

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

August Minutes

Meeting Date: August 12, 2025

Meeting Location: Episcopal Place

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the August 2025 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. We are meeting at Episcopal Place this time, before the District 3 City Council Candidate Forum.

UPDATES FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lt. Jeff Hall from the Birmingham Fire Department, reminded everyone to change your smoke detectors twice a year. He provided a few more tips such as to be careful when using grease. He said they see a lot of falls in the neighborhood and to call the fire department if you need help getting up, or need assistance getting from one place to another without a fall. Use 911 to call for a lift assist.

ROLL CALL

Sanfelippo performed a roll call of online attendees as required by the City. Online attendees were: Marian Wilson, Adam and Priscilla Liberte, John Barnacastle, Marjorie White, Ralph and Mary Helen Crowe, Matt Joiner, Lamar Ager, Rick Lovelady, Keisha Lightner, Sandra Bailey, Stewart Jackson, Connie Urist

JUNE 2025 MINUTES

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June 2025 meeting minutes. Judy Jones moved to approve the June 2025 minutes and Ray Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken, no one was opposed, and the June minutes were approved.

SPEAKER: TIM BLANTON, EPISCOPAL PLACE

Tim thanked everyone for joining. Tim has been the executive director for 17 years. There are 141 apartments, and an 18 months waiting list. The building is HUB subsidized, so tenants pay 30% of their adjusted income. There are all sorts of life enrichment programs, and activities for socializing. They love being in Highland Park! Episcopal Place recently invested in their landscaping, and emphasized native plants, after being inspired by all the focus on native plants in the neighborhood. They also helped educate their residents about the importance of the native plants.

Judy Jones reminded all the attendees from Episcopal Place that they are also members of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association and we would love to have them join our monthly meetings and vote on important neighborhood issues!

SPEAKER: CHLOE COOK, SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL

Chloe is the executive director of Sidewalk Film Festival and Sidewalk Cinema. Sidewalk is in its 27th year and features films from all across the globe in theatres and venues all across downtown Birmingham. August 18-24. There will be 220 films shown throughout the weekend. There are on-site shuttles and tickets are very affordable per screening, for the whole day, or for the weekend! Chloe offered to answer any questions. Some residents asked about pricing and Chloe shared all the various ways you can attend films, educational panels, etc.

Judy asked about funding and if the City supports Sidewalk. Chloe said the City is a supporter, but the support has varied over the years. With federal funding cuts all over, Sidewalk needs our support more than ever. Learn more at www.SidewalkFilm.org

UPDATE FROM COUNCILOR VALERIE ABBOTT

Councilor Abbott reported that today the City Council approved funding for the tiny home pilot project, run by Faith Chapel. The tiny homes, intended for unhoused people, will be lockable and feature one private room, with access to a shower and more. Faith Chapel will offer wrap-around services as part of the pilot program which will include substance abuse help, mental health help, job training, job placement, permanent housing, etc. The goal is to get people out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Faith Chapel will be interviewing potential residents for the homes. Councilor Abbott reminded us that this is a pilot program, so there will be many things learned from the implementation of this program over the next few years. If the pilot program works, like it has in other cities, there may be an expansion of the program to help more of our unhoused population. The City Council is hopeful it will make a difference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Recycling is every other Monday, and you can find it on the HPNA website.
- Tuesday, August 19 is bulk trash pickup.
- The eating disorder facility on Hanover Circle is now called New Circle and they are having an Open House on Sunday, August 24 from 1-4 pm.
- George's, the new restaurant on Highland Avenue, is still moving forward, but has been delayed a few times. We will try to get an update soon.
- Sunday, October 19 from 3-5 pm is the 2nd annual It's Nice to Have you in Highland Park event with an after party at Rojo
- THE SISTER HOUSES HAVE SOLD!!!! After many many years of neglect, they have finally found a new owner! Stay tuned for announcements there.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association