

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

April 2024 Minutes

Meeting Date: April 11, 2024

Meeting Location: Highland Park Golf Course, snack bar

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the April 2024 meeting of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association to order at 6:30 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.

March Minutes

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March meeting minutes. Horace Hulseley moved to approve the minutes from the March 2024 meeting. Judy Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken, no one was opposed, and the minutes were approved.

SPEAKER: Brian Fisher with Community Bank

Community Bank has been in Birmingham since 2019 and has two locations. Fisher wanted to let our neighborhood know about a few of their services, including: Home Improvement Loans for homeowners who may not have perfect credit. They also offer free community credit classes that teach financial literacy like budgeting, home ownership, basic banking knowledge so others can improve themselves financially. Anyone can host these classes and Community Bank will provide food, knowledge, etc. Each participant in the class is eligible for a small loan to help build credit. Contact Brian at brian.fisher@communitybank.net for more information.

Judy Jones asked how the class handles the question of how to rebuild credit. Fisher said the class starts at the very basics and grows from there so the class covers everything in between. Judy also asks if these classes are taught in the schools. Fisher says sometimes they offer this class for Junior Achievement students.

UPDATES

- We are waiting to hear an update on the globe lights in Rhodes Park. Some are busted and/or not working. We are waiting to hear back from Alabama Power about when they will be fixed.
- We are waiting for an update on the Caldwell Park flooding remediation project. Construction was supposed to start in April, but we are still waiting on the plans.
- We are waiting on the tree order that should be in any day now.
- Native Plant Volunteer Day, where we will plant native plants in the medians from IPC to Rojo. That date is: May 11. [Click here to volunteer.](#)
- If you know of anyone who can provide a bid for concrete and brick work, please let

Elizabeth know.

- Judy has the Resolution for Forest Park that helped encourage residents to use electric-powered landscaping equipment. The resolution is not enforceable. It reads:

“The Highland Park Neighborhood Association encourages its residents to discontinue use of gasoline powered, 2 cycle engine leaf blowers within our historic neighborhood. Not only do these leaf blowers diminish the serenity of our neighborhood but they have been scientifically proven to degrade air quality and cause hearing loss.

We call on all community minded neighbors to hire contractors who use quieter, environmentally-friendly, battery pack-driven leaf blowers. (Failing that, we ask neighbors to consider returning to the pleasant physical activity of raking our own yards.)

If you have any questions about this resolution or issue, please contact Judy Jones at jjflowgoer@aol.com

- Sanfelippo said there was a request from a resident to ask the Parks Department and Public Works to not use herbicide in one or all of the parks. Sanfelippo reminded us that we have been trained to think of so called “weeds” as non beneficial but that is not always true. What if we ask to not use herbicides in Rhodes Park and we can see how it goes? Judy Jones thinks it is a great idea. Marjorie White said they requested no herbicides near Sloss and that was approved. There was conversation about the benefits of not using herbicides. Elizabeth will gather more info for us to discuss next month.
- No movement on the Sister Houses at the moment.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1006 32nd Street is vacant and dilapidated property. Sanfelippo has been notified that there are potential buyers interested and talking to the owner. She will provide an update next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Trash and Brush is on April 12
- Episcopal Place’s Gumbo Gala is April 13 More info: www.gumbogala.com
- April 18 at 6 pm at Shields Community Center is a Community Engagement Meeting about short term rentals. [Click here to take the survey](#). Email Kim Speorl with questions or comments at Kimberly.speorl@birminghamal.gov.

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 May 14 at 6 pm at the Highland Park Golf Course - BACK UPSTAIRS on the second floor! Our speaker will be Tony Dennis with City Walk. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association