

**HPCC
Monthly Community Meeting
February 15, 2018
St. Andrew's Church**

Meeting Called to order at 7:05pm by Jake Pawlak

Police Zone 5 Update- Det. Bob Smolinski

Although it is a slow time of year for crime, car break-ins continue to occur in Highland Park. In particular, cars parked near the reservoir by joggers and others have become a target when any valuables or bags are left in plain sight. Neighbors are urged to not leave anything visible. Residents reported speed issues by buses on Euclid Ave. between Callowhill and Bunkerhill Streets.

House Tour Committee Update- Monica Watt, Chair

The House Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2018 (Mothers' Day Weekend) from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The committee is seeking homes for the tour, as well as volunteers.

Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC)- David Hance, President

An overview of HPCDC's history in residential and commercial development was provided. The organization takes on strategic projects that private investors cannot do, with the goal of stabilizing an area until the private market can take over.

The development of Park Bruges represented Phase I of Bryant Street's revitalization. Phase II includes the adjacent mixed use development, which has six occupied apartments and six ground floor commercial spaces. Three of the spaces are currently rented, with the remaining spaces available.

The property located at 5800 Bryant St. is next to be restored by HPCDC with plans for a small restaurant (ground floor), second floor offices, and a two-story town home in the rear. Building permits and contractors are ready, and work will begin work as soon as the construction loan closes. The work will include the restoration of the exterior and build-out.

The lots owned by HPCDC on the 900 block of Mellon St. will soon be transferred to architect Laura Nettleton. She intends to construct three "passive" homes on the lots.

PWSA- Bob Weimar, Acting Executive Director

The main goal of PWSA at this time is to recover from problems associated with failing equipment and systems in order to always provide water and sewer services to the City of Pittsburgh. Twenty years with no significant capital investment has left the organization cannibalizing equipment as it fails since many parts are no longer available and, in many cases, cannot be manufactured.

The combined sewer and water system will remain, as separating the two is cost prohibitive and highly disruptive. PWSA is working on plans to hold back storm water and gradually release it to reduce sewer back-ups during heavy rainfall.

The PWSA board voted in November to increase rates to fund capital improvements necessary for the renewal of the water and sewer system. Some of the planned improvements will take place in Highland Park. Highland 1 (open reservoir) supplies 1/3 of the City's water when operational. Highland 2 (covered reservoir) supplies 25% of the City's water.

A temporary pump station is currently operating at Highland 2. A new pump station will be built and a new cover and line replacement are also planned. An ultraviolet disinfection system will be installed at Highland 1 to bring it online again. Installation should begin in six weeks. Additional security such as cameras and significant fencing has been requested by the DEP. The costs, complexity, and manpower needed to operate Highland 1 are significant. Highland 1 won't be covered, but a new covered, underground reservoir will be likely be built somewhere else in the future (5-10 years) to replace it. The community will then be able to weigh in on keeping Highland 1 as a recreational amenity.

PWSA is exploring the use of a new chemical treatment (an orthophosphate) to reduce and eliminate lead corrosion. This treatment has been successful in other cities and takes 3-6 months to reduce lead levels.

Lead service line replacement is underway, with 2,100 service lines to be replaced by the end of the calendar year. Both public and private lines will be replaced, as there will be no partial line replacement. Private lines will be replaced free of charge this year. Priority will be given to those customers with the highest lead levels and those with partial line replacements that were completed in 2016. Residents are urged to get their water tested to qualify.

State funds have been set aside to assist customers who cannot afford to replace their private lines (\$1.8 M) and who cannot afford the new rates (\$2.6M).

The PUC will have regulatory oversight of PWSA's operations going forward.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2018 at St. Andrews at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM