

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

August Minutes

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026, Meeting Location: Rojo's side room

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the August 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.

AUGUST AGENDA

Sanfelippo asked if everyone approved of the agenda for the meeting, sent via email ahead of time. Ray Davis motioned to approve, Adam LeBerte seconded. All approved, none opposed.

JUNE MINUTES

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June meeting minutes. John Somerset moved to approve the June minutes and Philip Foster seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all approved, no one was opposed, and the June minutes were approved.

VOTE FOR FUNDING FOR VULCAN PARK

At a previous meeting, the Highland Park Neighborhood Association voted to support allocating some of our neighborhood funds to Vulcan Park for their firework show. Because the City also gives Vulcan Park money for this, we were not allowed to also support. Sanfelippo met with Vulcan Park's development director and she has asked that we instead reallocate those funds (\$1,500) to Vulcan's Holiday event.

After discussion, Morris Newman made a motion to allocate \$1,500 to Vulcan for their Holiday event. Priscilla LeBerte seconded. 15 voted to approve. 0 opposed. 0 abstained. (13 in person, 2 online). The motion passes.

VOTE FOR FUNDING FOR BENCH IN HONOR OF ALISON GLASCOCK

Dawn Glascock, the daughter of the late Charles Glascock and stepdaughter of the late Alison Glascock, would like to have a bench installed in Rhodes Park to honor them.

Alison Glascock was president of the Highland Park neighborhood association for several decades and, along with her husband Charles, helped spearhead the restoration of Rhodes Park. Dawn Glascock is hoping to install a bench in Rhodes Park with a memorial plaque in their honor. She has hit a lot of roadblocks with the City while trying to make this happen. She got an estimate for around \$2,100 for the bench and has asked if the HPNA would be willing to help financially support ...

The HPNA Spending Committee did not vote to support this effort.

Bob McKenna reminded everyone how much Highland Park meant to Alison, and how many great things she did for our neighborhood. He personally feels if a family wants to memorialize their loved one, that is a gift to the City.

Morris Newman said because she did so much for the neighborhood and was instrumental to the restoration of our parks, the neighborhood should commit to donating at least half of the cost, such as \$1,000, and Dawn could seek private donations for the rest. Sandra Bailey suggested we allocate \$1,500. Newman accepted that as a friendly amendment and the motion on the floor is to allocate \$1,500 for the memorial bench. John Somerset seconded the motion

14 voted to approve. 2 opposed. 2 abstained.

Bob McKenna offered to host a fundraiser at Clubhouse on Highland to help raise the additional funds.

ROLL CALL

Those attending online are: Fire Station representative, Horace Hulsey, Annette Rodgers, Whitney Mullen (City of Birmingham), Amanda Robinson, Matt Joiner, Amanda Robinson

UPDATES FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bob McKenna asked if the fire trucks could not use their sirens when arriving at the Greenbriar each time, especially at night, to keep the neighborhood a little quieter. They said they try not to use them so much at nighttime in the neighborhoods, but it is policy to run them when needed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Captain Julie Quigley-Vining has moved to another precinct, and the captain for our neighborhood now is Captain Joe Roberts.

UPDATES FROM COUNCILOR JOSH VASA

Councilor Vasa said there was an awesome event for Back to School, where they gave away more than 100 backpacks to neighborhood kids for back to school! Thanks to everyone who donated at Summer Fest!

School started back this week and some students from the Glen Iris Elementary Dance Group performed for Council. Vasa said it was ah-mazing! They will be performing at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!

Email address: district3@birminghamal.gov if you have questions, want to follow up on things, etc. And remember, [MyBham311](#). Vasa's office now has the ability to see the submissions and will do their best to help address them as you post them. And there's a new website for District 3! Check it out at www.district3bham.com

SOUTHERN AREA FRAMEWORK UPDATE FROM COUNCILOR VASA

The [Southern Area Framework](#) plan has been in development for two years. There have been lots of community meetings, focus group meetings, planning and engineering meetings and more. Vasa gave a special shout out to Morris Newman, Jim Cooper, and their committee for all their hard work during this process!

This is the last piece of the whole City's framework plan. There is a public hearing next Tuesday at 9:30 am to speak about it, but be prepared to arrive early. (This was subsequently postponed (possibly until Oct) due to an advertising issue with the city.)

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the presentation Councilor Vasa gave, which was an overview of the Southern Area Framework Plan over the last two years of 14+ meetings, explaining the recommendations and reasonings, etc. Vasa asked if you know how many parcels are in Highland Park? 615 parcels. Out of those 615, there were [34 properties](#) that were under discussion. At that time, Vasa recommended that the Planning staff review those 34, and they rezoned 15 of those properties, leaving 19 unchanged. Some of the properties were unchanged because:

- Properties contained duplexes, accessory dwelling units, other other existing multi-unit uses
- Downzoning could create new legal nonconforming properties
- Planning staff does not recommend creating new legal nonconforming uses
- Highland Park Overlay and Historic District regulations remain in place.

As a reminder, Vasa said rezoning does not automatically approve new development and the overlay district standard remains in effect. Future projects must still comply with zoning and permitting requirements.

If you have any other questions about this process, you can email bhamplanning@birminghamal.gov and copy Vasa's team at district3@birminghamal.gov.

The City Council Public Hearing about this will be Tuesday, August 18 at 9:30 am (arrive by 9 am!) in City Council Chambers. There was more discussion about the Southern Area Framework Plan and spot zoning from Morris Newman and other residents. Suzanne Baker asked if a home that is currently zoned as Single Family, but someone buys it and wants to use it as Multi Family. Vasa says first, the Historic Overlay [sic district] protects it, and second, there are setbacks or requirements necessary to change from single family to multi family on that property. Vasa does say that someone is allowed to do what they want under zoning with their own property.

Newman reminded that zoning goes with the land/parcel, and does not change with the owner or family. A property owner can do what they want, but it must be within current zoning laws. There are further protections in Highland Park such as the Highland Park Overlay and Local and National Historical District protections.

Vasa gave a huge thank you to the Highland Park Zoning Committee (Morris, Philip, Jim, et al) for all their hard work the last two years on this!

UPDATES FROM WHITNEY MULLEN, COMMUNITY RESOURCE REPRESENTATIVE

Whitney Mullen said she spoke with Flora today regarding the trash cans we submitted for over a year ago, and Flora said Parks and Rec is going to purchase the trash cans. Sanfelippo reminded Mullen that we already submitted a quote, and Mullen said now it is on Parks and Rec to make the purchase. We hope that happens soon!

IT'S NICE TO HAVE YOU IN HIGHLAND PARK EVENT ON OCTOBER 18!

Annie Leardine is on the board of Friends of Highland Park and says if you have an idea for a project for FoHP to work on for the neighborhood, please submit your ideas [on their webpage!](#) You can also donate to support these ideas.

Coming up on Sunday, October 18 from 3-5 pm is the third annual It's Nice to Have You in Highland Park event! The event takes place from IPC to the Sister Houses / Faraway Theatre House. There will be live music, light refreshments on porches and folks are welcome to dress in period attire or Halloween-y! [All the details are here.](#) You can also donate to support the event, or volunteer to help!

As a reminder, Friends of Highland Park is a 501(c)3 non profit organization that is not connected to the Neighborhood Association, but we work together and communicate together. It gives us flexibility with funding.

Thank you to Rojo for letting us have our meetings here!

NEW BUSINESS

- Laney DeJonge asked about the two abandoned apartment buildings across from Freddy's. Sanfelippo said the developer Stone River tried to rush a demolition permit, but they did not present a plan with what they would do there. Eventually, they were not granted a demolition permit (they pulled their request from the Design Review Committee agenda) and we have not heard from them since. Because they are in the historic district, they are somewhat protected. There is this petition, as well. But there has not been a lot of success getting a response from the owners. Sanfelippo will send the contact information of the owners to DeJonge.

A resident asked about the Design Review process and criteria for demolition. Sanfelippo said if someone wants to demolish a building in a local historic district, they go to the city who directs them to our Local Historic Advisory Committee. That committee meets with the person with the goal to preserve wherever possible. If the building is not salvageable or the owner doesn't want to preserve it, the City's Design Review Committee would generally table the project until the neighborhood committee is satisfied with the potential project going forward. If the City Design Review denies the demolition permit, it starts a 12-month clock with the hopes the owner and the neighborhood work it out. Unfortunately, as it is written now, the owner can just wait out the 12 months and then ask for a demolition permit, and they are generally granted the demolition permit.

Baker asked if we could commission our own structural engineer review, but Sanfelippo said we would need permission to get on the property. DeJonge asked if there are any plans with the City Council to change that rule as it is a little ridiculous to wait that 12 month period and they then just get the demolition permit anyway. Sanfelippo said that yes there is an effort in the works with the Birmingham Historical Commission to get that changed / strengthened.

- Jim Carnes provided an update on the mystery of the mosquito farm behind George's Restaurant. There is a foot deep pool of water that sits there behind the restaurant. Carnes talked to the director

at the City's Inspections Office, who came out to check on the situation. The building was cited near the mosquito pool and they indicated that George's will not be allowed any other permits until they fixed this drainage situation. Laney DeJonge suggested using the dunks that kill mosquitos in the meantime. Still no update on when George's will open.

UPDATE ON TRAMONT SPOT ZONING VOTE

Suzanne Baker wanted to thank Councilor Vasa for voting in the neighborhood's favor (to deny the re-zoning request) at the Planning and Zoning committee meeting in the Tramont vote. The public hearing is coming up on August 25 at 9:30 am. Baker encourages anyone who is interested in attending to please do. Jim Carnes added on that the traffic study done for this project was conducted in June, when school was not in session. You can also submit comments and your opinions on the subject by emailing the City Council members and to bhamplanning@birminghamal.gov (also copy district3@birminghamal.gov). Morris Newman asked if Vasa could share why the other Councilors voted in favor of this spot zoning? Toni King suggests reaching out directly to Clinton Woods and LaTonya Tate to ask them why they voted in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Large trash and brush is August 13 and August 27
- August 17 is recycling
- August 18 - Framework Rezoning Meeting at 9:30 (this was postponed until likely Oct)
- August 18 - 10% Tuesday at Rojo benefits Alabama Rivers Alliance
- August 18 - annual community health fair at the crossplex from 10 am - 2 pm
- August 22 - 23rd annual [Taste of Fourth Avenue Jazz Festival](#)
- August 25 - Tramont Rezoning Public Hearing at City Council at 9:30 am - get there early to speak!
- August 24 - August 30 - [Sidewalk Film Festival](#)
- September 11 - Sustainability Lunch with Tim Brice with Roald Hazelhoff
- September 11 - 12 - [Birmingham Artwalk](#)
- October 18 from 3-5 pm is the 3rd annual It's Nice to Have You in Highland Park event

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 8 location TBC

The meeting was adjourned at around 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association