

**Highland Neighborhood Association  
Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Geoff Darling at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and there were 16 neighbors in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes Approval** – There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

**Police Officer Report** – Office Luconti gave a brief presentation with general safety tips and a discussion about police intervention with homeless issues.

**City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec** – Councilor Kaser gave an update on the city budget process and projected deficit. There are no cuts planned for police and fire services and in fact, 60 more police positions are needed. She expressed disappointment that the City’s long-term Planner position has been eliminated. There was additional discussion about the progress on the new police stations, PERS and Measure 5 issues, sin taxes, funding issues, the plastic ban bag, and possible additional revenue sources.

**MERIT – MicroEnterprise Resources Initiatives and Training – Genevieve Sheridan** – Genevieve Sheridan introduced her local non-profit business. Established in 2008 and located on Portland Rd. N.E. in the former DMV building, MERIT helps people explore, launch and grow successful small businesses through education and coaching. They also help facilitate loans and grants, and support small business helping with business plans, bookkeeping, education and advising, and other business services. There are future plans to include a possible on-site food hub/farmers market in what is now a “food desert” area.

**Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed** – Neighbors discussed the tree replacement and property maintenance at St. Vincent DePaul School. There is also space available at the Highland Community Garden at the intersection of Columbia and Hazel Aves. Workers at the former Ma & Pa Market were seen in the building recently and Geoff will reach out to the owner for a progress report.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. and minutes were written by Geoff Darling.**

**Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: June 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**