



Highland Park
Community Council

HPCC Community Meeting

June 18, 2025

HPCC June Community Meeting & Annual Business Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Walsh at 7:00 PM. There were 27 people in attendance

Intro - Stephanie Walsh welcomed everyone to the meeting and summarized the agenda.

1. Zone 5 Updates
2. Committee Reports
3. Proposed ByLaw Changes
4. Bryant St. Banners
5. Motions

1. **Zone 5** - update from representative of Zone 5.

2. Committee Reports

- **Membership Committee** (Jason Griess)
- **80 for 80 Campaign** (Jason Griess)
- **Finance & Budget Committee** (Howard Degenholtz)
 - Last year - printed and began selling HPCC pride signs - sold out & donating the proceeds to Hugh Wellness Lane Foundation, local organization that provides health care and other services to the LGBTQ+ community: \$327
- **Children's Committee** (Elisa Lucke)
- **Parklet Committee** (Kelly Vitti)
- **Park Committee** (Stephanie Walsh & Tina Calabro)
 - A year ago, were able to launch a dedicated Park Committee led by Tina Calabro & board member Beth Hutton
 - Tina
 - Stephanie

- This year, helped launch a new Heth's Run Working Group; led by Councilwoman Gross, includes the Mayor's Office, Dept of Public Works, City Planning, Pittsburgh Water, Pittsburgh Zoo, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Upstream Pgh, and other parks advocates
 - Meeting monthly to ID actionable items to increase access, reduce the DPW footprint, and rethink and rework the zoo's parking to create access to the riverfront from the park
- We also helped launch a monthly Highland Park Utilities meeting. Unlike the other city parks, HP is home to a significant amount of water infrastructure
 - Meeting monthly with a subset of the Heth's Run group, including Pittsburgh Water, Duquesne Light, Councilwoman Gross, Dept of Public Works, Forestry Division, City Planning, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

- **Nominating Committee** (Stephanie Walsh)

Tonight marks a change in board leadership

- What's not change changing: **Howard Degenholtz**, who's been our Treasurer for xx years - a very complicated, important, and typically thankless job that he takes very seriously and does very well
- **Secretary Judy Beck** is stepping down after 6 years
 - Served faithfully in many capacities, including dependable event volunteer, distributor of posters, author of thank you notes, brainchild of the summer porch concert series, and co-lead of the SOS program
- The role of Secretary will be filled by **Sabrina Culyba**, who's served as VP for 5 years? Sabrina has provided the community a few presentations on recycling over the years, but the real work has happened behind the scenes. For example, Sabrina led the SuperPlayground Redesign committee; been responsible for increasing our outreach with the addition of the May Mailer and seasonal calendars, and with increasing the production value of our posters, mailers, stickers, and other printed materials with her amazing graphic design work; been a driving force to increase our membership; and has been an advocate for the neighborhood in countless meetings with the City, zoo, utilities, and others - including being our primarily liaison with PRT
- The role of VP will be filled by board member **Elisa Lucke** - who you may know from her role leading our Children's Committee, increasing its volunteers, and expanding its programming; and co-leading this year's very successful House Tour
- **Pres Stephanie Walsh** is stepping down after 7 years as Pres and 1 year as VP

- Started as Pres right before COVID - took on some needed administrative changes which were not sexy, but were important
- Responses to COVID -
 - PARKLET
 - More social activities, including Pumpkin Patch & Light-up Night & Hullabaloo
- Focused on building capacity of the organization - recruited many great volunteers and board members over the years - celebrating all of them tonight
- This led us to not only increase our activities, but also our membership
- Expanded advocacy - for example
 - Became the neighborhood Registered Community Organization to help ensure that residents would have a say in zoning changes in the neighborhood
 - Held a press conference about the firing range, met with the Mayor's Office, and got funding in the City capital budget to address the noise issue from the firing range - still a work in progress....
 - The work of the Park Committee brought to light how much the Park needs an entity dedicated to advocacy and park stewardship - - so the HPCC is helping to launch a new non-profit for that purpose. I'm leading that effort with the other members of the Park Committee - and we need more volunteers so let me know if you're interested. More news to come!

Also want to thank HPCC board directors stepping down this year: **Rebecca Maclean and Andrew Bell (Directors)**.

And welcome our new board members - **Annie Bontempo, Laurie Sloan (from the Children's Committee)**, and former Director and Finance Committee Chair, **Mac Lynch**

Members will be asked to vote on the new slate of officers and new board members:

- **President: Jason Griess**
- **Vice President: Elisa Lucke**
- **Secretary: Sabrina Culyba**
- **Treasurer: Howard Degenholtz**
- **Director: Annie Bontempo**
- **Director: Mac Lynch**
- **Director: Laurie Sloan**
- **Director Stephanie Walsh**

Returning Directors:

- **Jack Brice**
- **Amanda Crossland**
- **Beth Hutton**
- **Laura Myers**

3. **Proposed By-law Changes** (Stephanie Walsh)

The HPCC is a 501(c)(3) and is governed by by-laws that have been approved by its members. This year, the Board is proposing several changes to the by-laws that **members will be asked to vote on**. You can read the by-laws and see the proposed revisions in detail here:

The proposed changes are noted in striked text, ALL CAPS (for new text), and highlighted to make them easy to find.

- **BLUE** = New language to add a standing Parklet Committee
- **GREEN** = Updates to language pertaining to membership, dues, and payment processes to better reflect current practices
- **YELLOW** = Miscellaneous clarifications, plus a change to allow board members to serve two consecutive terms

4. **NEW Bryant Street Banner Designs** (Amanda Crossland)

The HPCC will be replacing the Bryant Street Banners this year. Design ideas will be unveiled at this meeting and then posted online so that the community and neighborhood businesses can provide feedback and suggestions before the designs are finalized.

5. **Motions:**

Motion to vote on the proposed slate of officers and new board members was made by Stephanie Walsh and seconded by Mac Lynch. Ayes = 27; Nays = 0

Motion to support revised ByLaws was made by Stephanie Walsh and seconded by Howard Degenholtz. Ayes = 27; Nays = 0

After the meeting was adjourned, everyone had cake and sparking wine to celebrate and thank Stephanie Walsh and Judy Beck for their long service.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Beck,
Secretary