



The Borough of Highland Park

Sustainable Highland Park

County of Middlesex, New Jersey

P.O. Box 1330

HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY

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Subject: Sustainable Highland Park Meeting Minutes, August 23, 2023 via Zoom

Attending Members: Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Irene Riegner, Mark Lesko, Claudia Farber, Rose DeLorenzo, Paul Sauers

Guests: Sheree Neese-Todd, Aaron Todd, Meli Shiu, Lisa Noss, Jessica Hunsdon, Ethan Schoolman, Sasha Rudie, Alexis Thomason

1) Redevelopment – Jessica Hunsdon came to the meeting to raise an issue regarding redevelopment. She wanted SHP members to be aware that the conditional developer, Garden Homes, for the redevelopment between S. 2nd and S. 3rd Aves. in Highland Park had previously (2015) entered into a consent decree with the EPA and the DOJ to “settle their alleged failure to control stormwater discharges” that could have adversely affected 7 NJ watersheds, according to the DOJ*. [Click here](#) if you want to read the Garden Homes Consent Decree.

Ethan Schoolman also spoke to the issue of redevelopment, stating he was in favor of it. He did articulate the need for affordable housing, housing where residents don't need cars, housing for refugees/immigrants and smart pedestrian friendly development.

2) Communications Update – Lisa Noss reported the Sustainable Highland Park website is undergoing a redesign making it easier to manage and navigate. There will be increased presence on social media regarding upcoming events and how to get involved with SHP. She is seeking evergreen content to post.

Ethan suggested SHP send out a newsletter similar to the borough's “Take 5” newsletter which is short, newsy and fast to read.

Action: Sasha Rudie volunteered to help with the website.

3) Arts in the Park – taking place Sunday, September 10, 11:30-4:30. We are seeking volunteers to staff the SHP table. Irene R. will exhibit spotted lanternfly information. Sheree will be present all day.

4) Children's activities - Irene M. reported 2 dates were booked at the Environmental Center for children's programs: Saturday, September 9 is

drawing Nature Scapes with local artist, John Valeri and Sunday, September 24 is making useful items from household cardboard.

Sheree has plans to host activities for children and families in different neighborhoods in town about 4 times per year. A committee meeting to discuss these plans will be tomorrow, August 24.

Alexis Thomason, a musician and music educator, volunteered to lead a music activity.

5) Tina suggested hosting repeating programs 2-3 times/year such as

- a) Backyard composting
- b) Native plants
- c) Converting lawns into wildlife friendly areas

6) Outreach – discussion on increasing SHP presence to recruit new members, including at the Farmers Market and street fairs. Ideas on integrating new people includes offering orientations and making a power point presentation which can be used to acquaint new members with Sustainable as a Borough Committee.

7) Other – Paul reported March to End Fossil Fuels will take place in NYC on September 17. People leaving from New Brunswick Train Station.

*<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/new-jersey-developer-pay-civil-penalty-stormwater-violations-and-preserve-wetlands>