

**HPCC
Monthly Community Meeting
August 16, 2018
St. Andrew's Church**

Meeting Called to order at 7:06 pm by Monica Watt

Police Zone 5 Update – Sgt. Baker

Vehicle theft is a big issue in Highland Park. There will be officers patrolling overnight. If people see anyone suspicious out in the streets, especially in the early morning hours, they should call 911. Two kids were arrested this morning in Morningside trying to break into cars; they were checking door handles looking for unlocked cars. They were not from this area; they took a bus in. **Do not leave valuables in sight in your car and remember to lock your car doors.**

People from the neighborhood reported suspected drug activity on Collins, behind Dilworth. Sgt. Baker told people they should not engage people acting suspiciously; they should 911 (for active behavior) or 311 (for general concerns). He said he would relay people's concerns to the Commander. Weekly updates from Zone 5 are available by email; if you're interested, contact Monica at monica.watt@elias-savion.com.

**Lisa Ceoffe, City Forester, Dept of Public Works
Alicia Carberry, Mayor's Office**

The July 4th microburst caused a lot of tree canopy loss in Highland Park: at least 25 large trees came down. If you lost a city tree, you can contact the City Forester's office and request a new one.

Highland Park has a lot of tree canopy, but it is aging out so it is time to be planting new trees. They encourage you to talk to your neighbors and consider various parts of the neighborhood. To request a new city tree through the TreeVitalize program, visit: <https://waterlandlife.org/trees/treevitalize-pittsburgh/apply-to-treevitalize/> The deadline for the Spring 2019 planning is September 14. They are also looking for a neighborhood coordinator for the Spring 2019 planting. They also noted that we need people to plant trees on private property, especially trees that will be large.

The Forestry Division is doing many proactive things regarding the tree canopy. However, they have limited resources for pruning and trimming. There is a reimbursement program for sidewalk damage caused by tree roots. You can the Forestry Division for an evaluation. You can also call the city Legal Department if there was damage to a vehicle from limbs falling from city trees.

Regarding the upcoming PWSA work near the park entrance: New pipes will be going in from near the main park entrance leading to the pump station near Reservoir 2. This project is still in the planning phase. The original plan was going to remove many trees, but they are working to adjust the plan to save and protect more trees. There will be future meetings about this plan and the trees impacted.

Concerns were raised about tree pruning by the utilities. The Forestry Division works with Duquesne Light: Duquesne Light is on the Shade Tree Commission, they consult on the approved tree list, and they communicate about pruning schedules. Unfortunately in many places, large trees were planted under utility lines. The utilities' main focus is protecting electric lines; pruning is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Trees are on a 2-, 4- or 6-year pruning cycle. The less frequently they prune,

the more severe the pruning is. If you have an issue with pruning or another problem with street trees, you can contact the City Forester's office or 311 and they will send someone out to assess the problem, although there is a backlog in addressing low-priority/low-liability issues.

Danielle Crumrine, Executive Director, TreePittsburgh

TreePittsburgh is recruiting tree tenders. To be a tree tender, you must take a day-long course that covers urban forestry practices, tree biology and health, proper planting, pruning, and maintenance, and instruction on how lead your community in organizing tree plantings and tree care events. Being a tree tender also qualifies you to do pruning in the neighborhoods; TreePittsburgh volunteers prune approximately 2,000 trees each year. The next course is on September 8. To sign up, visit <https://www.treepittsburgh.org/ways-to-give/volunteer/>.

On Oct 13th, they are giving away 500 trees at the Zoo, up to two trees per household. You must sign up in advance; please contact TreePittsburgh to do so. They will help you choose the right species and teach you how to plant it.

There is new, 5 acre TreePittsburgh facility on the waterfront by the Fleming Bridge in Lawrenceville on a former industrial site. The site includes nurseries, greenhouses, an education center, offices, a workshop, and event space that can be rented on the riverfront - all LEED certified. They are also working to restore the riverfront there, having planted 400 trees already. It is a \$2.6 million project; \$2.2 million has been raised and they are still taking donations.

Additional Issues

If a car has been abandoned, and the registration is over 90 days expired, they can be towed. Contact Monica at monica.watt@elias-savion.com. Highland Park has one of the highest rate of abandoned vehicles in the city; people bring them here and leave them.

There are concerns about speeding and erratic driving in the neighborhood. Monica forwarded concerns from the list serv to the Commander of Zone 5 who said they would do some ticketing to raise awareness. HPCC is looking into getting lighted signs that show a car's speed. Someone mentioned that the four way intersection at the entrance to the park is a big problem, as is the intersection of Highland and Mellon. Those intersections will be closed for the PWSA project discussed above; that could be a good time to get the city to do something at these intersections.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept 20, 2018 at St. Andrews at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM