

**HPCC
Monthly Community Meeting
January 18, 2018
St. Andrew's Church**

Meeting Called to order at 7:07pm by Jake Pawlak

Police Zone 5 Update- Sgt. Joe Lewis

Crime has been low in Highland Park after an uptick in car break-ins just before the holidays. It is recommended that residents keep their car doors locked and watch, stay with, or keep an eye on their cars while warming them up. Most car thefts and car break-ins are crimes of opportunity.

Councilwoman Gross's Office--Councilwoman Deb Gross and Bethani Cameron, Chief of Staff

Bethani Cameron was introduced as Councilwoman Gross's new Chief of Staff.

Councilwoman Gross provided a wrap-up on end-of-year activities by the Council, which included securing the funding for the affordable housing trust fund. She indicated that moving forward, discussions on what the policy should be on tax abatement, tax credits and other incentives for development in the City would be a priority. The policy set in 2007, when no one was building in the City, is no longer relevant given the development boom, particularly in the Strip District.

Getting the DEP, Allegheny County Health Department, the EPA, the PUC, and PWSA to work productively together will be a continuing priority for Councilwoman Gross.

Councilwoman Gross has been hearing concerns from neighbors near or on St. Clair Street regarding the Port Authority's plans for the comfort station and bus route for BRT. Some residents are circulating petitions against the plans.

Mayor's Office-Corey Buckner, City of Pittsburgh

The responsibility for administering the Snow Angels program is now with the Mayor's office. All Highland Park requests have been met with an assigned volunteer. 170 volunteers have signed up this year, more than double the previous year. There is still need in other nearby neighborhoods for volunteers. To sign up to be a "snow angel" or to request an angel, visit www.pittsburghpa.gov/snowangels. Those in need of an angel may also call 311, and an application will be mailed. Call Corey Buckner at 412-255-4773 with questions about the program, which teams volunteer snow shovelers with those who are unable to shovel their sidewalks.

Home Tour Committee Update- Monica Watt, Chair

The Home Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2018 (Mothers' Day Weekend). The committee is seeking homes for the tour, as well as volunteers.

**Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy-Erin Copeland
Trail Pittsburgh-Sara Thompson and John Read, Trail Stewards for Highland Park**

The Pittsburgh Department of Public Works and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are responsible for maintaining Highland Park. Through the use of trail stewards, woodland trails are designed, maintained and re-routed in Highland Park and public parks throughout the city, county, and state. The trail stewards are volunteers for the all-volunteer organization *Trail Pittsburgh*.

Since the fall, stewards have observed illegal trail building in Highland Park in the form of BMX-like trails that are dangerous and unsustainable. Issues such as erosion, the destruction of native plants, repeated crisscrossing of legal paths, temporary nature of paths, added jump structures, liability, and safety were discussed in detail.

These activities are illegal and will be enforced by the park rangers. The legal trails are designed to be sustainable and to accommodate multi-uses--bikers, walkers, joggers, and dog walkers. Trail steward volunteers have spent years building and maintaining these trails.

A plan is currently under discussion to close the dangerous trails by the use of signage and deconstruction of the trails. A work day will be set in the coming months to remove the trails. Highland Park residents are encouraged to join in the effort and will be notified through HPCC.

For information about *Trail Pittsburgh*, visit www.trailpittsburgh.org.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2018 at St. Andrews at 7:00 PM. Guest speaker will be Robert Weimer, Executive Director PWSA

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM