

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

June 2024 Minutes

Meeting Date: June 11, 2024

Meeting Location: Highland Park Golf Course, on the second floor

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the June 2024 meeting of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association to order at 6 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. Online attendees were: Annie Chester, Kelly Marshall, Connie Urist, Darryl Lee

May MINUTES

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May meeting minutes. Erle Moring moved to approve the minutes from the May 2024 meeting. John Somerset seconded the motion. A vote was taken, no one was opposed, and the minutes were approved.

SPEAKER: Courtney Ryals, One Roof

Courtney Ryals is the Community Engagement Specialist with One Roof. One Roof works with partners within Jefferson, Shelby and St Clair Counties serving the homeless community, as well as single parents, etc. They work to help provide services and references for the homeless population, including strategic planning with municipalities and national organizations to help solve the homeless problem in Alabama. When people are referred to One Roof, the organization then matches those individuals with the appropriate solutions like affordable housing, clothing for interviews, healthcare referrals, etc. There is also a mobile street outreach team that builds rapport and relationships with those who may be resistant to One Roof services, helping with hygiene, light case management, etc.

A resident asked what was the size of the homeless community in Birmingham. Currently, the point-in-time count, which is the most accurate they can get at a point in time is 911 individuals and families in the tri-county area. Every area's population looks different. A resident asked about the little houses that were being built for the homeless community. Ryals said the temporary micro shelters are an initiative of the City and are still being built as a transitional place for unhoused people. Ryals suggested if you encounter someone who may need services from One Roof, to call their office or give their number to the individual. One Roof accepts travel-size hand soaps, hygiene items and bottled water.

To learn more about One Roof, or to refer someone to their services, [please click here](#).

UPDATE FROM COUNCILOR ABBOTS OFFICE FROM DARRYL LEE

There was no City Council meeting today because of travel. There are some events coming up: Jazz Festival, Major League Baseball at Rickwood Field, etc.

Lee said he is working on some issues and requests from Sanfelippo, but didn't specify which ones. He said there have been a lot of questions about speed calming, but there is not enough City staff for all the requests. Sanfelippo said we would like to be informed about upcoming speed calming installations, and Lee said he would make sure Fowler keeps Highland Park updated on when speed bumps are being installed. Sanfelippo reminded residents that it takes a long time from requesting speed calming to them being installed.

Sanfelippo asked about the flooding issues and remediation in Caldwell Park. Lee said there was a meeting last week and the stakeholders are accepting bids for the project now, and the City will keep us updated on when that project will get started.

Sanfelippo asked for an update on the allocation of funds for Avondale Elementary that HPNA voted to approve last fall. Lee said the request was found, but he does not know any more than that at this time. He will look into it and send Sanfelippo an update in writing.

Adam Ward asked why the Birmingham Water Works repairs are of a lower quality than other parts of town, like Homewood. Lee asked that Sanfelippo send him an address or location and he will make a phone call to Birmingham Water Works to investigate. Lee said he will personally make the phone call and will keep HPNA looped in on an update. Sanfelippo said a sinkhole opened up on 30th street and it was quickly patched, but there is a big concern about that particular spot because there was a lot of rushing water underneath. Lee will reach out to them and get an update on that specific area and will report back to Sanfelippo. If any residents have any other concerns, email her and she will get it to Lee to get a resolution.

There was another question about a trash can that was requested and paid for, but not received. Lee will get with Sanfelippo about that issue.

Lee said there has been some concern about the clay tennis courts at the golf course, and that funding request has been filed. Sanfelippo asked if there is a funding request for air conditioning fix at the golf course, and Lee said that has been approved and there will be a lot of renovations there coming soon.

Amendments to the 2025 budget will be coming soon.

OLD BUSINESS

- Keller, who owns the "Sister Houses" and other houses in various states of disrepair, has said that he is trying to sell those houses to private investors.
- There are no updates from the Little Villa yet.
- We are still trying to find what happened to the funding we requested for the stanchions in

the neighborhood, trees, dog bags for the parks, and the Avondale Elementary afterschool programs funding.

- Sanfelippo is working on a section of the website about sustainability which will include information about native plants and electric leaf blowers.
- Adam Ward asked if the City or State can pass legislation outlawing gas-powered blowers. Sanfelippo said it's a possibility, but that doesn't seem to be a priority for our city or state.
- Erle Moring, Morris Newman and Jasmine Allen met about a new event for the neighborhood and came up with an idea for a poker crawl / front porch type of gathering for Fall 2025 to get to know each other better. Stay tuned for more info about that as it develops!
- Adam asked if there is any update on the sidewalk opening at George's. Sanfelippo said she anticipates the sidewalk will be closed for the duration of construction.
- The eating disorder clinic on Hanover is moving forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Trash and brush pickup is this Friday
- Rojo is turning 22 on Saturday with a party, cake, bands, etc.
- There's a new law against using handheld devices while driving.
- No meeting in July!

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 August 13 at 6 pm at the Highland Park Golf Course. Our speaker will be Tony Diliberto with Birmingham Artwalk and Sidewalk Film Festival.. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association