

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

November 2019 Minutes

Meeting Date: November 12, 2019

At 6 pm President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the meeting to order. She introduced Secretary Judy Jones and said she thought Vice President Jessica Powers might arrive late.

Sanfelippo stated the minutes from the October meeting had been distributed and asked if there were any changes or corrections. None were offered. Larry Contri moved to approve the minutes. Rick Hubbard seconded his motion which then passed unanimously.

Police Update

Sanfelippo introduced Highland Park's Beat Officer, Officer King who asked if there were any questions, complaints, abandoned vehicles or areas requiring additional patrols. Judy Jones was recognized and said she had noticed cars parked illegally being ticketed on her street and that she had made a point of stopping and thanking all officers involved. Officer King reminded the group to call the precinct with these problems.

Sanfelippo reminded the group that we were getting into the holiday season and that thieves love to see packages left in cars - and encouraged residents to avoid leaving packages in view and remember to lock their cars.

Ann Hadjuk Memorial Tree Planting/Jane Ross

Sanfelippo introduced Jane Ross, who was present to make a request about a tree planning in memory of longtime Highland Park resident Ann Hadjuk. Ross introduced herself as being with the Alabama Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects. She said they would like to ask the neighborhood's permission to plant a tree at Rhodes Park on the high side next to the steps in honor of Ann Hadjuk. She explained that Hadjuk was a landscape architect who lived in this neighborhood 20+ years- and was very instrumental in working toward and promoting green spaces, trees, that she was a great steward of the land. She shared that Hadjuk helped restore Rhodes and Rushton Parks - and did a lot of work at Avondale Elementary School. She said Hadjuk had been a landscape architect at Nimrod Long & Associates for 20+ years and worked on many public spaces like, for example, Linn Park and Birmingham Green. Ross said Hadjuk was a dear friend to us all. She shared a handout that showed the proposed location of the tree, explaining that one of Ann's favorite trees was the Black Gum, that it was a native tree and has great fall color. She said they chose a spot on the perimeter of the park that has a void and needs a tree right now. She said the tree will be in a spot that she perceives is the main entrance on the high side and that it will be a hardy location for it. She shared they had put the request before the Parks and Recreation board and it had

been approved. Sanfelippo asked if there was a plan for watering the tree. Ross said yes, that Highland Park resident Sharon Nelson is talking to several neighbors about watering the tree. She added that they intended to initially put a product on the tree, a tree-diaper, explaining it was a ring that goes around the base of the tree that contains 'diaper product' - that absorbs water. When it rains it absorbs that water and will release it back into the ground over time. She said the neighbors will support the watering when it goes periods without rain. Alison Glascock asked how large the tree will be when it goes in. Ross replied it was a 2-1/2 inch caliper tree and probably 14-16 feet tall. A question was asked about frequency of watering, Ross replied that it depending on time of year - in August, it would probably need watering weekly, but in November, with the amount of rain we've been having, probably not at all. She shared that Hunter Trees, in Childersburg, was donating the tree, adding that Phillip Hunter had worked with Landscape Services and had worked with Ann on many residential projects. Judy Jones asked if Ann's family was aware of the tree planting. Ross answered yes, that they were planning a memorial service by the tree (if the effort is approved) - and that Ann's husband, Steve Hadjuk, who now lives in Athens, is planning to attend along with Joanna (their daughter) and several other family members. A motion was made to approve the project as presented by Jared Nelson. Alison Glascock seconded the motion. The motion carried with 17 yays and no nays or abstentions. Ross invited everyone to the memorial service which would be at the tree location next Thursday, November 21st at 4 pm. She said after the service all interested would go to Rojo and share stories.

Active Shooter Training/Sergeant Roger Harless

Sanfelippo stated we had planned for a presentation tonight on Active Shooter Training by Sergeant Roger Harless but that Sgt Harless had had a family emergency. She said we would reschedule this presentation for the beginning of next year.

2918 Clairmont Office Building Parking Lot Issue/Charlie Beavers

Sanfelippo introduced Charlie Beavers, the attorney for Mr Alan Crafton who owns the office building at 2918 Clairmont Avenue. She said the building was roughly across the street from Eva Bank. She said one might not think the building was a part of Highland Park but that it was part of a little tab on that side of the street that is included in our neighborhood. Mr. Beavers said that Alan Crafton was in attendance along with Brian Sullivan, explaining that Crafton was owner of Crafton Communications. He said that company had purchased and renovated the property at 2918 Clairmont Ave about 2 years ago and that there were about 30 employees working there. Beavers told the group there had been an instrument executed about 20 years ago which purported to give a 'right to park' in the parking lot behind the building (accessible via the alley) at 2918 to one of the bars in the area. He said that document was never signed by the individual who owned the 2918 property at that time. He said the document had a 5-year term and included an option to extend it another 5 years, pointing out that at the most that would have been 10 years - and that was 19 years ago. He said that had gone before the Zoning Board of Adjustment for approval for that bar to open without parking; that the Zoning Board had

noted the lack of signature but approved it subject to the folks getting a proper agreement that was then approved by the city attorney and staff - which apparently never happened because it was the unsigned agreement that was recorded. Now the new owner has been experiencing issues with the manner in which the parking lot is used at night and weekends, that sometimes there are actually cars still there on Monday morning - even at times, with people in them. Beavers shared that both the City Attorney and Planning Staff had reviewed the document and pronounced it not enforceable; but that since the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) had been involved with it initially the city wanted the ZBA to review it again and formally concur with the city attorney and staff and have it be part of the record. He said this would occur on this Thursday, before the ZBA. He said, as part of this process, they were to come to the neighborhood association answer any questions and seek their support to manage and install signage in the lot that would allow them to tow non-employees. Beavers said the business simply wanted to get control of their parking. Sanfelippo shared that this had been presented to the neighborhood's Zoning and Planning Committee and that committee was in support of the request. Jones asked if this request was approved whether there would be posting before ticketing and towing started, so that people using the lot now would have some advance notice. Beavers said yes, that there will be a mechanism to make parking available in a more controlled way so that the community will have it available in the evenings for parking. Alison Glascock moved to support the request by Crafton Communications; Mary Helen Crowe seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 15 yays and 2 abstaining.

Highland Golf Club Update/Bob Barrett & Evan Godfrey

Sanfelippo introduced Bob Barrett and Evan Godfrey from the Highland Park Golf Club. She thanked them for all they do with respect to set-up and space for the neighborhood to meet in the facility. Barrett introduced Godfrey as the General Manager of the Golf Course who had been there almost 11 years now. Barrett introduced himself as the individual who did the update at the Golf Course in 1998. He asked how many in the room had been living in the neighborhood back in '98 - and was subsequently surprised by the number of people in the room who had been. He shared that in 1998 the City of Birmingham had put out an RFP because the Golf Course had been closed and dormant for a couple of years, for someone to come in and operate the Golf Course. Barrett said the facility/property was, at that time, overgrown and in terrible shape. Ultimately, he and Mark Elden from Torchmark teamed up in a public/private partnership with the City of Birmingham. He explained that he has been in golf business his whole career and that Torchmark was a Birmingham-based company and very passionate about doing something good for the city. He said they thought they were going to come in and pay about \$2.5 million for the renovation and we spent \$3.8 million. He shared that Dec. 8 will be 21 years since they reopened after that 1998 renovation. Barrett said they will spend approximately \$1.2 million with the current upgrade project - which will redo the greens, the bunkers, cart path work and tree work. He said he knew some people had issues that they took some of the trees out but unfortunately "you can't grow grass and trees in the south, you either have one or the other." Barrett then showed the group

comparison photos from the 1998 renovation and now. He explained it was the City of Birmingham's responsibility to maintain the building and surrounding landscaping- and said the neighborhood could help encourage them to do their part to take care of the facility to complement what is happening out on the greens. He said 35,000 rounds of golf are played there annually.

As he showed the photos he shared that they had re-sodded the entire property back in 98, saying that amounted to 60 acres of sod. The photos showed how desolate the property looked back at that time. He said their goal was to get back opened by Thanksgiving but with the heat in September to the extreme cold we've experienced of late, that their grass was having a hard time coming back in. They are now hopeful for a date in early December but that it was all predicated on weather. He said that if they didn't get some favorable weather there was always the chance they'd get pushed back to late February or March which would be somewhat catastrophic to their business model. He invited residents to come by and see the results of what they've been working on before they re-open, whenever that is.

Barrett shared that the Golf Course does about 50 charity events a year. He said they give most all those charities favorable pricing because they try to help their efforts/causes as well. He said over the past 20 years the golf course has probably been involved in those charities raising \$8-10 million. He displayed a list of the many area organizations they help, adding that they raised \$600,000 with the help of Highland Golf Course events. He said they actually donated about 4,000 rounds of golf to the charities. He said he wanted the residents to know that they weren't just there as a business, that they really do want to give back to the community, in particular Highland Park and Forest Park, but truly all of Birmingham. He said they had the Tiger Woods Foundation here back in 2001 and it was quite the spectacle and well received. He added that just yesterday they had done a veterans' golf event that was covered on Fox 6 news.

He said if he had one request of Highland Park residents, it would be to help the Golf Course encourage the city to keep up with the landscaping along the perimeter of the Golf Course, outside the fencing, which belongs to the city; as in if you ride by and look at it - and it's not what it needs to be, it's the city's responsibility. He said back in 1998, they paid to have it put in - and they were to maintain it, which they are not doing in the way they need to. He pointed out it would enhance the streetscape as well.

He thanked the group for the opportunity to be there tonight and their support- and said to let them know whatever they could do to be a good neighbor and be supportive of the community. Godfrey said they really enjoyed hosting the neighborhood meetings. He added that if anything comes up later that Sanfelippo has his contact information.

Spending Allocation Requests

Sanfelippo said she would like to take care of a couple of business items related to spending.

The first, a \$200 allocation for Neighborhood officers to attend the Martin Luther King Jr Unity Breakfast in January 20 at 7:30 am. She said the Spending Committee has recommended the purchase of 4 tickets, with a priority on the officers attending - but any tickets remaining might be shared via a drawing from a pool of residents who had expressed an interest in attending. Sanfelippo said if anyone had an idea of how to accomplish this in a fair way, to share that. Resident Helen Rivas said that since tables were for eight people, that maybe the neighborhood could reserve a table along with 4 people who were willing and able to pay for their tickets. Sanfelippo noted it was a 'good idea' but added that we were in a bit of a crunch to submit the request and have it processed. . Jared Nelson moved to approve a \$200 expenditure to purchase four tickets to the 2020 MLK Jr Unity Breakfast. The motion was seconded by Mary Helen Crowe. The motion passed with 19 yays and no opposed or absentions. Sanfelippo asked again that if anyone had a better idea about how to select people to share the extra tickets, to let her know. She said she would inform the neighborhood and give perhaps a week for people to communicate their interest - then they would draw names from that pool.

Sanfelippo then shared that we had been considering a donation to Episcopal Place. Jamie Whitehurst, a Highland Park resident and also Director of Development at Episcopal Place - which is a 501-C3 that provides housing for disabled young adults and adults as well as low income senior citizens, attended and was available to answer any questions. Sanfelippo said the Spending Committee did not recommend it, primarily because of questions relating to what precedent the neighborhood might be setting with respect to donations to various charities rather than neighborhood improvements, and whether this would open the door to a myriad of other groups requesting funds and whether we would be creating a slippery slope. She said the request was for \$500 for their ECares group - which performs special services for residents to include transportation, housekeeping for the frail and sick, financial assistance, holiday meals, etc. Alison Glascock noted that while this was indeed a very good cause, that it would be good to have a written policy on how these requests were considered - because we could very well become inundated with requests from non-profits of all sorts. Others expressed similar concerns, that this fund at Episcopal Place was indeed a good cause but by granting funds here the neighborhood could set itself up to receive many such requests. Resident Jared Nelson said one way to put borders around that, establish criteria that assists in considering requests, would be to require the requestor(s) (and/or the recipient organization) have a tie to the neighborhood. Another resident suggested having a window of time where organizations can request funds - not all year. Resident Larry Contri said he had always heard that the focus of allocations made by neighborhoods using funds from the city were to be used for neighborhood improvements. Sanfelippo responded that was a valid concern and added that we are allowed to give to charitable organizations. Jones said she had thought about this a lot, sharing that Jamie and Episcopal Place staff had come to

speak at her Compassion event in July - and that he had given Highland Park residents a presentation on Episcopal Place when they hosted the neighborhood meeting there in September. She realized that he was unable to share some of the beautiful stories of how they help residents at that meeting because some of the recipients of that help were in the audience at the meeting that night. She said the types of stories relayed at her event included someone able to get a hearing aid for the first time, that most of these people, if they receive food stamps, it's only \$15-20 per month; that most of what this fund accomplishes is small 'quality of life' sorts of things for people who would otherwise have no other means to have these things. Jones said she was a big believer in creating precedent and the presence of a slippery slope, but the thing, for her, that makes this different - is that Episcopal Place is a non-profit and that the people there were actually our neighbors, as in neighbors who actually live in Highland Park. Someone asked if residents of Episcopal Place were actually Highland Park residents, who if they had transportation, could attend these meetings and vote. Sanfelippo responded yes. The same resident asked their transportation needs and related costs, if those had increased because of the city cutting funding to ClassTran. Whitehurst replied that eventually those changes would affect their residents. He said they have their own transportation in the form of a van and they take residents to doctors appointments and grocery stores. A resident noted that we had recently given money to Do Dah Day, Recycling Center and Avondale Elementary (which isn't even in Highland Park) and went on to say he felt the idea of giving dollars to Highland Park residents who need it, is more important. Sanfelippo clarified that while we did allocate money to AEC/Recycling Center, they subsequently closed, then didn't have a business license and it didn't wind up happening. She made a suggestion that we table this item and that she would go back and discuss our ideas with the Spending Committee and ask them to come up with a better idea on how this might work going forward. Ray Davis asked how much we had allocated to those organizations. Sanfelippo replied to Avondale it was \$1000 for a field trip, \$1000 for the AEC. Someone asked how much Episcopal Place was asking for. Sanfelippo said they had submitted it to the Spending Committee to consider anywhere from \$500 to \$2500. She said the thought tonight was to present a \$500 request to the neighborhood, on the low end of the range, because the Spending Committee had not recommended it.

Jared Nelson made a motion to table consideration of this donation to allow time to consider guidelines for these types of donations. He said it sounded like there would also be opportunities to help Episcopal Place, other causes - in other ways that didn't involve getting into the neighborhood nest egg - like a clothes or food drive. A resident spoke strongly about how important Episcopal Place was in our community. Larry Contri seconded Nelson's motion. 17 voted in favor of the motion, there was 1 resident abstaining. Sanfelippo said that we should bring canned food to our holiday gathering at Rojo this year for Episcopal Place's food pantry. Whitehurst offered to talk to anyone after the meeting to answer any questions or give more information about what they do.

US Census Bureau 2020 Update/Sherri Nielsen & Kimberly Abbott

Sanfelippo introduced Sherry Nielsen and Kimberly Abbott with the US Census Bureau. Nielsen shared she was a Partnership Specialist for the US Census Bureau who goes out and educates people about the census and forms partnerships with groups to get them to encourage others to fill out census forms when it comes out. She said the country performs a census every 10 years, every year that ends in a zero is a census year - and we do that because it's in the Constitution and is required. The first census performed was in 1790 and we have done one every 10 years since then. She explained the primary reason behind the census is that all the country's political districts are reapportioned after the census based on population. She went on to say that residents might have heard that Alabama might be in danger of losing a district in 2020, that our population might not justify keeping all 7 representatives in the US House of Representatives - so we want to be sure that we get everyone counted. Alabama, 10 years ago for the 2010 census, performed at about 74%, which means that 26% of our population did not get counted. She said there were several reasons for that, some people just don't want to participate, some people don't open mail if they don't think it looks like it pertains to them. She said for the 2020 census they will be sending out lots of information about it. Nielsen said residents should receive a letter from the Census Bureau in mid-March inviting them to participate, to go online and fill out your survey - or call an 800 number. She said this is the first year that people will be able to fill out the survey online. She said at some point after that, if you've not completed your survey, you'll receive a reminder post card. And then at some point after the first reminder, you'll receive a second reminder, again - to go online or call the 800 number. She said, after that, residents who have not yet completed the survey, will receive a paper survey. She said in the past the Census Bureau has made stacks of paper surveys available at City Hall, etc - but that those won't be available for the 2020 survey. If a resident has not completed the survey after the second reminder, they will receive a form in the mail - and that is the only way to receive one, that residents will not be able to request forms via phone as they have in previous years.

Nielsen went on to share that the census numbers supported more than just the apportionment for the US Congressional districts, that the numbers were used for local and state districts. She said the state also apportions funds based on population figures that come from the Census Bureau. She explained one of these apportionments is new in the form of a state gas tax, which is apportioned based on population in a certain area. She said the numbers also apply to funding for the internet sales tax. She said the US Government gives out over \$675 billion a year to organizations based on population figures, adding that a lot of those programs were very important to the citizens who need them - for example, the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIPs). She said one of the populations they have a hard time counting are children under the age of 5, explaining sometimes children can be residing with relatives who might not have guardianship or are not custodial parents and think they shouldn't count the children there. Nielsen explained that everyone at an address should be counted; that everyone should be counted once, only once and in the right place - and that the 'right place' has everything to do with where dollars are allocated and representation. She explained allocations based on

census numbers go to schools, special education programs in schools and programs for the disabled, not just in schools but in communities. It goes to senior centers, SNAPs Programs, affordable housing programs, building roads and infrastructure. Nielsen said she looks at it as the underpinnings of our society, a lot of these programs are safety nets for people who really need them. She shared that the census counts affect the number of electoral votes a state has. Nielsen mentioned that some people had privacy concerns related to completing the census survey but explained there were no longer any questions related to income or citizenship on the form. She said they did ask age and gender, whether you own or rent your home, but that information was used to *project* service needs for communities. She shared that census data was very useful in grant writing. Nielsen said they know Birmingham is/was undercounted, that there were some areas that reported just over 50% - and the impact of this is huge and they were working hard on those areas to try and get the percentage up. Judy Jones mentioned that census results were not shared for, she thought, 60 years. Nielsen said it was actually 72 years. She said they separate the personal identification information from the numbers - because they are really only interested in the numbers and where they are located - and in 72 years, they release all the information - names, addresses, anything else recorded on the census. She also explained the information all had to be kept within the Census Bureau, that it could not be shared with other governmental agencies, to include Homeland Security or ICE. She said when she came to work for the Census Bureau she had to take an oath that she would keep any personal information confidential - and in fact, the fine for breaking that oath is \$250,000 and 5 years in prison - for each occurrence! She said the survey was simple, there were only 10 questions. She encouraged everyone that when they received the first letter, to just go ahead and go online and complete it. And if they knew a senior who might not be able to go online - or be uncomfortable with doing that, then encourage them to call the phone number and complete it that way. Nielsen said - that if someone bypasses all the mailed notifications that is when the local enumerators were deployed. Helen Rivas said she thought she had heard on the news that they were making an adjustment about counting prison populations because it would give an advantage to some areas that had large prisons but that the people incarcerated weren't from those areas. Nielsen said as far as she knew it was being done as 'group housing', that they count the prisoners and they count them in the area that the prison is located in. A resident asked about someone who had recently knocked on their door - saying they were a canvasser "getting ready to do the census" - and asked if that was 'real'. Nielsen said it was, those individuals were performing some address verification in preparation for the census. She said that phase ended in October, these individuals were verifying there was a dwelling at that address, that it was habitable, and that the address was correct. Another resident asked if the addresses they used were from tax returns, Nielsen replied no, that they had their own database that they used. The resident asked about the source of the information - Nielsen said it was furnished by the cities, that they had to verify the census bureau's data, confirm the city limits, etc. The information was exchanged/confirmed before the address canvassers went out. Sanfelippo asked how the Census Bureau knew that 26% didn't respond in 2010. Nielsen replied that they had only

mailed forms out that year - so they know how many they sent out versus the number returned.

Nielsen introduced Kim Abbott, saying she worked on the recruiting side. Abbott said she wanted to also share that another use of the census data was economic development - that the first thing a business looks at when deciding to go into an area is 'how many rooftops are there?'. If the forms are not returned, then the information for that area is skewed.

Abbott began to explain about the job of the enumerator (President Sanfelippo shared she had been an enumerator for the 2010 census!). Abbott said one of the first things she learned was that no one in the country has a viable mailing list for all addresses, not even the post office. Two years ago every municipality in the country was asked to do a LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) Study, validating every address within that municipality. That information was sent to the Census Bureau which worked at additional verification of the data, essentially double checking the information. Abbott said her job was to recruit enumerators. She said they truly needed people from local communities because it was a given there would be people who would not respond. She said the low-end cost of not being counted, to a community, as in what the community loses in the way of financial support, was roughly \$1600 a year - so over 10 years (between censuses) that would amount to close to \$20,000 per person. Abbott shared that in Jefferson County we were 39% undercounted, pointing out that represented a LOT of money lost in our communities from the federal, state, county and even local governments. She said all non-profits use this data when applying for grants.

Abbott said her job was to convince the people in the room to be good stewards of their community by volunteering their time 'for money'. She said \$18.00 per hour was the going rate for enumerators in Jefferson County - plus 58 cents per mile. She said they have a mass hiring coming up between January and March, that the two main positions being hired were 1) people to go door to door (these jobs will start in the Summer of 2020), and 2) people to visit long term residences (ie, nursing homes). Abbott said they'd like people to work in the areas they are from and that right now Jefferson County was about 1000 people short for its positions. She shared that the overall recruitment effort in Jefferson County would involve some 6500 people. She said the individuals hired would essentially make their own hours, daytime hours. She said the job was a contract job but that these individuals were treated like employees as in taxes were withdrawn. The individuals were hired to do a certain specific job and when that job was completed the contract expired. She said if anyone was assigned an area in which they would be uncomfortable working, they can communicate that and they will reassign that individual.

Abbott said the application for employment was available and to be completed online. She said in addition to enumerators that they also needed supervisors and office clerks, that they might even, right now, have as many as 40 openings in the downtown

Birmingham office. Jones pointed out that whether we worked with the project or not, we could all be advocates for the process, to encourage people to participate but also to be alert for locations that might be undercounted. Nielsen said yes, that was exactly what they were trying to do, to encourage people to do those things. A resident asked what was the minimum number of hours for the enumerator jobs. Abbott replied the jobs were open-ended, you could work up to 40 hours per week; that basically they would give you a job they needed completed that week and it's up to you to do it. She said they call the positions 'part time' so she assumed most could be completed in less than a 40-hour period. A resident asked if the jobs were something a college student home for the summer could do; Abbott replied yes. She added that anyone interested should go ahead and put in their application, that these positions would be filled on a first come, first served basis. She also shared that veterans had a priority in hiring. Nielsen told the group that if you *think* you'd like one of these jobs, go ahead and apply - because you can always say "no" later when they call.

Nielsen and Abbott thanked the group for the opportunity to speak.

City Council Update/Councilwoman Valerie Abbott

Sanfelippo said Councilor Valerie Abbott had not yet arrived at the meeting but understood that she was in-route and close. In the interim Sanfelippo shared that she had just checked the email she had received today from our Resource Officer for Highland Park and could now confirm that even though we have a couple of projects 'in the works' Highland Park has about \$52,000 in neighborhood funds.

And, as if on cue, Councilor Abbott arrived. She apologized and explained that there were 2 neighborhoods (Highland Park and East Avondale) that met on the second Tuesday at the very same hour.

Abbott said she thought the most important thing she could tell the residents was that Mr. Silverstein's proposed Arlington Ave. project was NOT on the agenda for the Planning and Zoning Committee tomorrow. They are taking it off because the Law Department has determined that the settlement agreement that Highland Park resident Philip Foster located is 'in force'. and the only way that they can undo that is to get the city to agree to a new settlement or negate the terms of the settlement which limits the height of the building, any building on that property, to 65 feet, which is very close to what 'mixed use medium' allows. She reported that the developer has been informed of that fact and they are likely now strategizing a way around this reality. In 'mixed use medium', which is the projected zoning for that property when this neighborhood does its framework plan and talks about zoning issues, that's the long-range land use that is projected for that property. So, if it was mixed use medium, 60 feet would be the limit and for a hotel, it would be 55 feet. But this settlement allows a building up to 65 - which is not bad when you compare it to their desired 120 feet height of the original proposal. A resident asked when we thought Highland Park would go through the Framework Plan; Abbott replied

she had been told it would be in the February/March 2020 time frame. She shared that the first 203 pages of another neighborhood's plan was available online and that she thought it'd be beneficial for anyone interested to go ahead and look at it - just to see what all is being considered in these plans, so that when our neighborhoods have our 'comment period' we understand the importance in understanding and responding to what is being proposed for your neighborhood, that it will be important for us to get as many people participating as possible. A resident asked how long the process was, Abbott replied about six or eight months. She said for the neighborhood that was now reviewing the first 203 pages online and the next step was to develop pages 204-264. She explained the next meeting for this purpose is very important because it will cover the long-range land use and zoning. A resident asked where Highland Park's Framework Planning meeting(s) would likely happen. Abbott replied that it would likely be right here at the Golf Course because it was a good-sized room with good lighting - and it had plenty of parking. She shared that the Regional Planning Commission was handling the Framework Plans - which was good because it keeps City Hall out of it until the end.

A resident asked if the traffic study/parking zones/permitting project had progressed any. Abbott said Colin Alexander who had been working on this project had been pulled off to temporarily work on another project (the Bus Rapid Transit Project) until someone is hired for it. She said this 'rapid transit' project was behind and was a priority in city preparations for the World Games.

A resident asked about additional development projects in our general area. Abbott replied that the South Town project was proceeding. She said group involved with the project where Western had been closed were being very tight lipped about their intentions with that property. She said she thought they were trying to finish the Vesta project before disclosing what was planned for that Highland Avenue property.

Abbott went on to say (to resident applause) that she admired Philip Foster (related to the location of the Arlington property settlement); that he made it happen; the city's legal department didn't know about this settlement; the zoning department did not know about the settlement. She said it seems that when all the people who know stuff retire, the information just goes away. Abbott mused - if Philip had not known someone who had kept a copy... and then just pronounced this "good news." Sanfelippo echoed Abbott's sentiments about Foster, expressing appreciation for all the work he had done - and joked that they had presented him with an honorary master's degree in zoning.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Sanfelippo said the Community Garden was underway and encouraged anyone who hadn't seen it already to go by Rushton Park and check it out. A resident asked if there was a ribbon cutting, Sanfelippo said she wasn't certain but once she received that information she would send it out. She shared that the Bark Party, in celebration of the Garden, held the previous Thursday at the Clubhouse on Highland, was a huge success.

Sanfelippo announced the next 'Large Trash and Brush' pick up would normally fall on Thanksgiving - and so was being scheduled for Saturday November 23. She reminded residents if they had room, to place piles away from power lines or parked cars - and to make separate piles for trash/furniture and mulchable material and to please bag all leaves and other yard debris.

Sanfelippo said that the next neighborhood meeting will be January 14 at 7 pm. She shared we would not have a meeting in December - but on December 17, from 5-8 pm, we would be having a holiday gathering at Rojo for residents and city staff. She said we'd be doing a potluck dessert so everyone could feel free to bring something, adding there would be a complimentary nacho bar, a cash bar - and we'd also be collecting canned goods for the residents of Episcopal Place.

Councilor Abbot shared that Stanley Robinson was the one who had sent her a message about a ribbon cutting for the Community Garden project in Rushton; she said she didn't know the date but that Sanfelippo could check with him on that question.

Alison Glascock asked to confirm when the memorial service for Ann Hadjuk would be. Sanfelippo confirmed it was to be 4 pm Thursday November 21st.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association