

# **Highland Park Neighborhood Association**

## **July 2019 Minutes**

**Meeting Date: June 11, 2019**

At 6 pm Secretary Judy Jones called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone and shared that both President Elizabeth Sanfelippo and Vice President Jessica Powers would not be in attendance this evening, that Powers was on vacation and Sanfelippo was attending the Community Police Academy.

Jones stated the June 2019 meeting minutes had been distributed and asked if there were any changes or corrections. None were offered so she announced the minutes were approved.

### **Police Update**

Jones introduced Highland Park Beat Officer, Officer King (11 am to 9 pm, Monday - Thursday). Officer King shared the primary areas he covered were Highland Park and Redmont. He asked if anyone had any questions, areas they felt additional patrols were needed or parking/speeding related complaints. A resident on Niazuma reported hearing gunshots at 11:53 pm the previous Friday evening. She said they were across the street from the Villa Apartments (2724 Niazuma) and actually saw the muzzle fire. The resident said they called 911 and asked Officer King what further they should do in these situations, especially when things seem to escalate so quickly. He replied they should definitely report when they see something 'out of place', someone arguing or in some sort of questionable altercation. Jones suggested that if the residents see an argument starting, to call, report it and say that it feels like the argument is in danger of escalating. A Park Tower resident asked whether Officer King knew about another Park Tower resident who had gotten held up while walking his dog on Highland (across from Park Tower) by 2 teenagers with a gun. Officer King said he had not talked to the responding detectives about that incident.

Richard Dickerson shared his appreciation for Officer King, that every time he sees him, asks him about something, he is always prompt, responsive and helpful. Dickerson said he wished the city had more officers like Officer King.

Ray Davis asked Officer King about the individual who was found unresponsive at the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Highland a few weeks ago. Officer King replied they had received a call about the individual, they responded and found him seated, not conscious, on one of the benches in an upright position with blood under the bench. The fire department arrived, they transported him immediately to St. Vincent's where they tried to revive him. The man died the next day. Officer King explained that initially they believed the man had been hit by a car but subsequent examination at St. Vincent's indicated he didn't have that kind of injury, that the man had experienced liver failure. Officer King said that further conversations they had with nearby residents indicated the man was well known to have a serious drinking problem.

### **Public Works Update**

Jones shared that our Public Works representative Tammie Wheeler was not in attendance this evening. She encouraged residents with issues to report them to the neighborhood's email address: [HighlandParkNeighborhoodAL@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandParkNeighborhoodAL@gmail.com).

Jones went on to share that a resident on her street had gotten sideways with Public Works about the condition of her yard. She said Ms. Wheeler had been very helpful and respectful to the resident through the whole process. Jones said she wanted to share this because one never knows what happens when you get involved in these situations, you get ticketed, get a summons, have to go to court, etc. She said Tammie was 110% respectful all along the way - to the point of helping the resident by coming by her house the day before a court date, taking pictures and getting them to the judge. Jones said she emailed Ms. Wheeler, who responded and answered her questions in a very timely manner. She said she wanted to share this during the meeting because it was not all exactly as she would have expected as the situation played out; that she was grateful for the happy ending and impressed by Ms. Wheeler's help along the way.

### **Fire Department Update**

No representative from the Fire Department was present. Jones asked a question generally addressed to the city employees present about where to report a fire hydrant malfunctioning, that there had been unsuccessful calls directly to the Fire Department locations on Highland Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Avondale. Officer King said those incidents should be definitely reported to the Fire Department, that if the Fire Department could not be reached it could be reported to the police.

### **EATS Restaurant Update/Wendi Cruse**

Wendi Cruse shared an update on her 2608 Highland Avenue restaurant, EATS. She said they'd been working on it a while and had really appreciated the visits and wonderful encouragement they had received from residents. She said the final city inspection was scheduled in two weeks, that after that they would meet with the Department of Revenue downtown to pay their fee and obtain their City of Birmingham license and Certificate of Occupancy. They would then take that to Health Department who would then schedule their final inspection. Cruse said a preliminary inspection two months ago had turned up a couple of minor issues that had now been addressed with the water heater and ceiling electrical work. She reported they have started hiring employees. She said they would start with lunch the first one to two weeks they opened and would assess when to add dinner, that this decision would depend somewhat on staffing. Cruse said she was excited that both people hired so far were from the neighborhood. Alison Glascock mentioned she liked their awning. Cruse reported it had taken more time than planned because of a related city rule they'd been unaware of, but that it was now up. She added that it was big and bright, a creative decision reached because of the restaurant's distance from the street. Cruse was asked what would be on the menu. She replied they planned a Cuban/Latin inspired healthier version of a 'meat and three'; that they would have set menu items along with a special each day that would likely focus on foods that were

seasonal and available. She reported they would soon complete their FBI and credit checks necessary to obtain their ABC license. She thanked the neighborhood for their support.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Remarks on the Passing of Ann Hadjuk/Alison Glascock**

Alison Glascock said she was very sad to have to report that a former Highland Park neighbor, Ann Hadjuk, had passed away June 12 at the age of 66 after a several year struggle with multiple myeloma. She shared that the Hadjuk family had lived in Highland Park for many years, leaving here for Wood Hole, MA on Cape Cod and then finally settling back in Georgia. Glascock shared that decades ago, Ann had on several occasions kicked her in the backside to get her moving and involved in the neighborhood. She said that around 1988 she and her husband Charles got involved in the neighborhood when Najar & Najar wanted to build a three-story concrete office building on the corner lot where the Eastern Church is now located, adding, that at the time, that whole block was prime real estate because it was a corner lot with only 1-2 houses on it. She said neighborhood residents got fired up to fight that development attempt and other threats that followed through the years. She shared that Ann Hadjuk preceded her and Charles' involvement in the neighborhood, that Ann had worked as a Landscape Architect and was very enthusiastic about trees. She said sometime around 1990 Ann asked she and Charles to plot the locations of tree stumps in the neighborhood, that the idea was to take out the tree stumps and put in trees. Alison shared as a result of those early efforts over the past 20 years, some 2000 trees had been planted across the neighborhood. She said Hadjuk had actually gotten a grant from an organization like the Small Business Administration for trees which was a major contribution to the neighborhood. She said at some point, Hadjuk went to the Netherlands on sabbatical and left Glascock in charge. 1996 renovating Rhodes Park and that all started because Terry Slaughter who used to live in the Morrow House. Ann was an integral part of that. That effort continued for a number of years, that the neighborhood might have raised as much as \$150,000 for what turned out to be a very successful project. Alison said she relied on Ann Hadjuk for so many things, that organizations like this one depend on those who went before us and it was important to her that the current residents know how important Ann Hadjuk was to Highland Park. Jones added that she could attest to Alison's remarks, that the Hadjuks had lived across the street from her until they moved to Massachusetts - and that they made great neighbors and were a fine family.

Glascock went on to speak of her next door neighbor Mike Oliver who has been diagnosed with Lewy body dementia. She said Oliver still works for the Birmingham News and posts online to make people aware of the disease. She shared an article written about Oliver by John Archibald.

(Aug 5 Update: Link to Oliver's blog: <https://myvinylcountdown.com/> ; Link to Archibald article:

[https://www.al.com/news/2018/07/if\\_you\\_love\\_someone\\_with\\_demen.html](https://www.al.com/news/2018/07/if_you_love_someone_with_demen.html) )

### **Do Dah Day Update/Rusty Russell**

Jones noted that Rusty Russ had been scheduled this evening to provide an update on 2019 Do Dah Day held in Rushton Park but that he was not in attendance. Glascock mentioned that Ann Hadjuk was a key reason that she was so protective of Rhodes Park.

### **Birmingham School Board Update/Mary Boehm**

Mrs. Boehm introduced herself as the School Board member representing District 3. She said Highland Park didn't see her so often because the School Board usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Jones pointed out Boehm was a resident of Highland Park's sister neighborhood, Forest Park. Boehm shared that she had worked to plant trees in Forest Park around the same time that Highland Park was working on theirs. She said she was grateful to be able to attend our meeting. She said she also learned just that day that last fall Highland Park donated \$1000 to a program at Avondale School (allowing the children to attend a production at Children's Theatre) from their funds designated to each District 3 neighborhood by Valerie Abbott. She said sadly, because of confusion related to procurement of the funds, the check had only been received by the school in June even though it had been approved last year. She said she wanted to thank Highland Park for their donation - and also to the anonymous donor who stepped up to fund the project when the funds were delayed. She said she knew the delayed funds would be used very wisely by Avondale and if okay with the neighborhood, she would report back to us how it all turns out.

Boehm reported being in conversations with Community Food Bank of Alabama about their 'Family Market Distribution Program' and the possibility that packets of food (produce and non-perishable items) could be provided monthly to families in need at Glen Iris, Avondale, Ramsey and Epic Schools. She said there was money involved and that she was hoping that the District 3 neighborhoods would consider a contribution to that effort. She said they would be meeting again with the Food Bank and would bring more information back to us.

She shared some good news, that Ramsey High School had been ranked among the top 25 schools in Alabama by US News and World Report. She said they had a new principal on board at Ramsey, Carolyn Russell Walker, who was previously the Assistant Principal at Huffman. She also shared that the principal at Glen Iris, Dr. Mike Wilson, had received the National Distinguished Principal Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals for the State of Alabama. Boehm said that two BCS Teachers of the Year had been named and they were grateful to Adamson Ford for giving each of these teachers a new SUV.

Boehm stated that registration for Birmingham's First Class Pre K program for 4 year olds is still open that there is still availability at Epic, Avondale and Glen Iris. She said she'd appreciate Highland Park residents passing the word around on this, adding that the program cost was deeply supported by the state and really very phenomenal.

Boehm shared that a very important thing to be aware of was that the city has scheduled a referendum on October 8 where voters will be asked to extend an Ad Valorem tax that has been in place for many years that has been providing, and will continue to provide,

\$32 million dollars to the Birmingham City Schools. She said this vote has been scheduled to coincide with the vote on three city council member positions that are currently occupied by interim representatives. She emphasized this referendum was for the extension of an existing tax and not a new tax. She said she hoped that residents would consider voting 'YES' on this extension.

Boehm announced that a Back to School Beautification project in partnership with Hands on Birmingham was scheduled for 8 am until noon Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. She said they would for sure be working at Avondale and Ramsey and would love our help.

Boehm said that residents might have heard of a new program being launched by Mayor Woodfin in partnership with United Way, the Birmingham Promise. She shared the program aims to combine apprenticeships with scholarships for Birmingham city school seniors to present them with more educational options and pathways for entering the workplace. She said the mayor is recruiting partners to raise funds for the program and that there will be more information to follow on the effort.

Boehm reported that among the education legislation passed in this last session of the state legislature was a program that will provide resources for our K through 3 students to get more students on grade level reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The downside of the program is that if they are not on grade level reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, there is a risk they will be held back. She said Birmingham does not have enough children reading at grade level now and that this will provide additional resources over the next couple of years to help us accomplish that.

She asked the group for questions. Richard Dickerson said that before the residents, the city, supports extension of the \$32 million dollar tax that we all need some understanding of what is being done to improve these schools. He stated there were 20 of our schools on the state's failing list last year, 14 the year before - and that this represents thousands of black children who cannot read. He referenced the Birmingham Promise and pointed out this means the mayor is taking \$2 million dollars from the school budget to fund this initiative. He asked what this meant to the school budget to have this \$2 million taken away. Boehm asked if Councilor Abbott would like to respond to Dickerson's question. Dickerson clarified saying the current budget totaled a proposed \$451,407,950 and said he would like to know if Abbott agreed with it, if she supported the budget, if there were parts of it she didn't support, whether she supported Mayor Woodfin taking \$2 million dollars from the education budget for the Birmingham Promise initiative, whether she supported Mayor Woodfin's \$1.2 million dollar request for legislative services.

Dickerson said there had been very little discussion on these issues and that it is 'our' money. Abbott said she would let Boehm finish and address his questions in her part of the meeting agenda. Boehm went on to say to Dickerson's point that the School Board had asked the Mayor to keep the funding at the current level of \$3 million dollars. She said they believe the Birmingham Promise program has potential to support our students in a way they aren't supported now, so there is value in the program. But they are unhappy about losing resources so they have asked him to reconsider that. Dickerson asked what the impact would be of losing those funds. Boehm replied there was an opportunity to receive additional revenue from the city in taxes they have not previously

received but that it was all still only proposed at this point. Jones thanked Boehm for attending the meeting and told the information had been very appreciated and that any time she couldn't attend the meeting, if she would send notes and announcements of this nature, we would be happy to share them in our meetings. Boehm thanked her and said she would.

Helen Rivas asked Boehm about a high turnover of teachers at Avondale School, expressing her concern about this and other related issues about what might be happening there. Boehm conceded there are issues at Avondale and said they have a new principal who has only been there a year. She said they were listening to the concerns of the parents and teachers and taking those concerns seriously; that they had selected this principal and at the present time they were standing by her but would be closely monitoring the situation over the next year. Rivas emphasized she was concerned about the impact of what might happen over another year.

Jones thanked Boehm for attending the meeting and for her service to our community.

### **City Council Update/President Valerie Abbott**

Jones introduced City Council President Valerie Abbott. Abbott said it was good to see everyone this evening and that she knows residents would like to know what is going on with the city's budget. She said the budget was supposed to have been passed by June 30 and that she felt like the Council, like all the years she's been involved, has concentrated too much on meaningless minutia within the budget and don't concentrate enough on the actual meaningful parts of the budget. She said members have little special interests they try to get funded by cutting other things that *we* think are less important and, as a result, wind up not serving the people because *we* are not addressing your largest complaints - your streets need paving, sidewalks are cracked and broken up, the crime problems, etc. She said she felt the street lighting was much better but there were still some dark places. She added she thought the city did their best job with the fire department, that if your house catches fire or you have a heart attack and someone can call 911, *we* do a great job - but, if the city doesn't fund the fire department, they might not do such a great job. You want your trash picked up more often than every three weeks. So the bottom line, *we* have a lot of issues in the city that deal with services to the citizens, the things people actually want their tax dollars to go toward. And instead *we* concentrate on Function at the Junction, the Magic City Classic, Party with a Purpose - Abbott says she calls those type events 'one hit wonders' because one day out of the year *we* spend a lot of money on events that may be fun but they do not contribute to the quality of life that you experience the rest of the year. She referenced the question about the Birmingham Promise, saying she thought it a lovely program, but she would prefer the mayor to get donors to donate the money to pay for it. She explained the program is a promise that high school seniors and graduates will have an opportunity to get an internship, if they meet various qualifications, with a corporation here in Birmingham so that they will get job skills and learn what a job actually means. She said a lot of young people don't get those opportunities now because there hasn't been a lot of jobs for 16-18 year old youth. She explained the mayor really believes that if we can offer a scholarship to every graduating

high school senior in Birmingham then people will step up their game, take school more seriously - and perhaps decide to stay in Birmingham rather than fleeing the city for the suburbs and their school systems. Abbott said she was not in agreement with taking the money from the Board of Education but that she felt the majority of the city council did agree with it. She explained the Council didn't see serious use of the city's money they gave the school board last year. She said she thought 2-3 of the council members were concerned about the Birmingham Promise taking money away from children learning to read and do math - and that we desperately need children who have those basic skills because if they can't, they certainly won't be able to get an internship or a scholarship. The status of the budget now is that *we* are in the weeds of minutia with the 'one hit wonders' and *we* want to cut things out of the budget like minor funding for the ballet, symphony, Jones Valley Urban Farm, the Vulcan Trail, the Zoo, - and to put on parties, which she, Abbott, doesn't support. She said the Council has had four budget workshops where we've have hashed out the things we want and don't want. She said she has things she'd like to see funded for her district also but feels requesting a long list of pet projects to be added to the budget is selfish when the Council should instead be focused on improving basic city services like street paving, sidewalk repair, public safety - simple things like putting sewer covers back on storm drains in some neighborhoods. Abbott said they planned a meeting this coming Friday to decide whether to approve the budget or leave the budget the way the mayor has proposed and move ahead - or something in between. She said the mayor was communicating with various council members about realities of city operation, because most them did not attend the meetings with the individual city departments to learn about their annual needs to provide good service to the citizens. She said individuals not attending those meetings might think they can cut from department budgets because they don't understand its requirements.

Abbott asked if there were any questions. Richard Dickerson asked about the \$3 million being given to the UAB football stadium, \$1.2 million for legislative services (\$50,000 per month) and told Abbott he'd give her credit for voting against the surcharge last week but added this budget was wrong in many different ways. He stated we needed to be mindful that 1 in 4 people in the city is illiterate, 1 in 3 live at or below poverty, adding that when we talk about quality of life issues, we need mentoring and after school programs to try to keep these kids out of jail and out of the system. He asked about Josh Carpenter (Director of Economic Development) and his statement that we are getting \$6 for every \$1 we put in, that if this is true, with that ROI why are we raising taxes? Abbott began by explaining the logic behind raising taxes on hotel bills, that most people paying this tax don't live here and likely wouldn't notice - which she then said is untrue. She said the mayor was opposed to this tax but that the mayor didn't get a vote. Three of the council members voted no, six voted yes, so now we have this additional tax on hotel rooms. She pointed out that savvy event planners look at things like that and as a result may go to other municipalities in the area and not Birmingham. She said this tax is going to make it more difficult for the Convention and Visitors Center to bring large conventions to Birmingham because convention planners notice. Abbott said she was deeply disappointed the council approved this tax. She referenced the legislative services

line item, saying that one of the recipients, Pine Street, works in the Federal arena. The other company is the Jones Group and they do work at the state level. She said she felt we were paying them too much because we weren't seeing much in the way of a return. She explained lobbyists are supposed to either bring home money or stop bad things from happening to the city at those governmental levels. Abbott said she had never felt like we needed lobbyists but now understood the importance in having someone in Montgomery and Washington daily who is committed to our issues. She shared if the city council wants a lobbyist, they pay for it out of their own city council budget but interestingly, if the mayor wants a lobbyist, he can add it to the overall city budget. The council has proposed dividing the lobbyist expense between the mayor and council budget, allowing each to go their own way with respect to lobbyist work.

A question was asked about the parking permit zone program. Abbot said that Councilor O'Quinn has an intern working on the neighborhood parking zone issue. She said they do have a new department head, James Fowler, who came from UAB and was actually working on parking zone issues before he left UAB. She expected the project to gain momentum when Fowler arrived but that hasn't happened as the issues with neighborhood parking are more complex than they initially seemed; UAB students are a problem for Glen Iris, UAB Hospital students, patients and employees are a problem for Five Points South, and St Vincent's employees and patients are a problem for Highland Park. She pointed out that Druid Hills doesn't have a problem today but when the stadium is built they certainly will have issues then. Abbott said that Councilor O'Quinn has had an intern this summer, Collin Alexander, an urban planner who is working on that issue exclusively - and that Mr. Alexander was at the meeting tonight. She said Mr. Fowler now says the effort is ongoing, will cost money, that he doesn't know where the money will come from. Someone asked about the need for money, Abbott and Alexander answered that funds were needed for administrative staffing.

### **Miscellaneous Questions**

Someone asked about the status of the 'sister' houses on Highland. Jones said she did not know the latest status and asked John Somerset if he'd share what he knew. Somerset said the owner had been ordered by the city during a condemnation hearing to bring various properties into some kind of compliance by the end of July or August or face significant fines. He said the owner had actually been able to obtain a permit for the property on Rhodes Circle and he understood there was foundation work going on there. The resident asked if there was a chance the homes would come down, Jones and Somerset said it was a complete unknown at this point. Abbott pointed out that if the owner does what the judge has asked him to, then the homes likely will not come down. But if the owner does not comply or sell the properties, then there is definitely a danger the houses will come down. A question was asked about several other properties, Jones asked the residents to email President Sanfelippo ([highlandparkneighborhoodal@gmail.com](mailto:highlandparkneighborhoodal@gmail.com)) the property addresses and their queries.

### **Update on Neighborhood Parking Zone Project/Collin Alexander**



Collin Alexander introduced himself and said he grew up in Highland Park. He said he had recently graduated from George Washington University in Urban Planning and is working this summer for Councilor O'Quinn under his purview as Transportation Chair. He shared that his singular focus this summer has been looking at potential residential parking permitting programs and residential parking issues. He said he has broken the area of study into 4 zones. He shared he was doing a block by block on-foot audit of on-street parking conditions and taking photographs. He said he had just completed the Five Points area zone, from 17<sup>th</sup> Street to 13<sup>th</sup> Street, 16<sup>h</sup> Avenue to 11<sup>th</sup>. He said he was currently working in the Highland Park area, in the area from 30<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and from University Boulevard to Highland Ave. He said right now he was focusing solely on major parking generators and building a zone that extends a quarter to a half of a mile out from the parking generator. He said in the case of Highland Park, the parking generator was St Vincent's Hospital. He said he was also looking at a zone in the Glen Iris and a zone based around the Five Points entertainment district. He said he was performing a block by block analysis of these areas and will compile a roughly 200 page report for each of the zones. He said he was researching residential parking programs across the country for city sizes similar to Birmingham and would be summarizing what those programs looked like and evaluating what could potentially work in the city of Birmingham given our issues and challenges. And if not residential parking permit zones, what are some other solutions that might alleviate some of our parking concerns. He said individual reports will be compiled for each of the zones and at the end of the summer presented to Councilor Abbott and Councilor O'Quinn, as well as the Department of Transportation. He said his efforts will be considered the ground work to provide a foundation for the work that will be done on the permit zones. Jones asked if he would make recommendations in his report, Alexander said yes, that he would include his recommendations block by block and include counter proposals if appropriate. He referenced the earlier question about costs for the program saying that part of the costs are administrative, that even though on a permitting system residents would pay for it, but someone would still have to issue the permits, there's be a vendor the city partnered with, if changes are made to Birmingham's metering system they'd have to figure out how permitting would work with that, etc. Alexander added that a key issue was enforcement for the program, that if residents are paying for a permit to park on their streets and there is no enforcement, then it's all pointless. A question was asked about how the program would be implemented, whether phased in or piloted in certain areas with a review and procedural tweaks before moving forward. Alexander said that was beyond his purview. He said he couldn't say how the city might choose to implement the program but as an urban planner he would recommend that the city put in zones around parking generators and then allow the citizens to petition for their blocks and institute a review process for their requests.

Helen Rivas lamented the investment in parking and things related to parking when we could be improving public transit. Rivas said they had a good meeting the previous morning with Councilor O'Quinn discussing issues and alternatives related to the BRT

line, a statewide transit funding authority and getting the Transit Trust Fund up and running.

### **Committee Reports**

Anne Sunkel gave a brief update on the Graffiti Busters, reporting they had finally gotten the association approved funds for cleanup from the city. She recommended any one needing funds for a neighborhood project to request them early, as they had been waiting on these dollars for six months. She emphasized that President Elizabeth Sanfelippo had been on it like a bulldog, sending emails and constant follow-ups but that it still took six months. She said by the time the funds were received, much of the work had already accomplished by individual volunteers using their personal resources. She said they had now shopped and had a good supply of cleaning materials, chemicals, etc. She asked the group that if they ran across new taggings, to post that and the location on NextDoor or email that information to [HighlandParkNeighborhoodAL@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandParkNeighborhoodAL@gmail.com). She shared the group was very pleased that the large areas that had been tagged and subsequently cleaned had not been re-tagged. She shared that the Avalon had actually spent some of their own funds to put up a 'clear coat' on their wall so that any new tagging could be removed much easier.

Ray Davis provided a brief update from the Beautification Committee, saying they would be meeting again this coming weekend, that they would be discussing long and short term plans to address solutions for littering and trash removal (to include identifying spots where trash can be left and removed without issue). He shared they had already identified locations for new trees that will be planted this fall. He said they also planned to get stumps ground up, that obviously trees had flourished in those locations for a long time and therefore would likely be good locations for new plantings. He said the committee would be looking at weed control, particularly along Highland Avenue between the road and the sidewalk. Davis shared they would be periodically asking for volunteers to help with litter removal days and post storm clean-up efforts around the neighborhood. Alison Glascock asked Davis if they were aware they needed to work within the city's guidelines related to tree plantings in right of way areas. Davis said they were indeed aware of that need and will be working with the city on this project.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements**

Jones shared that the next Large Trash and Brush pick up was Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup>. She reminded residents to make separate piles for furniture/trash and mulchable items (bagged leaves and brush).

Jones announced that the next 'Path to Compassion' Speaker Series event will be next Sunday, July 21 at 3 pm at the Clubhouse on Highland. She shared the speakers this month would be staff from Episcopal Place to talk about how they create compassionate community.

Councilor Abbott said each council member used to have public improvement committed dollars and that she put all of hers into the Parks and Recreation Board for repairs and improvements to city parks in District 3. She asked if anyone sees anything that needs to

be repaired in a city park, that money is there; that all someone would have to do is send a request to her office and give a contact name for the Park and Rec people to talk to, to arrange a visit to confirm what needs to be done.

Vance Holder shared that he would like the owner of EATS and the store he looks at from his balcony, to do something a little more aesthetically pleasing to the store itself, that it was a mess. Jones said coincidentally the owner had been at the meeting earlier. He also communicated an issue with the physician's office nearby has a dumpster in the back that had all sorts of unsightly materials in and around it, that they have tried to communicate with him before without success. Jones suggested emailing his issues and location addresses to [HighlandParkNeighborhoodAL@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandParkNeighborhoodAL@gmail.com) and that we would get something formal started with it. He said he had spoken to Elizabeth but would follow up and do that also.

**Adjournment:** With no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 6 pm upstairs at Highland Golf Clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association