

MINUTES Highland Park Neighborhood Coalition, October 10, 2023

The meeting was chaired by Rodney Singleton and attended by 22 people*. A Hybrid meeting, 11 people attended in person at HYCC and 11 people joined via zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS

1) The meeting voted to elect Lee Peters to represent Highland Park on the BPDA's Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for the development planned at 10 Malcolm X Blvd. (11 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

2) The meeting discussed the proposed change in HPNC bylaws that address how we deal with developers. No vote was taken, but the discussion addressed several issues:

a. It's a good idea to send developers to talk with Gabriela Amore, our staff at the Highland Park Conservation District Commission, to get an understanding of our district standards *before* embarking on development plans.

b. It's important to receive from the ISD what variances they have rejected and why.

c. A developer could produce an equivalent but informal building "worksheet", detailing these variances in advance of producing an expensive building plan.

d. Such a zoning map, capturing zoning within a 150' circle of each building site might also show relevant comparables adjacent to the proposed building to help discern "appropriateness" (Evan Smith offered to produce such a template).

e. Highland Park residents have concerns that go beyond simply the appearance of a building (under the purview of the ACDC) or the height, width and # of units (under the purview of the ISD). We also care about preventing displacement, protecting open space and creating affordable home ownership, building deeply affordable units and receiving a community benefit from each development. Where and how does THAT conversation happen?

3) The meeting came up with suggestions where new members of the HPNC Steering Committee can be found: at HYCC's \$2/bag Saturdays, at the Roxbury Library, at gatherings at the First Parish Church, outside Nathan Hale School and Paige Academy, the Bolling Building, Nubian Market and Frugal Bookstore.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1. Hawthorne Youth & Community Center –

- Free Financial Seminar with Tim Gosier, Thursday, October 12 at 7:00 – 8:30pm
- HYCC 50th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, October 14 1:00 – 3:00pm
- Health & Wellness series for older adults, with Dr. Lucy Lomas, Saturday, October 21 from 10:00 pm to 12:00 pm

2. Highland Park Project Review Committee – Joan Seamster. The PRC will hold its monthly meeting at HYCC Tuesday, October 17, 6:30-8PM

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7-8:15pm

ATTENDEES: Dan Cruz, Jon Ellertson, Linda Freeman, Marilyn Grant, Kevin Hart, Asha Janay (Roxbury Neighborhood Liaison), Kevin Corey Jordan (Chynah Tyler's office), Subu Karmabhaya, Steven Keyes, Jennifer MacDonald, Doris Morales, Lee Peters, Kate Phelps, Luther Pinkney, Bob Purinton, Joan Seamster, Andrew Shelburne, Sheryl ?, Rodney Singleton, Evan Smith, Judi Walker, Reggie Walker (First Parish Church).