

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

September 2023 Minutes

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the September 2023 meeting of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association to order at 6:00 pm. She welcomed everyone and introduced herself as President, Judy Jones as Vice President and Secretary Kelly Marshall.

July Minutes

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 11 meeting minutes. Judy Jones moved to approve the minutes for the July meeting. Horace Hulseley seconded the motion. A vote was taken, no one was opposed, and the minutes were approved.

Roll Call

Sanfelippo performed a roll call of online attendees as required by the city.

Stanchions Re-vote

When we voted on funding the purchase of the stanchions for crosswalks in a previous meeting, we voted to allocate the funds to Friends of Highland Park, but we need to correct that and allocate the funds from the City to the vendor. Anne reminded us it was \$960. Sanfelippo suggested we move to allocate \$1,000 to cover any incidentals. Horace Hulseley moved to approve the allocation of funds to the vendor and Phillip Foster seconded the motion. **A vote was taken, no one was opposed, and the motion passes.**

Liz Wilson with Avondale Elementary School presentation

Liz Wilson is a parent of two students at Avondale Elementary School and is with the PTA and wanted to update the community and neighborhood about some new exciting things happening at the school.

A few updates from the School:

- The school is celebrating 100 years this year and is Pre-K to 5th grade
- 11 neighborhoods feed into the school and has 350 students
- Any school in Birmingham City School zone that has room, students from out-of-zone can be admitted.
- The school relies on community support like Jones Valley Teaching Farm, DISCO creative writing workshops, Hand in Paw, etc.
- The school provides activities that bring the community together
- **Upcoming Fall Events Include:**
 - September 12: Doughraiser at Slice
 - October 3: 10% Tuesday at Rojo 5-8 pm

- October 26: Fall Festival and Art Show! **Needs:** volunteers and silent auction items
- November 10: Avondale Brewery giveback night
- December TBD: Thank You Books fundraiser

Spring events include:

- Black History Month celebration
- Sneaker Ball
- Eagle Fest Field Day
- More to come!

After-school clubs include:

- Music Lessons
- Chess
- Drama
- Tennis
- Book Club
- Martial Arts
- Healthy Eating Active Living

Ways to Get Involved:

- Visit and take a tour or attend an event!
- Volunteer! One-time or a key role
- Donate! Fill unmet needs
- Share their info on social media and with friends
- If you have any questions or want to get involved, email Liz at lizgodwinwilson@gmail.com
- The neighborhoods in the School Zone are: Highland Park, Forest Park, Crestwood North and South, Redmont, Crestline Park, South Woodlawn, Overton, Edgewood, etc.
- If you are a college student and want to tutor elementary school and middle school students, let Liz know - United Way has a PAID opportunity for college students willing to tutor

City Council Update/Councilwoman Valerie Abbott

Sanfelippo introduced Councilwoman Abbott.

Today the City Council passed two new ordinances:

1. For towing and booting, “automobile disablement”
2. Parking lots in general

The end result will be that there will be uniform signage throughout the City requiring all parking lots for rent or lease so that if you park there, you will have the opportunity to know that it is private property and there is the potential to be towed or booted. The signage will also require information about where to contact to get your car back. The ordinance also has some requirements for the behavior of the parking lot owners.

Another thing that was discussed at the city council meeting was: the **Right Size Parking Initiative** which would do away with parking minimums in newly built buildings. Abbott is continuing to remind the rest of the Council about the need for parking in order to protect neighborhoods like

ours and Five Points South, Glen Iris, etc. There will be a public hearing about this eventually. Abbott asked if there were any questions. Sanfelippo asked if there was an update on the short-term rental ordinance. Abbott says it was promised to the Council to be presented by the end of October 2022, and they still haven't seen it. She has been told it is "closer". She hopes to see it soon, and that because there are other ordinances implemented throughout the rest of the country, we hope to see ours soon. The issue will be enforcement if the ordinance is passed. Then residents will need to clamor for the *enforcement* of the ordinance. Abbott reminds residents to report issues as you see them. A resident asked where or who do you call if you see someone violate an ordinance like the short-term rental

Call 205-328-9311 for nonemergency reporting of issues. Abbott also encourages everyone to download the app My Bham 311, where you can post photos and video to report issues in the city. Abbott says if you don't get a response there after a while, then let her office know, even though city councilors can't tell the City's staff what to do.

Anne Sunkel said she has had a great response to all issues she has submitted to www.birminghamal.gov/311 and click on the box that says, "311 Request."

Other ways to report issues:

- Dial 311 or 205-254-2489
- Use the new My Bham 311 app ([Scan this QR code with your phone to download](#))
- Visit www.birminghamal.gov/311 and click on the box that says, "311 Request." When submitting a complaint online or via the app, be sure that you have a registered account. If you do not know how to create an account, there are details below on how to do that.

A resident asked from the Zoom, if the short-term rental ordinance includes a requirement to identify property owners so residents know where to lodge complaints about noise, parking requirements, etc. Abbott says she has not seen the ordinance yet but says anyone can go to [THIS LINK](#) to see who paid the taxes last on a property to find the property owner. Sanfelippo says you can also lodge complaints directly with Airbnb or VRBO, etc. Abbott says most complaints she has heard are typically about noise ordinances.

A resident asked for an update on the new garbage cart system. Abbott said she learned more about the uniform garbage cart system at the community meeting we held in July than she learned from the Mayor's office. Abbott wants to include her own notes with the Community Recap. Abbott says the carts are coming, and we are in the Third and Final Phase of the rollout. She reminds that if a resident needs help getting the can set out, to please let the City know and they will help with that. Abbott says to be on the lookout for a letter and a new can. She also says that the City is surveying each neighborhood and modifications to the system may be made on a street-by-street basis. [Click here to read more about the new garbage cart system.](#)

Back to the short-term rental ordinance, Abbott says she wants to hear from the neighborhoods and community members about the possible ordinance and she will share it with us so we can look

it over and provide our comments and thoughts on it.

FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND PARK UPDATE

Anne Sunkel reported from the Friends of Highland Park, a 501c3 that can take donations. They just completed the stanchion project, placing stanchions in crosswalks, and they have noticed a great slow-down in traffic.

The next project is right down the street on Highland near the Golf Course where the brick walls have crumbled. There are three places that need repair. Friends of Highland Park is going to get some quotes on how much it would be to repair those walls. Linnea Looney moved and Horace Hulseley seconded, for the Friends of Highland Park to move forward with getting quotes for this repair project.

OLD BUSINESS

Sanfelippo said the lights in Rushton Park are working (update: they are out but have been reported again).

Parks Department has been notified that some of the new lights are leaning.

Rushton Park also finally has the mulch delivered and installed!

UPDATE ON GEORGE'S PARKING

George's is hoping to open next year, next to Eats property on Highland Avenue

They needed a parking special exception, they got it, The ZBA approved it as well. They will start the permitting process and start construction soon.

NEW BUSINESS

New trees will be ordered soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Large trash and brush is tomorrow, September 13
- Text BhamReady to 888777 and that will give you updates from the city periodically
- Recycling is tomorrow, September 13 and September 20 then will be first and third Wednesdays in October.
- September 22 - [Southern Exposure Film Premiere](#) 5-8:30 at Altamont School
- The election is coming up on 9/26 for House District 55. Candidate reps will speak after this meeting.
- If you want a new smoke alarm installed, sign up with via our email newsletter.

Next meeting is October 10 at 6 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Marshall

Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association