

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

February 2024 Minutes

Meeting Date: February 13, 2024

Meeting Location: Highland Park Golf Course, snack bar

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the February 2024 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 Kelly Marshall as Secretary.

Roll Call

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

January Minutes

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January meeting minutes. Sylvia Swayne moved to approve the minutes from the January 2024 meeting. John Sommerset seconded the motion. A vote was taken, no one was opposed, and the minutes were approved.

SPEAKER: Charles Miller, Policy Director at Alabama Rivers Alliance

Charles Miller, a new neighbor to Highland Park, presented to us about what the Alabama Rivers Alliance does, and some updates on some bills working their way through the legislature now. Alabama Rivers Alliance is a statewide network of groups working to protect rivers and clean water for people and nature. We employ a variety of collaboration and civic engagement strategies to advocate better outcomes for the many challenging issues facing our waterways across the state. Charles updated everyone on HB 14 / SB 45, The Safe and Healthy Outdoor Recreation Act which would require signage at public boat ramps where there are fish consumption advisories. For more information about this bill, see www.ALSHORAct.com. Charles also talked about various drinking water issues in the state, including the onset of forever chemicals. He also discussed coal ash issues along our rivers and streams in Alabama. Learn more about ARA at www.AlabamaRivers.org

Update from Councilor Valerie Abbott

Councilor Abbot said today's meeting was an executive session so not much was discussed. She said the City is requesting a \$500,000 grant to help with recycling, which Abbott feels Birmingham desperately needs. She opened the floor to questions. A resident asked about when recycling would be picked up again due to the Holidays, and Abbott said she believes pickup is going back to the first and third Wednesdays. Abbott said to be on the lookout for new blue recycling cans. She warns us that the tubs can get the materials inside wet, so consider using old political yard signs to cover them up! Abbott was asked when these new recycling tubs would roll out, and she said she is not sure. Residents will need to request them, so they don't give tubs to people who won't recycle. She says the City is planning an educational campaign to go along with it.

She said all of the Council's meetings are archived.

Kelly Marshall asked if there are plans to bring back glass recycling, and Abbott said that Laney DeJonge of Rojo has been leading an effort to bring an outfit to do glass recycling that is looking for a warehouse to set up operations. Abbott says Target does recycle glass, in the meantime. Pat Byington updated us that Glass Half Full is the name of the organization and you can sign up for residential pickup for a fee a month when they are operating. [Click here for more information.](#) Kate Cosnahan also said they are looking for warehouse space.

Some conversation ensued about the new trash can system rollout. Judy Jones said it might help with the new recycling program to snail mail every residence with some information about the new tubs. Abbott agrees.

OLD BUSINESS

- Sanfelippo gives a big shout out to Anne Sunkel who accompanied Sanfelippo to a meeting with the City attorneys about the abandoned "Sister Houses" and the troublesome Monterrey Apartments by the Golf Course. Sanfelippo thinks consulting with an attorney will spur the owners of the Monterrey Apartments into action.
- Sanfelippo thanks everyone for signing the petition to Save the Little Villa. The developers postponed their case to February 28.
- Rojo's 10% Tuesday benefitted Friends of Highland Park last week! Keep up with their beneficiaries on their website and social media.
- The tree purchase is being processed by the City.
- Speed bumps have gone in on 31st Street

A resident asked why the design review committee meetings are at 7:30 in the morning. Abbott said because the committee is made up of volunteers who are working designers and architects and they decided when worked best for them, and they chose 7:30 am. Abbott said usually it's just the developers who want to attend.

AN UPDATE FROM OFFICER ALLEN

Officer Allen is new to the neighborhood, and asked if anyone had any questions for her about the neighborhood. A resident asked if there was an update about the exhibition driving. Officer Allen says it is not close to our neighborhood, but she knows it is loud and that HP can hear it. She says a lot of the cars are stolen, so even if a camera was able to get the license plate, the car is usually stolen.

Charlie Ray asked about parking issues with people blocking crosswalks. He asks if there is a better way to handle that other than calling the police each time? Officer Allen says to continue to call and report them when cars are parked illegally. Officer Allen said after a car gets a certain number of tickets, the car can be towed. Charlie Ray says it is really bad on 13th Avenue between 29th Street and 30th Street. Suzanne Baker says it is also happening on the non-parking side of 29th

Street, sometimes blocking emergency access. Officer Allen says to keep calling them and they will respond when they can. She says with new officers coming in, some don't know about the issues, but she will bring this info back to the station. Charlie says a black Dodge Charger is the frequent offender on 13th Avenue and 30th Street.

Judy Jones said on 33rd Street there is a problem with people parking on both sides. Jones said the police always respond and she wants to thank them for their service.

Councilor Abbott says that the Bham Department of Transportation says they are committed to start enforcing parking violations, especially in neighborhoods impacted by commercial zones, like Highland Park. Abbott encourages residents to attend meetings about parking and let your voice be heard. The next code enforcement meeting will be held on February 22 at the Don Hawkins Community Center in Roebuck.

A reminder of 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.

Next meeting is March 12 at 6 pm. Our speaker will be Tom Cosby talking about the benefits of not using gas-powered lawn equipment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association