

Highland Park Neighborhood Association Minutes
Board Meeting
Northeast Community Church of the Nazarene ■ 861 Fuller Ave NE
Thursday, September 16th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

1. Introduction of HPNA Board / Role Call

1. Adam Tauno Williams/Chair **present**
2. Evan McPherson/Vice-Chair **not present**
3. Joyce Reid/Treasurer **present**
4. Kate Aeschlimann/At-Large **present**
5. Alison Black/Secretary **present**
6. Samantha Mosley/At-Large **present**
7. Joe Gage/At-Large **present**
8. Scott Rider/At-Large **not present**
9. Gretchen Kirchmer/At-Large **not present**

2. Approval of Minutes

1. 2021-08-19
 - i. Joyce moved to approve, Kate seconded

3. Guests

1. Carrie, project manager, Grand Rapids Parks Department
 - i. Highland Park Master Plan Update
 1. Newest plans better resemble Conceptual Plan 2, with linear dog park along south side, better pedestrian access from College Ave and added picnic shelter; final iteration of plan to be completed by ~ September 30th
 2. Current bathroom cannot be converted to an ADA-compliant structure so it will need to be torn down and rebuilt
 3. Bike polo court now at Belknap Park will be migrated to Highland
 4. Contractor prepared to pour concrete for the new boulder wall before November; it will stay for three years unless it proves popular and we decide to keep it
 5. Dog park will be mulched and monitored by the people that use it
 6. Hoping to add a more functional connector under the railroad tracks but the railroad has been slow to communicate
 7. 2 or 3 disc golf holes will need to be adjusted to accommodate improvements
 8. Would be help prioritize improvements if HPNA could post about the update on social media and encourage feedback

2. Commentary

- i. Adam said the trash situation in the park seems to be much improved this summer, Joe added that Bissell always needs trash pickup
- ii. Joe and Adam noted an intentional, improved park entrance at Benson would be helpful; currently there is a 2-3 ft wide path that may or may not be a formal access point but it is often used; Adam also noted that the path off the south end of College by the railroad tracks is likewise heavily used and should be reinforced
- iii. Several attendees (members of the public) expressed concerns about safety in the park and wondered if GRPS had been involved in the update; Carrie said GRPS had not been involved and that such would be atypical of park planning activities
- iv. Kate said that she cross country skis in the park during winter and has seen others do it as well; Carrie said that she would look into launching snowshoe rental in Highland
- v. Alison questioned drainage with respect to sports and other activities; Adam said that the park is meant to flood as part of the city's drainage system
- vi. Samantha said adding trash cans should be a priority, especially at the entrances by Grand and College

4. New Business

1. Park Clean-up

- i. Saturday, October 18th, 10-1pm; organized by Friends of GR Parks
- ii. Kate will bring trash stabbers

2. Walk Your Park With Your Parks Director

- i. HPNA received an invite from the GR Parks director to walk Highland with him; the board was receptive; Adam said he would try to schedule this during/after the park cleanup or possibly during/after the October board meeting

3. Resolution #18: Reimbursement for Squarespace account (website host) until September 2022

- i. NLA balance is estimated to currently be ~\$545
- ii. Samantha moved to pay for the new website, Kate seconded, group unanimously supported motion

5. Reports

1. Organization (Adam Tauno Williams)

- i. Zoom business account not renewed (savings ~\$158)
- ii. Board of Zoning Appeals registration
- iii. The NLA (Neighborhood Leadership Academy) returns this fall, the city seeking 6 individuals for a focus group; if three HPNA members attend, the association gets money from the city

2. Financials (Joyce Reid)

- i. Joyce will update the group next year

3. GR Walking Tours History of Neighborhood (Alison Black)

- i. HPNA was awarded a \$1000 grant to pay for the history presentation, flyers to promote it and the HPNA, and to subsidize screen rental for a public screening in Highland Park. We are still waiting for disbursement. Once we pay the \$300 down payment to Caroline Cook we will receive a draft script to review; Adam suggested creating a subcommittee for this purpose
4. Park Survey Form Completions (Samantha Mosley)
 - i. None received since the last meeting
5. Art Subcommittee (Samantha Mosley)
 - i. The city and art orgs very busy heading into ArtPrize season, more progress can probably be made after ArtPrize wraps
6. Additional Items
 - i. Samantha will update the Halloween flyers from last year so the board can again put candy in sandwich bags with flyers to promote the HPNA
 - ii. Alison will create a Google calendar for the board to access for posting important dates (events, grant deadlines, nomination deadlines, etc.)
6. Motion to Adjourn
 1. Kate motioned, Joyce seconded, group in favor

2021 Board Meetings

- <https://www.highlandparkgr.com/board>
- October call for agenda items: 2021-10-07 (meeting on 2021-10-21)
- October agenda publish: 2021-10-14 (meeting on 2021-10-21)

2nd Ward Meeting w/Commissioners

- September 21st, noon
- October 19th, noon
- November 30th, noon

2021 Upcoming Events

- Highland Park Clean-Up, 2021-09-18
- Board Meeting, 2021-10-21
- Board Meeting, 2021-11-18
- Board Meeting, 2021-12-16 (planning for 2022)

Information

Parks

Highland Park Outreach Results

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY WORKSHOP RESULTS



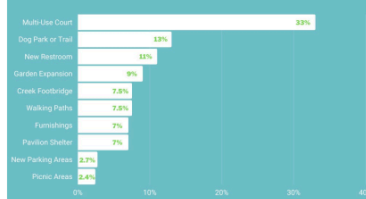
The City of Grand Rapids is updating the Master Plan for Highland Park, located on the corner of College Ave. NE and Bissell St. NE. The park extends for nearly a block and has large natural areas, a splash pad, a disc golf course, picnic spaces, a playground, restrooms, and rugby fields. The removal of the former pool and baseball field and other recent improvements prompted the reassessment of the southern half of the park, presenting the opportunity for amenity expansion. A community workshop was held at Highland Park on Friday, July 9, 2021 to discuss ideas for the park Master Plan update. Presented are the results of this workshop. Additional feedback is being collected through a digital survey that can be accessed by following the link publicinput.com/Highland-Park

PENNY JAR PRIORITIZATION	
PENNY JAR CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PENNIES
MULTI-USE COURT	123
DOG PARK OR TRAIL	49
NEW RESTROOM	42
GARDEN EXPANSION	34
CREEK FOOTBRIDGE	29
WALKING PATHS	29
FURNISHINGS	26
PAVILION SHELTER	26
NEW PARKING AREAS	10
PICNIC AREAS	9
TOTAL NUMBER OF PENNIES	377

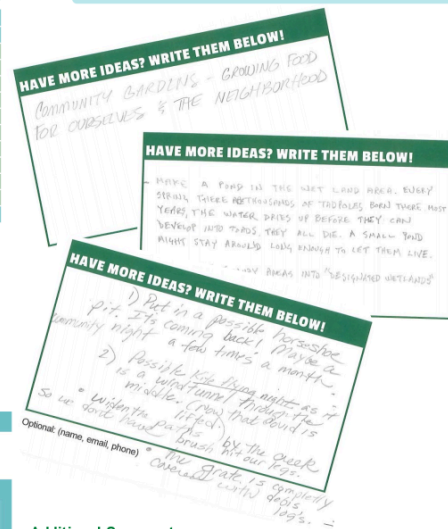
Each community member at the workshop was given ten pennies to represent their tax dollars for a prioritization exercise. Ten jars were arranged on the table with the labels shown in the table above. Each participant then placed their pennies in whichever jars corresponded to amenities that they would like to support with their taxes.

The number one priority was found to be the multi-use court with 33% of the groups pennies. There was high attendance from the bike polo community that may have contributed to this majority. Following the multi-use court, the dog park or trail and the new restroom received 13% and 11% of the pennies, respectively.

Penny Jar Prioritization



Comments from the Community



Additional Comments:

- Paving the walks
- Trash cans throughout the site
- A handicap entrance on the west side
- Seating in the shade
- Making the area fully fenced
- Cement for the disc golf courses
- Mural on the drain to discourage graffiti

- A pool
- A larger splash pad
- Stairs and railings
- Tree maintenance



Don't forget about our Moment-In-Time park survey you can fill out when visiting the park <https://forms.gle/bSmcMo6SJXqZ6mC78>

The GR Parks Advisory Board has several openings for board members and is hoping to strengthen its representation across the community. This board provides recommendations and oversight in investments in our park spaces, parks millage expenditures, and recreation programming in City parks.

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions/Apply-Online>

Mobility

Parking enforce has been transferred **city-wide** from the GRPD to the MobileGR department.

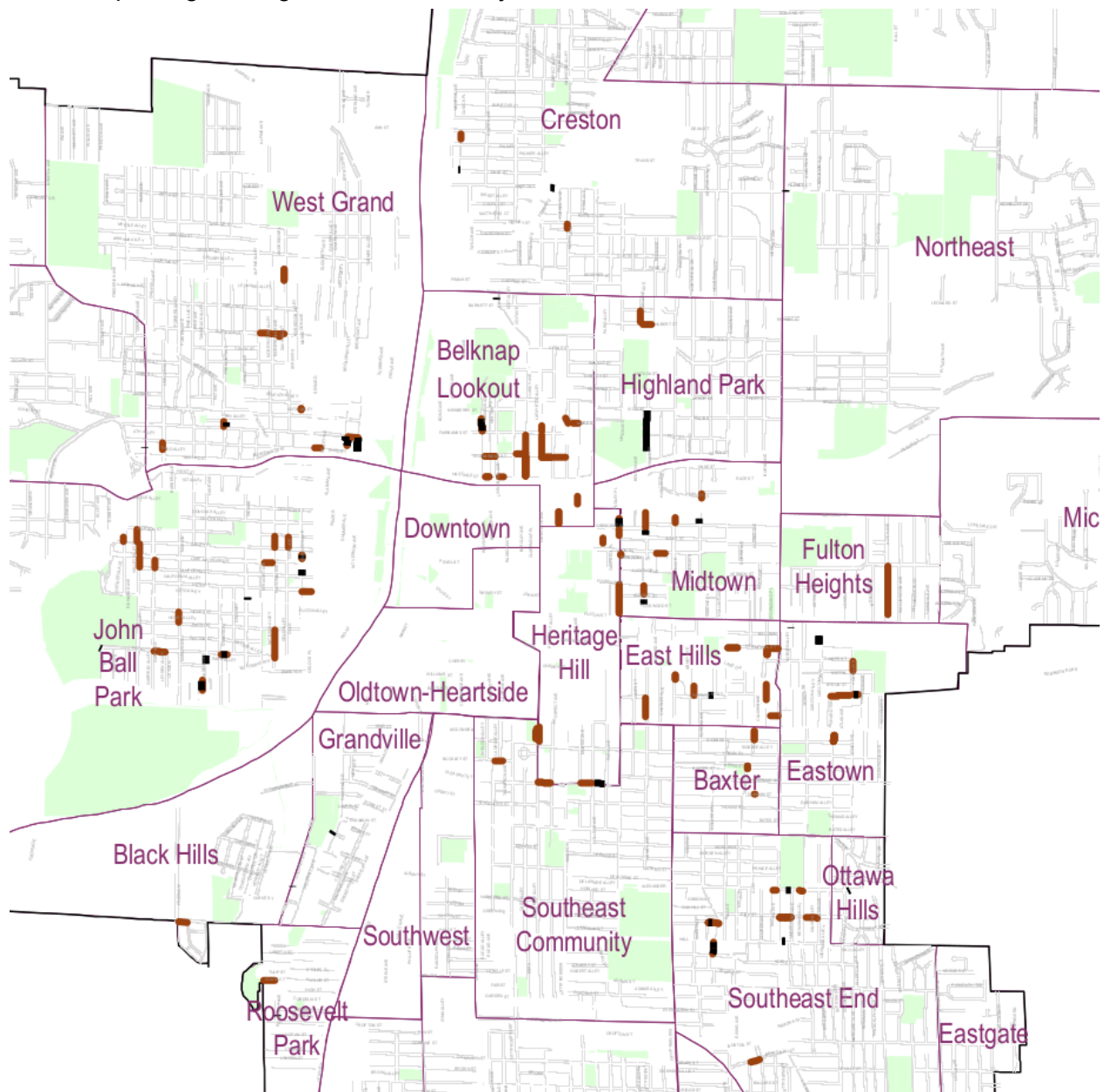
http://grandrapidscitymi.igm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?MeetingID=6454&ID=15754

According to city ordinance private vehicles may **not** be parked:

- On the sidewalk **or** the space between the curb and the sidewalk, regardless of if the area is paved.
- Blocking a driveway or alley; or within 3ft of the curb-line of a driveway or alley.
- Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant
- Within twenty (20) feet of a marked crosswalk
- Within fifteen (15) feet of an intersection
- Within thirty (30) feet of any flashing signal or traffic control signal

- Within twenty (20) feet of a railroad crossing
- Within twenty (20) feet of the driveway entrance of a fire-station, or within seventy-five (75) feet of a fire-station on the opposite side of the road.
- Within any marked bike lane
- Within a marked fire-lane

Potentially related to the potential updates to Highland Park the image below is where the city identified parking shortages in its 2019 analysis.



Master Plan/Housing

News Article: “Kent County’s population is expected to grow more than 9 percent to nearly 660,000 while neighboring Ottawa County is likely to grow nearly 12 percent to almost 295,000. Early estimates indicate Kent County led the state, adding over 56,000 residents, topping the gains of Oakland County, the state’s second largest county and twice the size of Kent, by 5,000 people. ... Over Kent and Ottawa counties, **nearly 32,000 additional new homes, both for-sale and rental, are needed by 2025**, according to projections. Yet in 2020, permits were issued for 1,140 single family homes in Ottawa. The total was unavailable for Kent.”

<https://on.wmmi.net/3seNAqU>

News Article: Tiny house, big frustration for Grand Rapids woman looking to downsize

<https://on.wmmi.net/3xezoZA>

Population Projections

Note: Highland Park is located entirely in city Ward#2.

	Total Population									
	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change 2000-2010		2020 Estimated	Change 2010-2020		2025 Projected	Change 2020-2025	
			#	%		#	%		#	%
DSA (Downtown)	3,559	4,352	793	22.3%	6,104	1,752	40.3%	6,850	746	12.2%
Ward 1	63,387	60,924	-2,463	-3.9%	65,655	4,731	7.8%	68,817	3,162	4.8%
Ward 2	63,956	60,732	-3,224	-5.0%	65,497	4,765	7.8%	68,095	2,598	4.0%
Ward 3	65,931	61,235	-4,696	-7.1%	66,002	4,767	7.8%	68,384	2,382	3.6%
PSA (Grand Rapids)	196,833	187,243	-9,590	-4.9%	203,258	16,015	8.6%	212,146	8,888	4.4%
East Beltway	115,617	124,248	8,631	7.5%	137,164	12,916	10.4%	143,478	6,314	4.6%
West Beltway	108,988	113,095	4,107	3.8%	121,914	8,819	7.8%	126,758	4,844	4.0%
Balance of County	152,896	178,035	25,139	16.4%	197,325	19,290	10.8%	206,777	9,452	4.8%
SSA	377,502	415,379	37,877	10.0%	456,404	41,025	9.9%	477,014	20,610	4.5%
Kent County	574,335	602,622	28,287	4.9%	659,662	57,040	9.5%	689,160	29,498	4.5%
Michigan	9,937,744	9,883,640	-54,104	-0.5%	10,125,035	241,395	2.4%	10,260,726	135,691	1.3%

Source: 2000, 2010 Census; ESRI; Urban Decision Group; Bowen National Research