

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

August Minutes and Attendees

Meeting Date: September 8, 2026, Meeting Online Only

[Link to meeting recording](#)

President Elizabeth Sanfelippo called the September 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.

ROLL CALL

Those attending online are: Fire Station representative, Elizabeth Sanfelippo, Judy Jones, Kelly Marshall, John Somerset, Maresha Malcom (The People's Justice Council), Tony Diliberto, Keith O. Williams, William Lipscomb (Birmingham Fire Department) and Marjorie White.

AUGUST MINUTES

Sanfelippo asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August meeting minutes. Judy Jones moved to table accepting the minutes until the next meeting due to only neighborhood officers + one other person who lives in the neighborhood attending. Everyone agreed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Chief Coleman reminded everyone to check their smoke detectors in their homes and contact the fire department if you need a new one. He also reminded everyone to stay hydrated as it is still super hot.

SEPTEMBER AGENDA

Sanfelippo asked for approval of the agenda for the meeting, sent via email ahead of time. Judy Jones motioned to approve, Kelly Marshall seconded. All approved, none opposed.

SPECIAL SPEAKER: MARESHA MALCOM, PEOPLE'S JUSTICE COUNCIL

Maresha Malcom presented about PJC's program, WERise (Weatherize Every Residence in the South East), a community-based program that teaches regular people how to make their homes stronger, healthier, and more energy-efficient. You can read [more about this program here](#).

They are currently co-hosting weatherization workshops throughout the Southeast to bring awareness about energy burdens, and offering solutions with this program that train the trainers, with pay, to learn about and install weatherizations to homes. To learn more about this program, [fill out this form](#), or reach out to: Cosco Jones, Technical Director jones2sgroup@gmail.com or 404-547-0875.

VOTE FOR FUNDING FOR VULCAN PARK

At two previous meetings, the Highland Park Neighborhood Association voted to allocate some of our neighborhood funds to Vulcan Park to support their events. Both times we have been rejected by the City to provide that support. Sanfelippo has now been told we *can* contribute to Vulcan Park Foundation to provide community-based workshops, exhibits and presentations to residents of the citizens of

Birmingham to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham's history and culture.

Judy Jones moved to allocate \$1,500 to Vulcan Park Foundation to provide community-based workshops, exhibits and presentations to residents of the citizens of Birmingham to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham's history and culture. Kelly Marshall seconded. 4 voted in favor, 0 opposed.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITY PROJECTS FUNDING SURVEY RESULTS

Sanfelippo presented the results of the Priority Projects Survey HPNA conducted a few months ago. 63 residents completed the survey and ranked the issues in importance from 1-10 and with the points totaled for each one, these are the top four:

427

Hire someone to create a **Strategic Tree Plan** (for replacing trees in Right of Ways as current ones die)

334

Get **glass globe fixtures** in Rhodes Park working (with either solar or potential electrical underground repairs)

341

Sidewalk Repairs (we have not been able to get city help with quotes, but working on that).
Note: there is no way we could do all side streets so this could prove extremely challenging on what to prioritize)

319

Replace several **broken glass globes on historic lamps** in Rhodes park (getting them working would be potentially a much bigger lift)

Sanfelippo will look into these and report back! Thank you to everyone who participated in this survey!

Jones reminded us that Friends of Highland Park is working on a neighborhood tree policy. Jones also looked at the tree ordinance established in October of 2025 and believes that trees in the right of way are the property owner's responsibility. There was more discussion about this policy, and about why that might have been established. Jones is still investigating.

UPDATES FROM COUNCILOR VASA'S OFFICE

Tony Diliberto is representing Councilor Vasa's office today as Vasa is out of town. Diliberto reported the Southern Area Framework public hearing will be on October 20. There was some discussion at the City Council meeting about traffic calming. Sanfelippo said that we submitted our priority requests for traffic calming earlier this year during the spring application period, but have not heard back. Sanfelippo asked

BDOT if it would be better to not submit several requests at once, and she was told Prince is now analyzing (after an oversight) the ones we initially submitted to see if they are good candidates.

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

LOCAL HISTORIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The LHAC drafted a letter and sent it to Stone River, the owners of the apartment buildings across from Freddy's on Highland Avenue, along with two other homes and another apartment building behind it. As a reminder, in December they applied to demolish the buildings, but ended up withdrawing that request at Design Review. They had not presented their full plan for what was going there in the future which is a requirement for demolition permit applications. Since then, they had put up fences around the buildings and boarded up the windows, and became an eyesore as you enter the neighborhood.

Sanfelippo has received a response to her letter and the LHAC is now setting up a meeting with the developers to review the progress on their plans for the buildings. At some point, they will present those plans to the neighborhood. The owners now say the buildings are too unsafe to enter, and cannot be saved. Sanfelippo has been told the City's design review committee wants the LHAC to be happy with a plan to proceed and will table the case until that happens, if needed. Sanfelippo and Jones discussed this further.

Marshall asked for a copy of the demolition policy that allows a developer to wait out a 12 month period before demolishing a building, with or without a permit. Jones said she would send it to Marshall.

Marjorie White of Birmingham Historical Society said she would not assume the buildings are in such dilapidated conditions. She also asked about the zoning and the request for the change in height. She reminded us that the City Council support of our neighborhood is not there, as seen with the Tramont vote. Sanfelippo believes the zoning is for Mixed Use Medium. White reminded us there are a lot of things the neighborhood and the LHAC should look at, not just the design aspect (such as zoning, parking, etc.). We will need to pay close attention to the potential zoning changes.

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

Shout out to sponsors of this great event: Remembering Scott Wells Ford, Priscilla LaBerte, Ashley Lewis, Pam Ager, Lynlee Hughes, Graffeo Law, Rick Lovelady and H2 Real Estate. Brought to you by Highland Park Neighborhood Association, Friends of Highland Park, Birmingham Historical Society and Rojo! [All the details are here](#). After party at Rojo!

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!

BIG SHOUT OUT

Thank you to Joe Watts for creating and maintaining the Highland Park website and making it so easy for us to update neighbors!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bulk trash is Friday, September 11 and on September 25
- [Birmingham Artwalk](#) is Friday and Saturday (September 11 and 12)
- [Southern Exposure Films' World Premiere](#) is September 25 at Altamont School! See past films [here](#).
- October 18 from 3-5 pm is the 3rd annual It's Nice to Have You in Highland Park event

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 13 at 6 pm location : Rojo's Side Room

The meeting was adjourned at around 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Marshall
Secretary, Highland Park Neighborhood Association