Glascock – seeking re-election as President of Highland Park Neighborhood Association

**Candidates for various positions introduced themselves:**

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

Mike Anderton running for district attorney seeking reelection.

Mark Pettway (represented by his wife Vanessa Pettway) - running for Jefferson County Sherriff.

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

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

[www.southsidebhm.com](http://www.southsidebhm.com)

Eats at building next to 2600 Highland opening date has been pushed back a month or so.

Jasmine Allen in charge of the Halloween Trail along and around Highland Avenue participants include Rojo (7-10pm band, O'Henrys, Snap Fitness)

**Adjournment:** With no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7pm Upstairs at Highland Golf Clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Sanfelippo  
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association