

March 21, 2024

## **HPCC Community Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance - 17 Participants

This meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the HPCC Youtube site.

### **Agenda:**

#### **Zone 5 Update - Lt. Cunningham**

- 4 officers are currently assigned to HP, LL, Larimer
  - The new staffing model will get officers out of cars and allow them to interact with the community.
  - The HPCC extended an invitation to our section officers to attend our meetings and events.
- Potentially abandoned or long-time parked vehicles, call Zone 5 and they'll put them through to their parking division
- Reported in the last 30 days in HP:
  - 3 assault calls
  - 2 retail thefts
  - 1 burglary
  - 1 theft from vehicle

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

- Thank you: David Anglero & Andrea Mudd
  - Kudos and a big shout out to these two "Good Samaritans" for removing a trip hazard from the Parklet!
    - A piece of metal piping surfaced due to ground settling. It is now, thanks to them, cut off and safely covered.
- Children's Committee
  - Held its first annual Spring Gathering. This note from coordinator Laurie Sloan: "It ended up being a gorgeous day and close to 60 kids and their families joined - we played yard games, danced in bubbles and did hopscotch with new friends, and created beautiful butterflies and rainbows in Barley Hall. The purpose of this event, and really all the events the Kids Committee runs, was simply to bring neighbors together to enjoy the people and places in our wonderful corner of the city." (PICTURES)
  - Thank you to St. Andrew's for allowing us to use your space and to CC coordinators, Elisa Lucke & Laurie Sloan
  - Next month, the Children's Committee is organizing an event to celebrate Earth Day on April 20th from 10 - 12 at the Super Playground. There will be earth-friendly crafts and snacks, educational activities about native plants and wildlife within Highland Park, as well as a visit from Mad Science and Dah Dah Creative Play (sponsored by Highland Park's Periwinkle Fox)!
  - Just as a reminder, the Children's Committee is entirely volunteer run and funded by the HPCC, as well as donations collected at our community events and

sponsorships from local businesses. Laurie went on to say that they're very excited for 2024, as they have some new volunteers and lots of fun activities planned for every month of the year. They'd love to hear from community members, especially those with young children, about other events they may want to participate in or volunteer for in the future!

- **Putting a call out for a donation of a hot/cold drink cooler for events.**
- Upcoming Events:
  - May 5: Marathon Party - - Thank you to Jessica Acrie, who has organized and conducted this popular celebration for several years!
  - May 18: Parklet Clean Up
  - June 2: Yard Sale - Jason Geise, Committee Chairman
    - Will be reaching out for volunteers to pass out signs to participants prior to sale date and to help with the flea market on Bryant St.
  - June 2: Bryant Street Festival (Stephanie in lieu of lead organizer Justin Bhagat)
    - This year, planning on bringing in some bigger bands and more food trucks and trying to make it more of a lunch and music destination, although there will still be a place for flea market and vendor tables at one end of Bryant Street.
    - Looking for volunteers who may be interested in recruiting and coordinating bands and food trucks. We have some of each already, but need a few more.
  - June 27: Hullabaloo
    - The HPCC's biggest community-building event.
    - Volunteers needed for all facets of this amazing event so sign up now!
- Email [Volunteer@hpccpgh.org](mailto:Volunteer@hpccpgh.org) - put a note about which event you are interested in helping with and in what capacity, and our volunteer coordinator - Becky - will connect you with the right folks
- We will be losing some Board members in June,
  - Want to take a more active role in the community? Volunteer if interested!
- POGO expansion
  - POGO bikeshare recently celebrated 1 million rides and has announced that it will open over 50 proposed new stations in 2025. They've proposed 3 sites in Highland Park at:
    - Stanton Ave & Negley Ave
    - Highland Ave & Reservoir Dr
    - Euclid Ave & Bryant St
  - Hoping they can join us at next month's community meeting
  - In the meantime, you can provide feedback by visiting: [pogoh.com/expansion](http://pogoh.com/expansion) or to provide feedback on their interactive map - or by emailing [hello@pogoh.com](mailto:hello@pogoh.com)

### **Bram Peart, Park Ranger for Highland and Mellon Parks**

- Housed in City Dept of Public Safety
- Other HP ranger is Sam (Samantha)

- Started as a Park Ranger in June 2015
- Four responsibilities:
  - Patrol parks (mainly RAD parks) in order to enforce park related ordinances and ensure safety.
  - First responders in park (usually direct police & EMS where to go)
  - Service events (planting trees, etc.)
  - Educational programming (tabling every Thursday, 4:30-6 pm until school gets out - alternate b/w the Farmhouse Playground & Super Playground; during summer, 10 - 12; same thing in Frick on Tuesday)
- Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 23rd, 10 A.M. at the Super Playground
  - 200 + children have registered to attend; with a grand total of close to 400, including parents, in attendance!
- They can come to our events if we give them a heads up, including Reservoir of Jazz
- Archery program to cull deer herd; plan to expand into Highland Park
  - Last year's culling took out 108 deer which only really will maintain the population
  - Had lots of applications to hunt, but about 50% failed the test
  - Donate the meat to the food banks (hunters are required to donate their first deer)
  - All the parks have an overpopulation of deer to different degrees
  - Deer diseases have increased as have vehicular accidents
  - Ruled out trapping - high mortality rate and very expensive
  - Birth control is expensive and hard to be effective (it goes into the drinking water and it's hard to get enough deer to do it; and it's illegal in PA)