

**Highlands Community Association  
Spring Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2011**

Denison Hatch, President of the Association called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introduced the other Association officers including Vice President Meg Holden, Treasurer Mike Cradler, Zoning & Property Committee Chair Paul Crawford, and Secretary Charlotte Arnold.

Denison called for approval of the prior meeting minutes by voice vote and they were approved.

The Honorable Steve Martelli, Wilmington City Council Member for the 8<sup>th</sup> District, provided an update on the several items, including the recent placement of the City of Wilmington's K-9 police officers unit at the Gibraltar property. Mr. Martelli also discussed the current issues surrounding the City budget including proposed tax increases and spending cuts. He also provided an update on the Lincoln Towers project as well as the City's plan to divest firehouse Station 5, once the new firehouse in Lincoln Towers was completed. Mr. Martelli then fielded questions from community members regarding neighborhood issues such as road construction, street closures, and speed limit enforcement.

Mr. Martelli introduced Gregory Ciotti with the Wilmington Police Department to provide a crime report to the community. Officer Ciotti reported on the City of Wilmington's constituent services efforts, run by Downtown Visions, and encouraged residents to contact them to report incidents of graffiti. He also reported on the discontinuance by the City of traffic cameras and enforcement efforts regarding illegal panhandling. Finally, he provided his e-mail address, [gregory.ciotti@cj.state.de.us](mailto:gregory.ciotti@cj.state.de.us), and encouraged residents to contact him with their issues and/or concerns.

Denison then introduced Chris Sparks to discuss a proposed produce stand in the parking lot at the Columbus Inn. In order to implement the proposed stand, the Columbus Inn will be seeking a zoning variance from the City. Chris answered numerous questions from community members regarding product offerings and hours and dates of operation.

The Honorable Gerald Brady to discuss several items including the street lighting project for Kentmere Parkway, as well as the status of the Delaware state budget discussions in the legislature.

Denison then reported on several items including Tower Hill School's proposal to close 17<sup>th</sup> Street between Tower and Rising Sun Roads. Denison noted that the school had not followed up with him after the previous year's community meeting and that the issue was most likely tabled or abandoned. Denison also reported on the City of Wilmington's Green City Environmental Stewardship Self Certification program available to residents, the summer concert series in Rockford Park, and the opening of Rockford Tower during

specific days in the summer. Finally, Denison asked the community whether the Highlands Community Association should create subcommittees to address quality of life issues in the neighborhood, such as a Traffic subcommittee and a Rental Property subcommittee. He encouraged residents to e-mail him or Meg Holden regarding their interest in forming and/or serving on these committees. He also noted that the Association planned to hold two meetings per year going forward.

Mike Cradler, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the Association. The Association's General Fund contains \$3,168.56 and the Rockford Falls Working Group Fund contains \$9,465.11. Mike also noted a change in the dues structure from a flat \$15 to \$10 annual with the newsletter delivered online and \$20 for a hard copy of the newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Arnold  
Secretary