

# Highland Park Neighborhood Association

## October 2023 Minutes

Meeting Date: October 10, 2023

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the October 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.

### September Minutes

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September meeting minutes. Erle Moring moved to approve the minutes for the July meeting. Richard Keill 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.

### **Zoning Variance Request from Jim Carnes and Ellen Kellen**

Carnes and Kellen are applying for a zoning variance to their single-family residence at 3030 13th Avenue South. They are looking to renovate their kitchen and replace an old stoop with their laundry room. They will also wrap a deck around the laundry room, on to the rear of the house.

[Click here](#) to see the rendering and plans.

They met with the neighborhood zoning committee on site and in response to that meeting, they changed the plan slightly. The variance request comes for the deck itself which extends a bit too close to the rear line. The rear fence is actually seven feet beyond the property line due to the situation of the alley. They are closer to the property line than they realized. The neighbors are fine with the request. Carnes and Kellen distributed their own letters to nearby neighbors and have heard no opposition.

Morris Newman, Zoning Committee Chairman, agrees with Carnes and the committee moves to recommend full approval from the ZBA, with the condition that the project conforms to the site plans as presented. The Committee feels the expansion is necessary. Richard Kiell seconds the motion. **22 voted in favor. None opposed.**

Sanfelippo said this request has generated a lot of great questions about the process so she is working on creating a document that explains the process.

### **Vote to recommend allocating \$2,000 to Avondale Elementary School**

The Spending Committee recommends allocating \$2,000 to the Avondale Elementary School, who we heard present at the September meeting. Judy Jones moves to make that allocation. Morris Newman seconds. **21 voted in favor. None opposed.**

### **Dr. Scot Duncan with Alabama Audubon**

Dr. Scot Duncan, a Highland Park resident, became executive director of Alabama Audubon in 2022. Previously he was a professor at Birmingham-Southern.

The mission of Alabama Audubon is to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world since 1927. Alabama is the fourth-most biodiverse state, and we have. Alabama has more species of freshwater fish, snails, mussels, crayfish, turtles and trees than any other state. We have 450+ bird species in Alabama. Check out their website by [clicking here](#) to hear about their events and field trips etc.

[Click here to see his full presentation.](#)

Exciting news: Alabama Audubon will be moving into the old Snap Fitness location, next to the Greenbriar! You may notice the construction is already happening. They hope to be in by early 2024.

### **Update from Darryl Lee**

Sanfelippo introduced Darryl Lee. Lee recognizes President Sanfelippo for keeping him updated on everything happening with Highland Park. He also mentioned Mayor Woodfin got married and is currently on his honeymoon.

Lee is aware that the lights in the park are not working as they should. He has been in touch with the City and Alabama Power to send engineers out to see what happened since the lights are new. He should get a report on that soon. He also knows two poles are leaning and he will find out what happened there too.

Regarding the new trash cans, Lee apologizes that the letter everyone was told they would receive before receiving the trash cans did not arrive. Lee met with Joshua Yates and has been assured that neighborhoods like ours are being evaluated, such as stress with a lot of stairs, etc. If you have a health impediment, please call 311 and ask for the Form for Garbage Pickup Assistance. They will send you the form, you will need to have your doctor fill it out, and then send it back in so you can be on a list. Lee asks that everyone be patient and be on the lookout for the letter announcing the date for your garbage pick up.

After you receive the letter, and if you are still have problems with the trash can system, please email the city at [darryl.lee@birninghamal.gov](mailto:darryl.lee@birninghamal.gov) and they will compile all the complaints and requests.

Carnes asked how the new system would work along street parking areas? Lee said where there is street parking, and no alley, place the can on the sidewalk and they will come get it from the sidewalk. Recycling will continue as normal and will be picked up where it was always picked up, and the new date for recycling pickup will be announced soon.

Sandra Bailey thanked Lee and Abbott for the new street pavings.

Jim Carnes asked about the broken storm drains in light of the recent tragic accident with a neighbor's pet. Lee says there is an ongoing campaign to fix those. Please continue to report broken ones to the My Bham 311 app or by calling 311.

### **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](http://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.

Sanfelippo said our project request for the crosswalk stanchions is in the works.

### **Neighborhood Tree Update**

Ray Davis said we have an awesome opportunity to add more trees to our neighborhood over the next few years! Dr. Mark Wilson has graciously and generously offered to help! He wants to add between 50-70 trees in Rhodes and Caldwell Park over the next 2-3 years. He is offering to do this at his own expense and will line up the right people to help make this happen. These trees will be young and primarily native. These trees will be inside the parks themselves. These trees will benefit the next generations and will help our bird population! The trees will be native oaks, pines, maples, red bud trees, river birch, crabapple trees, etc. These trees are going to really help the neighborhood! Barry Norris moved to support this awesome project and Melanie Jackson seconded. 21 votes in favor. No opposition. The motion carries. Thank you so much, Dr. Wilson!

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 39 Hanover Circle has pulled the permits for interior demolition and should be getting started in Q1 of 2024.
- George's does not have a timeline, but construction should begin soon.
- There are no updates on the Sister Houses or others in the neighborhood, Sanfelippo will check with Lee to see what our next step options are. Lee said the court set some stipulations and timelines and he will check on that and he and Sanfelippo will talk about it after the meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Trash day is October 12
- Southside Framework Updates meeting - October 12 at 6 pm and November 9 at 6 pm at Highlands Methodist Church
- Parking and towing meeting on October 16
- October 14 - St. Simeon Church Food and Culture Fair

- October 24 - Special Runoff Election for State House Representative District 55
- October 26 - Avondale Elementary Fall Fest
- November 4-5 Moss Rock Festival

Next meeting is November 14 at 6 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelly Marshall  
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association