

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

June Minutes

Meeting Date: June 2, 2026, Meeting Location: on Zoom only

NOTE: Special date for this meeting due to voting needs

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the June 2026 meeting of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association to order at 6 pm. She welcomed everyone and introduced Judy Jones as vice-president and Kelly Marshall as secretary. Sanfelippo thanked Judy Jones for running the May meeting while Sanfelippo was out of town.

MAY MINUTES

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May meeting minutes. Jim Cooper moved to approve the May minutes and Morris Newman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all approved, no one was opposed, and the May minutes were approved.

ROLL CALL

Those attending online are: Paige Klein, Morris Newman, Jim Cooper, Bob McKenna, June Reeves-Weir, Marian Wilson, Christina Bullock, Jim Carnes and Erin Kellen, William Bradford, Tom and Susan Coan, John Somerset, Fire Station representative, Lantz Croft, Michael Ward, Jenny Craig, Katie Entrekin, Chesney Moore, Pat Byington, Suzanne Baker, Joe Wilson, Rick Lovelady, Charlie Ray, Annette Rodgers, Whitney from the City of Birmingham, Pam and Lamar Ager, Christine Wilson

UPDATES FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire department was available for questions, but their microphone was not working, so they responded in chat. A resident asked if the fire trucks could not use their alarms when arriving at the Greenbriar each time they have to do that, to keep the neighborhood a little quieter. They responded: *reasonable [request] but may be potentially dangerous, we use them sparingly at night when possible but must use extreme caution concerning motorists and pedestrians.*

SOUTHERN AREA FRAMEWORK DISCUSSION

Jim Cooper addressed the attendees to continue the previous discussions of the City's proposed [Southern Area Framework Discussion](#). The Highland Park Neighborhood Association Zoning Committee recommends the neighborhood adopt a position to City Council that the 35 properties [on this chart](#) must be zoned in a manner that prohibits development that exceeds a quadplex. This recommendation of this limitation is because, to our knowledge, none of these units have more than four units. Under the City's proposed framework, these properties are scheduled for zoning that would allow up to a 12 unit multiplex, which is listed as D4 on the chart, while others are listed as a D5, which could be an apartment complex. The Committee recommends the HPNA tell the City Council to reject the proposed framework unless and until the 35 properties are limited to a max of only four units. [You can also see the list of properties [here](#).]

Paige Klein asked if the City will know how many people were in attendance for this meeting. Sanfelippo said that the minutes will reflect attendance, and she will also share a letter signed by other HP residents

with their thoughts on the SAF. If anyone else wants to email the City Zoning Department and copy Councilor Vasa's office, that would be great as well.

Resident Christina Bullock had specific questions about her property, which is one of the 35 on the list. Cooper and Newman discussed the details of this with her.

Morris Newman made a motion that the neighborhood adopt HPNA Zoning Committee's recommendation (highlighted above) with the understanding that Bullock's property would be excluded from that list. Jim Cooper seconded that motion. Sanfelippo called for a vote of the neighborhood. **21 voted in favor and there was 1 abstention.** The motion carried to recommend to the City Council that the properties on [this chart](#) be zoned to allow a maximum of 4 units on any parcel as D4 can allow up to 12 units.

Huge thank you to Morris, Jim and the Zoning Committee for all their work on this for the past several years!!! If you missed the action, you can read past minutes to follow the discussion.

PRESENTATION FROM WILL BRADFORD RE: INTERSECTION OF NIAZUMA AND HIGHLAND

Will Bradford presented the results from a survey he conducted in the neighborhood about community safety at the intersection of Niazuma Avenue and Highland Avenue. Will walks with his family and has had several near misses so he surveyed the neighborhood to get their thoughts on how to improve this intersection.

60 neighbors responded, 77% felt unsafe at this intersection and 90% supported improvements. [Click here](#) to see more of his survey results.

Will is asking for the support of the neighborhood association for his plan. Will is hoping to commission a professional traffic engineering study that would document speeds, volumes, crash history, etc. He would then report the results to the city and submit an application to BDOT for traffic calming when they open applications. Hopefully by winter/spring of 2027, a solution could be in place to help make our neighborhood more walkable!

Pat Byington asked if parking could also be added to that study because of George's anticipated opening.

Judy Jones made a motion for the neighborhood to support a traffic study of this intersection as Will Bradford presented. Bob McKenna seconded this motion. Discussion started. Suzanne Baker asked for the traffic study to also include pedestrian safety. Pat Byington suggested the study also include while the theatre is having a play, as that will increase traffic. Jim Cooper said we won't know the full extent of the traffic implications of that intersection until George's opens. Judy reminded residents that the Friends of Highland Park could also potentially raise money to pay for this study if the City isn't willing to conduct this study.

A vote was held: 22 voted in favor and 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

UPDATES FROM WHITNEY MULLEN, COMMUNITY RESOURCE REPRESENTATIVE

Whitney Mullen said she and Elizabeth have been talking about projects on the side and she can provide an update to Sanfelippo after the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- George's Restaurant is hoping to open in August! Sanfelippo reminded everyone that the owners agreed to come back to the neighborhood meeting a few months after they open to hear any concerns with parking, etc.
- Tramont Update: The zoning change they were requesting for Mixed Use Medium was approved. The variance to go to 125 ft tall was denied. They are currently appealing that in circuit court. They are going to reapply for a zoning use of Mixed Use High, so stay tuned for that.

NEW BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- June Reeves-Weir invited everyone to **BINGO** on June 24 from 6-8 pm from First Lutheran Church, benefitting charities in Birmingham. [Click here](#) for more info.
- Bob McKenna invited everyone to a fundraiser for Doug Jones on August 6 at the Clubhouse on Highland. If you would like to support or contribute, contact Bob.
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Town Hall is June 11 at Avondale Library, with a virtual town hall on June 3. More info on our [Events Page!](#)
- June 9 - Data Center ordinance public hearing with City Council
- District 3 Summer Fest with School Supply Drive is on June 20 from 10 am - 2 pm. If you want to volunteer, please reach out to their office. The event is FREE! Great music, kids area and more.
- October 18 from 3-5 pm is the 3rd annual It's Nice to Have You in Highland Park event
- Bulk trash is June 16

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 11 at ~~Highland Park Golf Course~~ Rojo Side Room

The meeting was adjourned at around 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association