

December 2020

# Highland Park

## Community Council Newsletter

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Happy Holidays!

# A Letter from the President

*Happy December, Hanukkah,  
Winter Solstice, Festivus, Christmas,  
Kwanzaa, and New Year!*

This year has without question been uniquely challenging and stressful. While many people are understandably looking forward to celebrating the end of 2020 and the promise of the new year, I'd like to take a moment to recap the neighborhood's and the HPCC's successes over the past 12 months:

- The HPCC kicked-off the year by becoming a Registered Community Organization (RCO) with the City, providing us a more formalized role in some development decisions made in the neighborhood. Later in the year, the HPCC participated in discussions related to the redevelopment of 327 North Negley (the former site of the B'nai Israel Congregation), the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary apartments on N. Highland, and 925 Mellon Street.
- At the start of the pandemic, the HPCC quickly moved to holding community meetings by Zoom, all of which have been well attended.
- The HPCC facilitated multiple community meetings with the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure around the Reservoir Drive closure and the N. Euclid Neighborway that resulted in project adaptations based on community feedback.

- Every Sunday evening in June through September, music was in the air! The HPCC organized a Summer Porch Concert Series across the neighborhood. Seventeen different individuals and groups performed - some nearly every weekend! And hundreds of neighbors enjoyed the shows.
- We hosted the Highland Park Community Development Corporation to discuss Bryant Street and their new tenant, Magistrate Mik Pappas.
- In October, the HPCC announced the creation of the Bryant Street Parklet, an effort undertaken in cooperation with the HPCDC. The Clean-up Day drew over 30 volunteers and over 200 people enjoyed the Fall Pumpkin Patch. Additionally, every sunny day, people use the four picnic tables built by volunteers, often while enjoying take-out from our Bryant Street businesses.
- Behind the scenes, the HPCC provided free advertising in our newsletter to support our neighborhood businesses.
- Beginning in March, the HPCC began collecting non-perishable food for Vintage Senior Center's food program. In part due to the neighborhood's generosity, they were able to expand their program and create a food pantry where seniors can select the items they want. In November, donations to our "Thanksgiving Trimmings" food drive enabled us to provide bags of complete trimmings makings for 30 households and a financial contribution of \$825 which will be used for holiday food baskets this month.
- Over the holidays, the HPCC partnered with other organizations to support neighbors in need. We collected toys and coats for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's East End Free Holiday Market, and opportunity for children in Zone 5 (including Highland Park) to choose coats and gifts for themselves and family members at no cost. And currently, in conjunction with St. Andrew's church, we are collecting toiletries and cleaning products for Hello Neighbor! Donations can be left at the rectory; details can be found in this newsletter.

- Organized the neighborhood's first Light-Up Night on Dec 12th - an opportunity for neighbors to join together safely to celebrate the season and support our businesses and each other.

As ever, I am proud of our neighborhood for its ongoing generosity of spirit, our volunteers for the time they've invested in building our community, and thankful to the HPCC board for their on-going dedication to Highland Park.

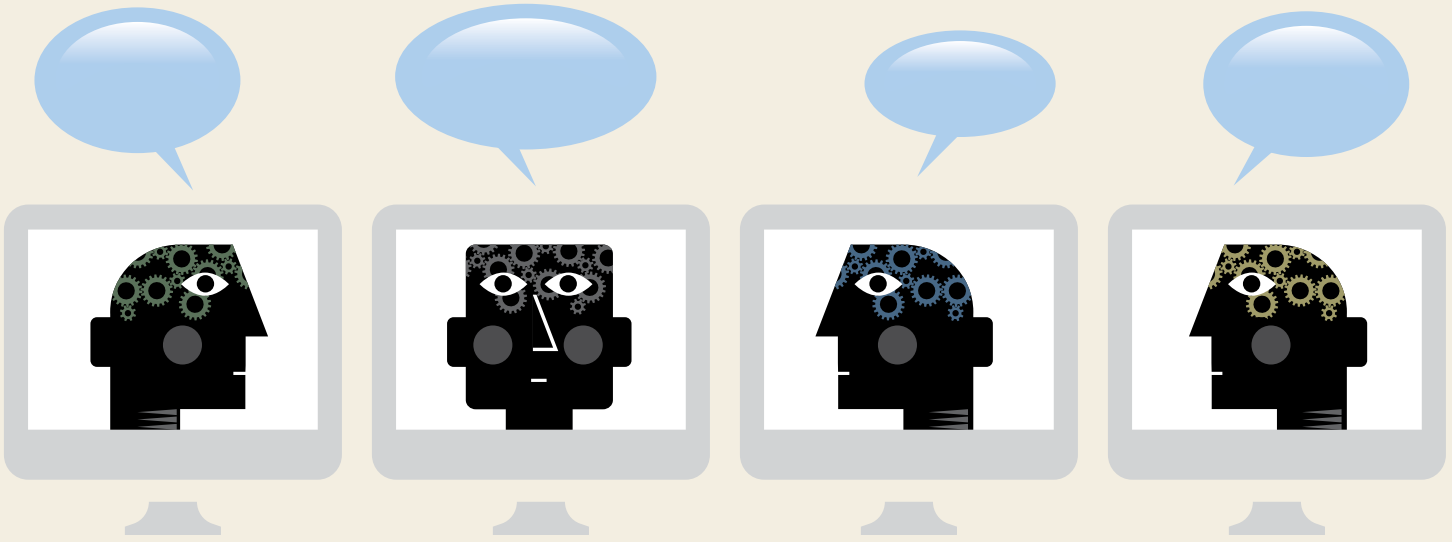
*With warm wishes to you all for a joyful holiday season and bright new year!*

**Stephanie Walsh**  
HPCC President









# HPCC November Meeting Minutes

29 Participants in attendance.

Called to order at 7:02 p.m.

## Agenda

### Zone 5 Update - Commander Vinansky

- Homicide on Jackson St.
  - Zone 5 has some leads and are hoping to make arrests soon
  - Patrols on Jackson St. have been increased.
- Shooting on Rippey St.
  - This was a domestic incident. A warrant has been issued.
- Shooting in the 600 block of Larimer Ave.
  - This was the result of a long-going feud. Warrants will be issued.
- None of the three shootings are related.
- **Complaints regarding suspected drug activity should be called into Zone 5 at 412 665-3605; ask for the Commander or Sergeant Maddox.**
  - Give as much information as possible- make/ model of vehicle; license plate even partial; type of shoes worn; description; date and time; how many people.
  - Repeated suspected activity at the red house on the corner of N. St. Clair and Wellesley St. was reported.

- The Commander will follow up on this report.

- Tips for Holiday shopping/home safety were shared.
- A common theme is to remain vigilant and to report all suspicious activity to 911.

### HPCC Update - Stephanie Walsh; see November HPCC Newsletter

- **Shout out to Monica Watt for her continued outstanding effort with the Newsletter.**
- **Food Drive**
  - 30 bags of Thanksgiving trimmings & approximately \$825 will be donated to Vintage for the seniors it serves.
  - The HPCC is one of the two largest donors to Vintage's food program.
  - Our past contributions have enabled Vintage to create and open a food pantry for its participants, and the funding we provided this month will be used for December holiday food baskets.
- **Parklet Events**
  - Clean-up - October 17
    - Wow! 30 volunteers transformed the lot in approximately 2.5 hours! Kudos!
    - Special thanks to LaScola's for providing refreshments to our volunteers.
    - The HPCC is supporting Bryant Street businesses by providing additional outdoor seating by building four new picnic tables including an ADA accessible picnic table.

- And for providing a peaceful green public space for all to enjoy!
- An ADA accessible path to the accessible picnic table will be installed in the upcoming weeks, weather permitting, when all the needed supplies arrive.
- Pumpkin Patch - October 18
  - Over two hundred people came. All wore masks and adhered to social distancing.
  - Donations were accepted for pumpkins, which were provided by an HPCC partnership with the Bryant Street Market - Shout out and kudos to owner Rob Collins!
  - The Inspection and Occupancy Permit will be signed and sent to the HPCDC.
- **Dec 3: Super Playground Zoom Meeting, 5 p.m.**
  - The Design Company will provide feedback on preliminary designs.
  - Pre Register at:
    - [HPCCPgh.org](https://hpcppgh.org) / About / Neighborhood Development / Highland Park Super DUPER Playground Project
  - This will be the last big opportunity for Community input.
- **Dec 4 & 5: East End Holiday Free Store**
  - 113 N. Pacific Ave Pittsburgh PA 15224
  - Friday, Dec. 4th 6p.m.-8p.m. & Saturday, Dec. 5th 1p.m.-4p.m.
  - Children can “shop” for free coats, toys, and gifts for family members.
  - Organized by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation.
  - Supported by:
    - Zone 5 Citizens Public Safety Council
    - Bloomfield Development Corporation
    - Good PGH
    - The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh
    - *People like you!*
- Open to children in Zone 5 (Bloomfield, East Liberty, Friendship, Garfield, Highland Park, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln/Lemington, Morningside, and Stanton Heights)
- Opportunities to participate, donate goods, money and time.
- HPCC will post more info soon & provide a community drop-off for donations.
- Shop by appointment only - sign-up children here for a time: <https://tinyurl.com/BGCHoliday2020>
- More info here: <https://bloomfield-garfield.org/uncategorized/east-end-holiday-free-market-for-kids/>
- **A 2nd Community Drive in December?**
  - Still in planning stages - stay tuned for details
- **Dec 12: Highland Park Light-Up Night**
  - 5 - 7 p.m.
  - Everyone is encouraged to hang festive lights & wander the neighborhood to enjoy them that evening.
  - HPCC will post a map of participating houses on the website.
  - Recruiting:
    - **Bright Blocks** - Blocks with high density displays.
    - **Sparkle Spots** - Neighbors with particularly impressive displays &/or those providing self-serve refreshments - you don’t have to do both!
    - **Super Shops** - Businesses with light-up night specials.
  - Wear masks, stay spaced from non-household members.
  - We’ll work with businesses to provide outdoor options.

## PWSA

- Brad McShane, Sarah Bolenbaugh and Rebecca Zito, PWSA
- Representative from Mott MacDonald - Kemal Niksic
- Updates on "Completed Projects."
  - The Microfiltration Plant is up and running as of September; not quite up to full capacity yet.
  - Reservoir # 1
    - The new wall has been completed.
    - The railing has been repaired and reinstalled.
    - The new bollards are in place.

- Security cameras are in place.
- Clean up around the bollards with rubberized pavement completed and the walkway opened in mid October.
- Upcoming Projects - See PowerPoint Presentation.

### Reminder:

#### No December HPCC Community Meeting

- Next meeting will be 1.21.21 at 7:00 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



# SUPER PLAYGROUND

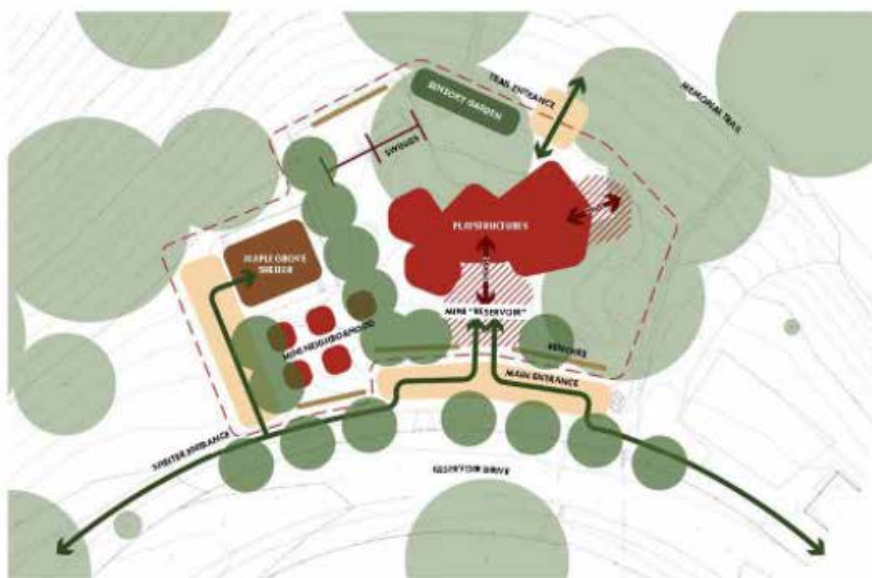
## Design Concepts Shared with Community



On December 3rd, the City of Pittsburgh held the second in a series of community workshops to get community input on the Super Playground redesign and rebuild. The workshop was hosted over Zoom by the design firm working on the playground, *Merritt Chase*. This workshop follows a public input survey that was sent out at the end of Summer 2020, and a kick-off community meeting that took place at the September Highland Park Community Council meeting.

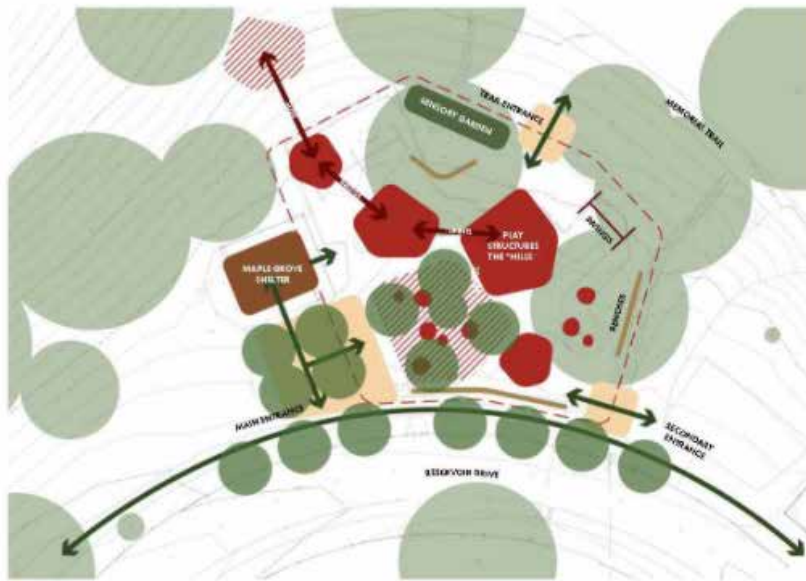
### Option 1: Mini Highland Park

Taking inspiration from the history and layout of Highland Park, this option includes one centralized, larger playground feature, architectural wood playground structures, and a centralized entrance.



## Option 2: Mini Pittsburgh Hills

Taking inspiration from the hills and topography of Pittsburgh, this option includes multiple dispersed playground features that accentuate the topography of the site, abstracted wood cube playground structures, and a relocated entrance.



The two design concepts presented at the December 3rd meeting showcase different themes, aesthetics and treatments to elements such as general layout, seating and playground entrances. The final design will likely be a combination of elements of the two presented design concepts, with adjustments from the input provided at the December 3rd community meeting.

If you missed the meeting, you can see both concepts at the project's [Engage Pgh website](#), and can also provide your feedback on some of the core elements through a short questionnaire. You can also [watch a recording of the workshop presentation here](#).

The next community meeting will be in February 2021 (exact date and time to be determined.) At this meeting, the detailed final design will be shared with the community, with room for some final input and comments from community members. HPCP encourages everyone to check out the two design concepts presented so far and share your thoughts on the Engage Pgh website. Then join us at the February meeting to see the final design!





# AN UPDATE FROM Union Project

As the weather grows colder and COVID-19 continues to limit our ability to be in community with one another, I want to share with you some of the ways that Union Project staff and board members continue our work to creatively deliver our ceramic programs and improve the quality of our historic facility for you and all our visitors. *Here's a glimpse of what we are up to this winter:*

We're offering safe and creative ways for you to have fun with ceramics. Check out our remote classes, workshops and take home kits at [unionproject.org](http://unionproject.org). You'll also find more information about Union Project's new Wheel Mobile (a mobile clay studio) which will bring ceramics programs to neighborhoods all over Allegheny County. Keep an eye out for our new truck as you drive past UP!

You may have noticed a new structure in our side yard. This beautiful 30' tall outdoor pavilion includes a new accessible kiln enclosure that will hold up to 3 new kilns (gas, raku and a Salt or Soda kiln to be added at a later date) plus outdoor classroom space and loading dock. This unique expanded studio capacity will allow us to continue attracting nationally known artists to UP and expand our studio offerings to our students and professional artists. It also doubles as an outdoor space for event rental and we hope to cover the exterior cinder block wall with an artist made ceramic mural in the future.



*New Kiln Shelter Pavilion (view from Negley)*



*Kiln Shelter  
(interior view of  
8"X8" white oak  
timber framing)*

Soon, you might also notice construction on our historic sandstone stairs and front plaza. The project includes eliminating the step down condition at the door so that we can add an ADA compliant wheelchair/service ramp in a future phase.

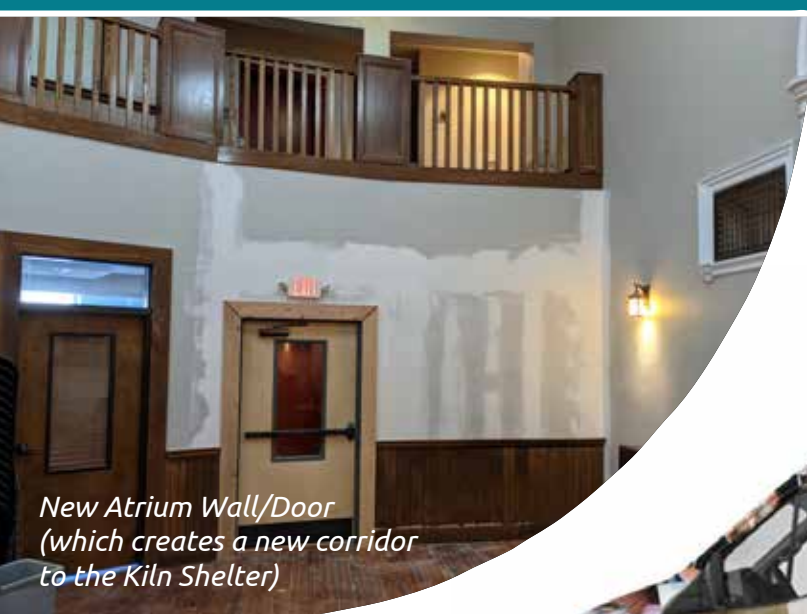
Inside, we will conduct an energy audit to inform new improvements to our HVAC systems including adding air conditioning to the Great Hall, air filtration systems to our studio and boiler updates to improve the quality and comfort of our space.

Of course none of this work would be possible without you, our friends, neighbors and financial supporters. Our year end Annual Appeal is also going on now, so we hope you will consider making a financial donation to support us in our work and mission: To use the arts to bridge gaps between communities. Donations can be made by mail or at <https://unionproject.org/support/#donate>

2020 has been really difficult and we want you to know how much we appreciate you, our Highland Park neighbors. We miss seeing you and hope that you continue to find ways to care for yourselves and one another as we make our way through this pandemic, together.

*Warm wishes for health and safety  
this holiday season,*

Jeffrey Dorsey  
*UP Executive Director*



*New Atrium Wall/Door  
(which creates a new corridor  
to the Kiln Shelter)*



*Wheel Mobile  
Mock-up*

Xfinity

# Large Button

## Remote for the Vision Impaired

My mom has lost much of her vision to macular degeneration and has to ask for help turning on the TV and then again when she wants to change channels. We don't mind at all, but it makes her feel badly so I started looking up large button remotes online.

To my surprise, a Comcast option came up and it's free. I emailed them and they responded very quickly. They mailed the remote out the next day and as you can see, it is significantly larger. The set up is fairly easy and the best news is, my mom can use it! It may seem like a small win, but though her disease I've learned that a little independence goes a long way.

I know there are many people out there who have similar issues or who simply have trouble deciphering the standard remote so I thought I would share the info with the neighborhood. You can request one by emailing Comcast's Accessibility Team at [accessibility@comcast.com](mailto:accessibility@comcast.com) - make sure you include the account holders name and account number.



*Big  
button remote*

*Original remote*

# Hello Neighbor!

## Highland Park Neighborhood Outreach

**Hello Neighbor** is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization committed to supporting our newest neighbors, recently resettled refugee families.

With the devastating effects of COVID-19, our Hello Neighbor families need your support more than ever.

Please consider gifting our families the essential items they need from the donation list below. All items must be NEW. We are looking for items for both children and adults.

### Items Needed:

- Diapers + wipes
- Shampoo + conditioner (full size bottles only, please)
- Soap (full size only, please)
- Deodorant (full size only, please)
- Body lotion (full size bottles only, please)
- Toothbrushes + toothpaste (full size tubes only, please)
- Feminine hygiene products (pads preferred)
- Cleaning supplies
- Handheld vacuum cleaners

### Donation Barrels

will be placed on the Rectory porch at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street. Daytime hours are December 1 through January 15, 2021.

### A Highland Park Community Project

Sponsored jointly by  
Highland Park Community Council and  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Ministries



*Merry Christmas! This has been a year like no other and Christmas is no exception. Generally, this time of year we would be inviting you to our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols and our Children's Pageant.*



## AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

*By Becky Marinov*

St. Andrew's would be bustling all month long with services and activities. But this year it is different. At the end of November we once again suspended our in person services. All of St. Andrew's services will continue to be live-streamed on our Facebook Page and archived on YouTube. This includes our first Thursday Evensongs. At the writing of this article, our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services have not be finalized. Please check our website [standrewspgh.org](http://standrewspgh.org), our Facebook Page and our outgoing phone message for the very latest information. As our gift to you a recorded version of our Lessons and Carols will be available for everyone on Christmas Day morning.

Despite the rising COVID-19 numbers we are continuing our outreach efforts. We have teamed with the HPCC and Hello Neighbor to help provide needed items to refugee families. From December 1 through January 15 we will be collecting the following items on the St. Andrew's office porch; diapers, wipes,

full sized bottles of shampoo and conditioner, full size bars or bottles of soap, full size bottles of deodorant, full sized bottles of body lotion, toothbrushes, full sized tubes of toothpaste, feminine hygiene products (pads preferred), cleaning supplies and handheld vacuum cleaners. The barrels will be taken into the Church offices nightly.

If you visit the Children's section of our website you will see links to Godly Play stories for your children ages 4 to 8. We also have Advent readings that you can enjoy with your

family. In November, we were able to offer a grab and go craft opportunity to families in the Parish and neighborhood. Thanks to all who came out and got a wreath to make at home and who got to listen to the bagpipes.

We continue to strive to be a good neighbor. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need anything. We aim to return messages within twenty-four hours.

*We recognize that this is an extraordinary time in what for many can be a very difficult time of year. We are here for you. God bless you.*



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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*The Rev. Chris Cole, Rector*



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