

**May 20, 2021**

**HPCC Community Zoom Meeting**

In attendance: 32 participants

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Walsh at 7:02 P.M.

**HPCC - Public Safety Updates- Stephanie Walsh**

- Recent hate crimes / vandalism in neighborhood
  - HPCC board released a statement that's on our website
  - We condemn these actions. As an organization we are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment for everyone in the community.
  - We reached out to all of the two affected parties and Zone 5
  - We strongly encourage anyone who experiences or witnesses this type of behavior to contact the police so that they can investigate and track such incidents; you can reach out to our board if you would like us to help facilitate this contact.
- Thefts from Bryant Street - picnic table & planters at market
  - In total - 6 planters were stolen - 4 from the Market and 2 from the new Barbershop.

**Zone 5 - Officer Jeffery Crawford**

- In the past 30 days there were:
  - 4 thefts from vehicles
  - Planters stolen from the porch of a Negley Avenue home.
    - A warrant has been issued for a subject of interest in the theft.
  - Planters stolen from the Bryant Street Market lot (see above).
    - A warrant has been issued in this theft.
  - There will be a meeting next week regarding noise issues from the police shooting range.
    - Results of the City's Noise Study will be presented/discussed.
  - Police patrols have been increased in the Highland Park/East Liberty neighborhoods.
    - Abandoned vehicles are being identified and removed from the neighborhoods.
  - A participant identified an ongoing spate of vehicular accidents at the corner of Highland Avenue and Jackson Street. Speeding is prevalent in that intersection.
    - Officer Crawford will follow up.
  - Another resident identified Stanton Avenue between Highland and Negley Avenues as another safety hazard due to speeding, running the stop sign at North Euclid, all resulting in accidents.
    - Officer Crawford will follow up.

### **HPCC - Other Updates - Stephanie Walsh**

- Please visit the New Events page on the HPCC website
- Parklet cleanup Saturday, May 22
- Sidewalk Chalk-a-Palooza
  - Locations throughout the neighborhood for chalk pick up will be posted prior to the event.
- Porch Concerts will return the first Sunday in June.
- Garden Tour - July 11.
- Look for our May newsletter in mail -
  - It will include sign up sheet for Yard Sale on Sept 19
- Traffic circle plants coming for North Euclid - volunteers are needed for plant watering.

### **Super Playground Presentation - Andrea Ketzel, Senior Landscape Architect, City Department of Public Works and Christopher Corbett, Office of City Planning.**

- There were over 200 responders to the Community surveys regarding the new Playground.
- The HPCC SuperPlayground committee is working with the Pittsburgh Glass Center to provide mosaics for the Playground.
  - This will require City Art Committee approval.
- Fencing will be erected along the Playground street side of Reservoir Drive.
- Construction should be underway by late August - September after the bidding process in June - July.
- Anticipated reopening is late winter/early Spring.
- A big shout out to the HPCC SuperPlayground Committee members (Sabrina Culyba, Mac Lynch, Betsy Rogerson, and Monica Watt) and the staff at the City (particularly Andrea Ketzel in Public Works) and Merritt Chase for all of the work done/being done on this great project! They've been very good at soliciting and responding to community feedback.

### **Discussion of parklet:**

#### **Stephanie Walsh - Overview**

- There had been an abandoned home on this property.
- The Highland Park CDC purchased it, demolished the building, and cleared the lot
- The lot was not being used. In response to COVID 19, trying to find ways to support our businesses, the HPCC approached them and the HPCDC about using the space as a park
- The vision is not just a place for people to have take out, but also a community gathering spot.
- It seems like this type of space is something the community values and the HPCC is considering ways to maintain the space as a park long term as an enhancement to the business district and the neighborhood.

- It's unique - people don't get lunch at Bryant Street and walk up to Highland Park. It's also easily accessible greenspace for many neighbors who live further away from the park.
- The CDC has said it's willing to work with us toward that vision if it's something the community supports, but there is now a developer who has offered to purchase the site and build it out for mixed used commercial / apartments similar to the other new construction on the block
- We want to get feedback from you - what would you like to see happen with the space?

#### **Councilwoman Deborah Gross**

- The Councilwoman reviewed the importance of Community and green spaces, as well as shared her knowledge of how the process of a land bank works.

#### **David Hance, President HPCDC**

- Reviewed the history of the property and its acquisition.
- Stressed the importance/need for a clear vision for the property.
- There is an offer to purchase the site to put in a 6-person software firm with the owner living upstairs.

#### **Other Feedback**

- Tim VanFleet reported on behalf of MaryBeth VanFleet, HPCC liaison to business owners. She has spoken to most of the business owners and they pretty much unanimously support maintaining the space as a park.
- All of the comments (12+ in the chat and spoken) were in support of maintaining the space as a parklet.

#### **Stephanie**

- The community's support for the parklet was confirmed by the feedback we received. We'll continue to move forward investigating options for maintaining the space as a park.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 P.M.