

# Highland Park Neighborhood Association

## October Minutes

Meeting Date: October 14, 2025

Meeting Location: On Zoom only

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the October 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 online on Zoom this meeting because of continued issues with the heating and air at our usual meeting spot: Highland Golf Course.

### **SEPTEMBER 2025 MINUTES**

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 2025 meeting minutes. Judy Jones moved to approve the September 2025 minutes and Marian Wilson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 8 approved, no one was opposed, and the September minutes were approved.

### **ROLL CALL**

Those attending online are: Elizabeth Sanfelippo, Judy Jones, Kelly Marshall, Morris Newman, Marian Wilson, Adam and Priscilla LeBerte, Jamaricus Brown (Birmingham Fire and Rescue), Bob McKenna, Jeff Dance, Alan and Emma Roberson, Julie Quigley-Vining (Birmingham Police Department), Zach Osborne (Birmingham Police Department), Judy and Jerry Moore, Josh Vasa, Brian Bonner, Ray Davis, Greg Hansen, Christina Bullock, Paige Klein, Philip Foster and Diann Weatherly, Councilor Valerie Abbott

### **UPDATE FROM BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE**

Lt. Jamaricus Brown with Birmingham Fire and Rescue provided a few tips for us with Halloween coming up. First, be aware of costumes and having heat sources too close to them. Use battery operated lights for pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns. Make sure heat sources have enough clearance from curtains, or other hanging items.

Make sure you are checking your heating units and make sure your dryer vents are cleaned out. There's an increase in fires when vents are full of lint and or heating units have not been serviced. Make sure your smoke detectors are working!

### **UPDATE FROM BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE**

Capt. Julie Quigley-Vining reported in while driving around in the Highland Park area. Quigley-Vining was addressing the complaints of unhoused people using Caldwell Park as a camping and cooking area with one of them threatening staff and patrons of Virginia Samford Theater in the nude. Urban Alchemy was called to help get the people out of the

park and provide resources. Quigley-Vining noticed earlier today there were some belongings left behind, but the police department is working on that with Public Works. So, for now, the park has been cleared of unhoused people. Urban Alchemy is trying to get some of the people help and perhaps into local shelters.

Quigley-Vining said unfortunately this is a displacement issue and the police department will be addressing this issue with the mayor. Resident Jeff Dance thanked Quigley-Vining for answering his complaint quickly. Residents Adam and Priscilla LeBerte said they have some issues with people rattling car doors, etc. and asked if there were any suggestions on what to do if that happens again? Quigley-Vining said if you encounter an individual in your yard or property, to call 911, and to be sure to ask to speak with the officer that will be coming to the call. If you see something suspicious, but not an emergency, you can call the non emergency number which is 205-328-9311.

Morris Newman asked about the very serious incident he heard about on 28th Street South and if there were any updates on that. Quigley-Vining said she did read about that and that it sounded like the suspect was highly intoxicated. The suspect was taken into custody, and it is a very odd situation. The suspect may have been on narcotics. The homeowner has decided to move from the neighborhood, but thankfully everyone is ok. Quigley-Vining said there are no concerns that the suspect will come back, and that this was just a strictly random, weird act. Lt. Osborne was on scene that night and firmly believes that this was an isolated incident with an intoxicated person, and that the suspect has no other criminal history.

The LeBertes asked what the protocol is if you see someone on your property or Ring camera with a weapon of any kind and Quigley-Vining said to call 911 if that happens. She said to also keep any camera footage too if that happens, so that the police can look for them.

The Birmingham Police Department is building an interactive map of security cameras in Birmingham. [Click here](#) to learn more and register your camera.

Newman asked generally if crime is up or down and if there are any crime trends. Quigley-Vining said we are trending down in crime. We are almost completely flat with no uptick in crime. The only thing we have trended up on is theft, and a lot of that has been at the Summit and Family Dollars. Quigley-Vining encourages neighborhoods to establish Neighborhood Watches on Nextdoor, etc. She does say that Highland Park seems more active than other neighborhoods. Keep car doors locked.

Sanfelippo asked if there is a program where police can park in resident's driveways to deter crime. Quigley-Vining said to email her if you are interested in that. Sanfelippo also asked if Highland Park has our own beat officer, like we had with Officer King. Quigley-Vining and Lt. Osborne said that there has been a nationwide shortage of police, but that we will have a dedicated officer once again after this weekend, and hopefully that officer will come to our next neighborhood meeting.

Quigley-Vining's number is 205-933-4147 email is [Julie.Quigley-Vining@birminghamal.gov](mailto:Julie.Quigley-Vining@birminghamal.gov)

### **SPEAKER: BOB MCKENNA, CLUBHOUSE ON HIGHLAND**

Bob McKenna, owner of Clubhouse on Highland, and great Highland Park Neighborhood community member announced that he has purchased the previously abandoned Sister Houses on Highland Avenue! (Read about it [here](#)).

The houses are zoned residential right now. They were single-family 100 years ago, and then became apartments (4 in each building, 8 altogether). There is also a four-car garage in back with one apartment above it.

Before doing anything else, Bob wants to hear from the Highland Park community about what we want to see happen at these two iconic homes. Bob hosted an Open House in July to gather feedback and heard some great ideas such as: a place similar to Chez Lulu with pastries, sandwiches, coffee, and light fare for dinner; gallery / art studio / performance space / meeting space; residential apartments; a place for Mother's Day Out, and more.

Bob said if he does anything other than residential, he recognizes that he would have to ask the neighborhood before rezoning to multi-use. He is concerned that if anything were to happen to him, that someone else could come along and take advantage of the new zoning and build something the neighborhood would not work. He's exploring if he should have a covenant on the houses (often known as Q (qualifying) conditions as part of a rezoning).

There is no rush, so Bob is confident we can come up with a plan that makes everyone happy, involving agreeing on zoning and a covenant, while maintaining the historic nature of the buildings. Bob plans to come up with a proposal and present it to the neighborhood after soliciting ideas and meeting with folks in the neighborhood. He is currently getting permits and going through design review to restore the porches and more. He is committed to a community-approved use of the two houses, and is particularly interested in the thoughts and wishes from the community members closest to the homes, such as the condos across the street.

Bob also asked to meet with the HP Zoning Committee to discuss next steps as well. Sanfelippo said she will help set that up. In the meantime, Bob will talk with an architect about restoring the porches, hopefully in time for Holiday lights!

**To submit your own ideas for these properties, [please click here](#).**

### **UPDATES ON MULCH MATERIAL IN RUSHTON PARK**

Sanfelippo said she is frustrated that after months of asking for an update on our purchase of new mulch for the playgrounds, that she still has not gotten an answer. Earlier this week, Sanfelippo saw a SeeClickFix report about a little girl tripping and falling on her face at the playground. Sanfelippo reminds everyone to use [SeeClickFix](#) to report any issues you see in the neighborhood. Then, forward your message to Sanfelippo at [esanfelippo@gmail.com](mailto:esanfelippo@gmail.com) or replying to one of the neighborhood-wide emails from [highlandparkneighborhoodal@gmail.com](mailto:highlandparkneighborhoodal@gmail.com) so she can stay on top of it.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Tomorrow (October 15)** at 6 pm - [Town Hall on Animal Control](#). Proposing a licensing program for domestic animals. Parker High School
- **Friday, October 17** - next bulk trash pickup day
- **Saturday, October 18** - [St Simeon Food and Culture Fair](#) from 9 am - 3 pm
- **Sunday, October 19:** [It's Nice to Have You In Highland Park](#) event! Thank you to Annie for all her hard work making this event happen! And to Morris Newman for coming up with the idea!
- **Thanksgiving Day** is the [Sam Lapidus Montclair Run](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Marshall  
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association