

Minutes from Neighborhood meeting with Highland Hospital

Meeting set up by Mike Thompson and Barbara Ficarra

Date: Feb. 28, 2012 **Location :** Callahan Conference room.

Attendees:

Neighbors: Michael Burger, Jacqueline Lindauer, Sraddha Prativadi, Laura Stam and Mike Thompson *Highland Park*

Neighborhood Association Chairperson : Mary Staropoli

City council members: John Borek (Assistant to Adam McFadden) and Elaine Spaul

City Forester: Brian Liberti

Highland Hospital Administration: Barbara Ficarra Director of Community Relations

Mike Zanghi Director of Facilities

Kara Halstead Physician Liaison / Director of Service Excellence

Stated goals of the meeting

- 1) find out what happened to landscaping on Rockingham street including the loss of the street trees and what will be done about this.
- 2) reestablish a working relationship with Highland by which Neighborhood/Hospital issues can be communicated and resolved including a method to track progress.

Action items

- ❖ Next meeting: Tuesday April 24th 5:00 p.m. Highland
- ❖ **Brian Liberti and Mike Zanghi** to work together to come up with trees the city can plant which will be able to resist salting.
- ❖ **John Borek** will pull together planning commission requirements for neighborhood screening of parking garages from site planning documents.
- ❖ **Barbara** to remind staff re smoking at Bellvue near ER entrance. Revisit staff smoking on Mt Vernon and Rockingham and remind staff about sitting on street in "blues". Also will look into medical waste on the street issue .
- ❖ **Mike T.** to distribute minutes. Also will create problem tracking document and distribute.

Proposed Agenda		
• Introductions, agree on purpose and goals... corrections to agenda	All	10 min
• Historical Hospital/ neighborhood issue resolution	Mike T	10 min
• What about the trees and landscaping, neighborhood screen? What happened? What can be done?	All	25 min
• Identify other issues/concerns	All	10 min
• Identify action items	Mike T	10 min
• Identify timeframe for action items and date/time for next meeting	All	5 min

Meeting started at 5:10 p.m.

Introductions

Purpose of meeting was stated.

Mike Thompson presented slideshow (details following) which touched on these points:

- Historically Highland and the Neighborhood have solved problems, where possible, together. Some examples were presented.
- The Highland Park Neighborhood
- Currently there are a number of problems causing friction with the surrounding neighborhood. The focus of this meeting is the deterioration of screening and landscaping along the north and east side of the Hospital .
- Original plans for parking garages and Rockingham-Mt Vernon exposures called for screening vegetation.
 - Recent deterioration of vegetation on hospital property
 - Recent death of most of city owned trees between sidewalk and Rockingham St. from South ave to Mt Vernon
 - Recent death of large screening bushes around physician office building garage.
- The city trees had been very healthy for at least the past 20 years. The arborvitae on Hospital property were healthy 5-6 years ago.

Discussion of trees :

- Brian Liberti believes problem with trees due to salt on sidewalks which appears to be excessive.
- Mike Zanghi : balance between safety and health of trees.
- John Borek : will look for requirements originally agreed on by hospital in site plan approval.
- Some discussion of using less salt, widening the sidewalk. Questions raised about use of herbicide too close to trees adding to problem. Hospital uses "snowmelt" which is probably CaCl_2 .
- Vegetation on Highland's property is also deteriorating, arborvitae, other trees and bushes.

Other Issues:

- Noise, smoking by EMT's and ambulance personnel on Bellvue entrance especially noise late at night.
- Medical trash (nitrile gloves, masks) around hospital on Bellvue and Mt Vernon
- Staff Smokers hanging around on Mt Vernon and Rockingham.
- Staff wearing "Blues" outside and sitting around on curbs on Mt Vernon.
- Truck deliveries after 10:00 p.m. and before 8:00 a.m. especially backup "beep-beeps".

Group agrees to next meeting April 24th 5:00 p.m. , Highland.

Meeting adjourned 6:20 p.m.

So what's the problem ?

We are a vibrant, stable city neighborhood, adjacent to a world class park and arboretum. This is a very desirable area in which to live and raise a family, homes are kept up.

Highland Hospital is a large institution located within this neighborhood. The hospital shares the main entrance into the neighborhood as well as Highland Park.

We want the hospital to behave as a member of the neighborhood. This location for a hospital requires different sensitivities than a facility adjacent to a non-residential area or a cemetery.

Many home owners in this neighborhood contribute significant amounts of both their time and money each year landscaping their properties.

In the Past we have solved problems together for mutual benefit

Examples

- Hospital Incinerator
 - Problem: partially incinerated hospital records raining down on neighborhood
 - Solution: fix incinerator / more efficient
- Air Conditioning
 - Problem: Extremely loud waking neighbors
 - Solution: optimize motors / more efficient saved energy
- Lighting in parking garages
 - Problem: light glaring from parking garages
 - Solution: go to low energy fluorescent / more efficient
- Smokers
 - Problem: smoking in neighbors yards / path to park
 - Solution: smoking area, reconfigured (compliance continuing issue)
- Shuttle bus traffic down Rockingham Street
 - Problem: shuttle buses running every few minutes down Rockingham
 - Solution: reroute buses

Focus

- Landscaping :



Sample Landscaping (L-R)

Highland Hospital (South Avenue) , Strong (Elmwood Ave), Highland Hospital (South Avenue) , Helenwood Hall (Crittenden Blvd)

Focus

- Landscaping on Rockingham and Mt. Vernon:
 - When Garages were built important conditions from planning commission were visual screening for aesthetics and noise abatement



The view today



The view today



The view today



The view today



