

Highland Park Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2024

In Attendance	Absent
Bob Thompson, Chair Roger Ramsay, Treasurer Roxanne Townsend, Communications Larry O’Heron, South Section Leader Katie Shaw, At Large Member Mike Thompson, Highland Hospital liaison	Stacey Bershod, North Section Leader Glen Coykendahl, East Section Leader Tom Slothower, At Large Member

Agenda

1. Introducing Katie Shaw

- a. Katie introduced herself to Board members
 - i. Has lived in or near HPN for several years
 - ii. Works at U of R in data management
- b. Roxanne made a motion to elect Katie as an At Large Member of the HPNA Board. Larry 2nd the motion. All present voted yes.

2. Treasurer’s Report

- a. Roger reviewed the HPNA Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statements for August with the Board.
- b. Roxanne made a motion to accept the August Treasurer’s reports. Katie 2nd the motion. All present voted yes.

3. Communications

- a. The HPNA email list currently has about 550 emails. There were about 20 bounces and/or unsubscribes with the last email sent.
- b. The Taste of the Neighborhood website page will be updated with pics from the event.
- c. The Ellwanger & Barry Park kiosk will be updated with a few TON pics.
- d. The email sign up on the website is currently broken.
- e. Website should be checked for any links to the City of Rochester website as their site has been upgraded and links may not be the same.
- f. Add webpage that lists financial benefits for neighbors e.g., tax exemptions, city grants

4. Neighborhood Functions review

- a. **Porch “fest”** – Not discussed due to Tom’s absence.
- b. **Taste of the Neighborhood**
 - i. Estimated attendance was about 150, about 3% of households based on number of flyers distributed
 - ii. Needed more volunteers for food tent and cleanup. Next year’s target should be 6 for setup, 6 for food tent, 6 for take down. Volunteers for flyer distribution was fine also about 6.
 - iii. People asked about local business raffles and indicated that these were more interesting than just a 50/50 raffle.
 - iv. Some people indicated that they missed the live band.

- v. Sunday may be a better day than Saturday.
- vi. Next year would like to bring back corporate sponsors; Highland Hospital, Genesee Co-op, perhaps St. Johns.
- vii. These notes will be added to the TON to do list on the shared drive.

5. PCIC – Sector 6 & 7

PCIC Meeting for Sectors 6/7 (Sept 11, 2024)

Attendees:

Capt. Elwood RPD, RPD, Goodman Section
Lt Rob Wilson (Crime Prevention Officer)
Larry O'Heron - HPNA
Linda Baier - Azalea NA
Marianne Pastecki - ABC / Park Ave
Rome Celli - Upper Monroe
Joe McElveney - NOTA NA
Gary Domenico - ABC Streets
Colleen McCarthy - Lock 66
Bob Thompson - HPNA
Daniel Jones - citizen Upper Monroe
Judy Hay - Swillburg
Ted Benedict - Lock 66

Goodman Section Crime Stats: in general, things calming down.

The Goodman section covers approximately 40% of the city. This PCIC meeting covers neighborhoods that represent approximately 20% of the city.

- Burglaries up compared to two years ago, but people were home then. Now folks are back at work.
- Larcenies down in year-to-year stats comparison. Exploded when RPD was giving only appearance tickets while COVID and bail reform took effect.
- Aggravated assaults also on a downward trend.
- Court Watch, which used to monitor how judges applied rulings, is no longer in effect. There was discussion if such information is publicly-faced, but research into this topic is needed.
- KIAs are susceptible again as there are ways to get around the most recent fixes to prevent auto theft. 56 cars (29 Kias, 23 Hyundais) were stolen in the south section. 14 of the 56 were attempts only.
- 30 vehicle larcenies. Don't leave valuables in plain sight. Lock car doors.

HPNA only (over the past thirty days)

- Burglary: One on Cypress St.
- Various larcenies: None in Crime Map
- Motor Vehicle Theft: Five in HPNA. Don't leave car fobs in the vehicle.

- One robbery vicinity Highland Hosp on South Ave, early morning of Sept 2nd. Victim left work when he was robbed by three young men who got out of a silver SUV. Stolen phone tracked to Mt Vernon where it was recovered.
- Busted car windows: reports of cars broken into from HPNA Facebook page: Vandalism is tracked by the Crime Analysis Center, based on crime: vandalism, attempted theft, burglary, criminal mischief
- Aug 31st, low numbers of Meigs - attempted through broken window but homeowner scared the person(s) off

Southeast Neighborhood Service Center: Rep not present tonight.

General topics:

- Unattended death: Police are called to verify no signs of violence. Make sure things are on the up and up. Usually pretty mundane unless there are signs of trauma, violence or suicide.
- Have you written down the serial numbers of major appliances, electronics, etc? These are extremely useful to the RPD as they query pawn shops, etc during the investigation.
- If you would like a security assessment on your home, contact the Crime Prevention Officers at the Southeast Neighborhood Center. (585 428 7640)
- RPD Crime Map: If you want to pull up the RPD crime stats, go to the crime map website. It is fairly up to date, depending on the nature of the crime report. The best way to get to it is to do a web search on "RPD Public Crime Map" and look for a link to www.arcgis.com

6. NBN6

- a. RPS Deputy Chief of Community Engagement spoke to group. He's very approachable and answered many questions from participants. RPD is currently down 70 officers.
- b. PIC Team described progress. Now have 40 members on team. When the PIC team becomes involved, their goal is to refer individuals to groups that can further help. The PIC team will do one follow-up only.

7. Other / New Business

a. Neighborhood Service Center

- i. John McMann is the new director for the SE NSC, recent neighborhood leaders meeting. John has 37 years with the city and was a former code enforcement officer. He's a proponent for following and developing process with a focus on response to code complaints.
- ii. Code violations that are filed will receive an automatic fine in 30 days if proof of mitigation has not happened.

b. NBN 2.0

- i. The Good Neighbor grant program and grant money from ESL will be combined to offer grants to the neighborhood funneled through NBN 2.0. One additional person will be added to city staff to manage and distribute grants through this new program.
- ii. The purpose of these grants is to encourage home ownership and beautification of the neighborhoods.

c. Good Cause Eviction

- i. City Council will likely vote on this in November

- ii. This NYS law gives cities the option of “opting in”.
 - 1. Landlords are concerned that this will slow evictions.
 - 2. Tenants would have to be offered a renewal of lease at no more than a 3% to 5% increase if the tenant is not violating the lease. This avoids tenants being “kicked out” just so a large rent increase can be charged on a property.

d. Zoning

- i. Comments are no longer being taken for the new zoning code.
- ii. A final zoning draft will be issued in or around November, 2024
- iii. City Council will likely vote on the final zoning draft in January, 2025

e. PacTac

- i. New HPN PacTac members have taken the required course but cannot walk without having their initial walk with the CPO. Currently, there is no time for this.
- ii. Had one person sign up for PacTac at Taste of the Neighborhood

f. General Meeting is set for October 17 at the Artisan Church

i. Agenda Ideas

- 1. “Report It” app (RPD)
- 2. Reservoir Project
- 3. Children’s Pavilion
- 4. Preview/Input for 2025 HPNA activities

ii. Guest Invite / Speaker

- 1. John McMann
- 2. Rochester Fire Department
- 3. City Council Rep

8. Meeting adjourned 8:30pm (Roxanne made motion to adjourn. Bob 2nd. All present voted yes.)

9. There will be no October Board meeting due to General Meeting being day after scheduled monthly Board meeting.