

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
March 2002



Edited by Ollie Rieley

TOWN MEETING TO KICK OFF NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

Brean Associates

Members of the Highland Park community and neighboring communities are invited to a town meeting to discuss neighborhood issues and help develop strategies for planning for Highland Park's future. While adults participate in the town meeting in the social hall, a children's town meeting will be held downstairs, focused on children's community planning activities. Coffee and cold drinks will be served; participants are also encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

The Town meeting will be:

- Tuesday, March 26th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- 5801 Hampton Street, Highland Park

The agenda for the adult town meeting will be:

- Introduction of Planning Team
- Why plan for the neighborhood? How will it be undertaken?
- How can people get involved?
- Facilitated discussion: strengths, weaknesses, vision for the community
- Next steps

The community plan is being undertaken by the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC), in collaboration with the Highland Park Community Club (HPCC) and the East End Neighborhood Forum (EENF). The community plan is a neighborhood effort and you are needed! The project is focused on bringing together the knowledge and experience of community members with the expertise of professionals to build Highland Park's future. The plan will be an important step in maintaining and

enhancing community strengths while providing a framework for inevitable development and other changes in and around the community.

For more information, to confirm your attendance at the meeting, or to arrange transportation to and from the meeting, please call Ed D'Alessandro, Plan Coordinator, at 412-621-0675.

Good News — Bad News

Ollie Rieley

Well, I exaggerated to get your attention, it really should be "Good News - Questions". This issue abounds in good news for the community. It also poses questions about our future. Take your choice: Read the Good first, or the Questions first, but read about both for a balanced view:

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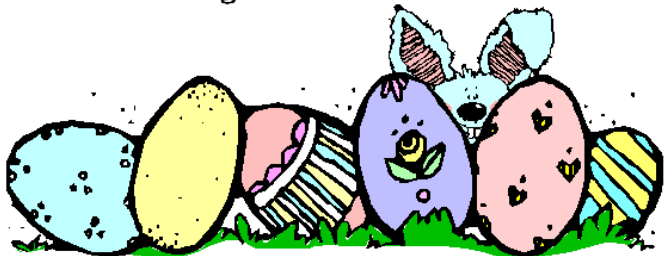
Now, as they say at Church: "Participate in these activities to the level of your commitment". And I say: If there is not enough commitment, the neighborhood and the club and, ultimately, you and I will suffer.

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2002, AT ST. ANDREWS

Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by the
Highland Park Community Club
Saturday March 23rd
12:00 to 2:00pm
Rhododendron Pavilion
Highland Park

Bring Your Favorite Basket!



Treasurer's Report

As of the end of February:

Year to date receipts	\$16,489.00
Year to date expenses	<u>6,827.76</u>
Year to date surplus:	\$9,661.24

Total all accounts: \$18,408.77

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Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972

Zoning: Brandon Weber 720-0906

Voice Mail 734-5261

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Zone 5 665-3605

HPCCD/HPCC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com

Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

Peabody News

Anne Franks

We hope you have noticed the beautiful new ceramic mural that has been installed on the front of Peabody. The creation of this mural was a collaborative project between Peabody and the Manchester Craftsman's Guild, with funding from the Pittsburgh Council on Public Education and the Peabody Parent School Community Council. Students worked with Glenn Limbruner, a Peabody art teacher, and Chad Martin, a ceramics instructor and community liaison at the Guild (and a Highland Park resident, I might add) to design and build the individual tiles.

Kudos to Peabody senior (and Highland Park resident), Jeff Woodward. Jeff was selected by the Pennsylvania Football News as the kicker for the All State Academic Football Team for the 2001 season. He is the first Peabody student in recent history to earn this distinction. Nice job, Jeff.

John Niedbala was selected as the Student of the Month by the Pittsburgh Downtown Rotary Club. John was honored for his achievements in the school's Information Technologies Academy. He is the first student in Pennsylvania to become certified as a Cisco Network Associate (CCNA). Congratulations to John.

Stay tuned in the coming months - Peabody is working in

partnership with The Western Pennsylvania Hospital to develop a Health Professions Academy which will begin in the fall of 2002. The new program will prepare students for careers or post secondary education in the health-related professions. We are very excited about this opportunity to provide students with additional career options. We will keep you posted as planning continues.

Seminary Concert -

Be There March 17

Craig Raymaley, Tenor, and S. G. Otto, piano, join forces for the next Afternoon Concert at The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The concert takes place Sunday March 17, 2002 at 3:00 P.M. Audiences have been delighted with the work of tenor Craig Raymaley, best known in Pittsburgh for live and radio performances with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, especially as King Kaspar in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors. Equally at home in recital and with orchestra, Mr. Raymaley will be heard with pianist S. G. Otto in a program of Art Song. Admission charged. Call (412) 362-5610, Ext. 2196 for more information.



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Sessions Begin In April

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Generating Excitement for Park Improvements

Mary Beth Steisslinger

Many residents here in Highland Park have heard a lot about and participated in the Master Plan for Pittsburgh's City Parks as it was being developed. Now that it has finally been released, some people may be wondering what is happening? When will we begin to see results? When will the infrastructure and the parklands themselves begin to show improvements? Well, as many of you know, the Master Plan is a blueprint for a 20-year plan to improve our city parks. The improvements will be incremental and on going. And, more importantly, the improvements will be driven in large part by the desire and commitment of the community of park users. The Master Plan is not set in stone. People must speak up for their needs and dreams. As this newsletter goes to print, these activities and improvements are happening or planned for the near future in Highland Park.

- **Farmhouse to Provide Recreational Courses to the Community**

Thanks to the efforts of Citiparks, Councilman Jim Ferlo and the Master Planning process, the Farmhouse is now restored and course offerings for children and adults will be on going. Two programs will begin in March, Puppet Making and Green Team (learning about plants and the planet). Call Citiparks for more information, 412-665-3665.

- **BioBlitz in Highland Park, May 17 & 18, 2002**

May 17: 200+ students from Dilworth, Fulton and the Pittsburgh Gifted Center will participate in biodiversity focused activities with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the Pittsburgh Zoo, Phipps Conservatory, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and others

May 18: Three natural areas restoration projects for community volunteer participation will be coordinated by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy with the help of Department of Public Works, Partners in Parks and the Student Conservation Association:

1. Invasive plant removal
2. Native plantings along historic steps behind pool
3. Slope erosion in large gullies above Carnegie Lake

During the volunteer activities, nature walks led by local experts will be available for the public while the Carnegie Museum of Natural History scientists will be conducting the bio-inventory. Music, food and interpretive carriage rides are planned. Call the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to volunteer or for more information, 412-682-PARK.

- **Babbling Brook**

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has funded incremental improvements to the Pittsburgh Water and

Sewer Authority babbling brook construction project. This will be located in the woods below the filtration plant and will flow down towards the lake. Funding is in place to design and build these improvements.

- **Reservoir Walkway and Amenities**

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has design funding in place.

- **Entry Garden**

Design is underway, additional funding is being sought for implementation by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

- **Tree Planting Proposal for Bunkerhill**

The Highland Park Foreman, Dan Deasy, is working with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to discuss tree replacement along Bunkerhill. The purpose is to restore esthetic along the park frontage.

- **Partners in Parks (PiP), Looks for School Volunteers**

Partners in Park's Dennis Meyers is a man with the means. If you and your class or young volunteer group want to work in the park, planting, removing grapevine, picking up trash, etc. Dennis has the tools and the connections. For more information, contact PiP at the Department of Public Works, 412-255-2048

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So you see, things are happening in Highland Park, and this is
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obviously an invitation for you to get involved with the park. The more everyone cares about park, the better our park will be. The park will become what you make it.

Hold these pictures in your imagination and indeed someday they can come true (some of it already is!): *You are walking up Highland Avenue and at the park entry, you are greeted by the magnificent bronze sculptures of Guiseppe Moretti. The Highland Park entry garden and fountain beckon you on through their colorful brilliance. As you walk past the fountain and up the tidy steps to the reservoir, you see a new pathway around the reservoir with many people strolling or jogging along. The railing and the lighting are new but meant to remind you of the 100+ year history of the park. As you circle the reservoir, you notice that the trees are in bloom and that they are no longer strangled with grapevine or poison ivy. On the far side of the reservoir, you walk down beside the handsome, brick, state-of-the-art water filtration plant and embark upon the babbling brook trail. This winds through cool woods next to a tumbling stream and brings you to the historic stone steps and serpentine wall behind the Highland Park Pool. This, the largest pool in the city, is newly renovated and the sand volleyball courts are packed.*

Lake Carnegie has been undergoing habitat restoration and many native wetland plants and flowers can be found along the banks. Migratory birds nest in bird boxes beside the little lake and you see that the grass carp are doing a nice job of keeping the lilies in their place. You are not sure where to head next, so you ask a city park ranger for directions to the "great view". You are directed across from the pool to the overlook, famous in the city for the view up the Allegheny River. There is talk in the neighborhood of placing an amphitheater here, where jazz festivals, theater productions and Zoo programs can be held. From the overlook, a pedestrian and bike trail leads down to the lower park and the velodrome on Washington Blvd. You continue on the trail up Negley Run and re-enter the Highland Park neighborhood near the National Historic Landmark, Dilworth Elementary School.

But wait, there's more to see. You head towards the west-side of the Highland Park neighborhood where you reach the Heth's Run area. Soccer and baseball games are being played by people of all ages in this large recreational complex. You continue past the fields to the Zoo. The new entry to the Zoo is very park-like with trees and greenery and well-marked bike and pedestrian areas. The bustling farmers market is in full swing down beside Butler Street. The smell of flowers, fresh fruits and veggies, baked goods and grilling sausage is amazing. From the Zoo entry, you decide to walk down towards the river landing under the Historic Bridge on Butler Street where you find the trail joins a bike route along the river. What an amazing park you have! You have just walked a good four miles and decide it might be time for an ice cream at the Tastee Freeze. You are meeting friends for dinner at Sitar and coffee afterwards at T'Azza D'Oro, but you still have a good walk from here up to Bryant Street. So, enjoy!

Mary Beth Steisslinger is a resident of Highland Park, a biologist, an artist, a consultant to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and a mother of a four year old.

What about that new store?

Bob Staresinic

For those of you who don't know me, I am Bob Staresinic, Welcoming Committee Chairperson, Highland Park Resident since 1972, Mellon Street resident since 1998, and someone who is hard to shut up once I get going.

Recently, I learned that a grocery store will be opening not far from my house. Since I am always talking to my neighbors on Mellon Street, I was asked what I knew about it. Well, I didn't know a thing! And as I started asking around, I found that not many people knew anything about this new grocery store. But I did find out some things, and that led me to ask questions of a smaller group. And I started to find out more. And what I found out is that not much is known about this new grocery store. But let me tell you what I found out.

The new grocery store is actually not a NEW grocery store. It is an existing grocery store that is moving to a new location. The grocery store in question is Mellon Market and Deli, and they are going to move to the McLain & Brash Upholstery shop at the corner of N. St. Clair and Jackson streets. What I could not figure out is why I hadn't heard about this. I live two doors away from the existing store. The new location is a block and a half away from my house. I talk to all the neighbors. I love a good rumor. Why haven't I heard. And why do so many others not know about this? It is all a mystery to me.

So I set out to get details. The owners of Mellon Market and Deli found a building that was for sale, and decided to buy it. The space is bigger than their current location. The building had been for sale for a long time, and it housed a grocery/drug store years ago. It would be good for that kind of business again, but is not set up for groceries any more.

My first thought was: they would need to have a zoning hearing to open a grocery store in that building. How could they have posted a big orange sign in the front of the building and I can not find anyone who saw it? I have not been out in the neighborhood as much as in the past due to my job, but someone must have seen that sign. As I asked around I got vague answers about this sign-- "I think I saw one there"; "There was something orange there, but not for very long"; "I saw a sign, but it was old and faded". It took a long time to find someone who actually read the sign.

As I understand the zoning process, the folks that need a zoning hearing need to notify, by letter, the adjoining property owners of the date of that zoning hearing. I do not know the people that live adjoining the new location at 901 N. St Clair Street, but I do know the children of two of the property owners. And those children talk with their parents like good children should. And these children did not know of any zoning hearing. And they asked their parents, and learned the parents did not know of the zoning hearing either. But in my travels, I did find people who knew of the zoning hearing. Unfortunately, those people were not able to attend the zoning hearing. So in the end, no one but the principals attended the zoning hearing.

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Now I shop at Mellon Market and Deli, and I do not want to see misfortune come to the owners. And I am not saying they did anything devious or wrong in buying a building and moving their business. I just wanted to make sure that they were doing things the way they are supposed to. But I don't really know what they have to do to go through this process correctly.

If they are opening a grocery store, and received zoning approval (which they did) for a grocery store, does approval permit serving hot, prepared foods? Or does that require a different type of zoning? Since they will now have seating in the store, do they need zoning approval for that? And does the zoning approval they received cover that? Do they need extra ventilation for the store, since they will be preparing food, and does the plan approved by zoning include that? Do they have to have everything inspected and approved before opening? Who is responsible for checking on these things, and are they getting checked? Do they need a building permit, and if so, where does it need to be posted? Who do I call to ask all of these questions?

And now you are wondering: Why is Bob writing this article? What difference does this make to the HPCC members? I am hoping someone is reading this article and asking the same questions I have. Some one is saying "What is going on?" and "Why isn't someone on top of all this?" Those are my questions.

I do not have the time (due to my job) to keep an eye on zoning issues. I do not have the knowledge or background about zoning, health department requirements, property law, etc. to know what needs to be done. But I do love to talk and listen, and can find out when neighbors have questions about these issues. Who can I refer them to for answers? Maybe it is you.

Currently no one is following zoning issues for the HPCC. If there were, maybe I could have asked my questions of that person (or people), and he /they answer them clearly and immediately. We need to find someone who can take over the zoning committee and be sure that Highland Park knows what is going on in the properties of our neighborhood. A few years ago we had a very active zoning committee which, for example, could marshal 20 or 30 people to a zoning hearing. But interest diminished and no one is following zoning now.

As the high-rises in East Liberty and Garfield are torn down, all of those residents are going to need a place to live. There are agencies who are looking to move those people into houses. I am not saying that those residents will not make good neighbors, but how many rental units are on your block? How many more can we get on your block? Those folks have to live somewhere, and we have nice big houses in Highland Park. This is just one big zoning issue that may arise in the near future. We really do need a strong zoning committee to watch out for our interests in this and other future zoning issues.

I did eventually find out answers to many of my questions about the new market. It seems that the owners of Mellon Market and

Deli are doing what was required of them. By the time I even heard anything about the whole situation, the zoning hearing was over and they had approval. The opening of the store in that new location could be good for the residents of that area. I think it would have been better if they had known what was going on as it was happening, so that they were able to express their concerns about a decision that is going to affect the character of their immediate area.

So now I have to walk a *block and a half* to get a sandwich for lunch. Well, actually, I can still get a sandwich at Sandy's Deli. But the Mellon Market and Deli was 30 feet from my front door, and it is almost 70 feet to Sandy's! I guess it is just not as convenient to live on Mellon Street as it used to be. But at least I will get more exercise picking up a bottle of Pepsi and a candy bar. And thanks for listening.

IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY CLUB?

Branden Weber

What does the community club mean to you? What should the community club's main function be? I am 5 months into the presidency of the community club, and I do not, yet, have a volunteer for a vice president or a secretary. I, like all of you, have a busy life and can not do this alone. At last Thursday's meeting I asked again for volunteers and suggestions from the group. I did not get any volunteers but this did prompt some interesting brainstorming about the club and where the club is going.

Questions arose such as:

1. Do we need all of these committees anymore?
2. What should be the main focus of the club ?
3. Should we have monthly meetings? One business meeting then a social meeting?

All of these questions got me thinking. Maybe it is time for the community club to go through a metamorphosis of sorts - adopt some new ideas and some new methods of thinking. Times have changed there are two additional forces in the community now, the CDC and the group working on the community plan. With this there is a lot of cross over and, sometimes, rework that goes on. The fact that Highland Park supports three different coalitions is remarkable and proves that our residents strive to maintain a quality neighborhood.

At the next meeting we will be looking for some ideas and your thoughts. We will have free food and beverages at the meeting. I am also still looking for a vice president and a secretary. Any volunteers??

I will be calling all of the board members over the next two weeks to discuss some ideas as well.

Thanks for your time.

ARE A CENTENARIANS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS AT HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER

Skilled Nursing Facility Recognizes Oldest Residents

Bertha Brown, formerly of Lawrenceville and Amanda Harris, formerly of Beltzhoover, celebrated centenarian birthdays at Highland Park Care Center, where they are residents of the skilled nursing facility.

Brown, 105-years old on February 2, has been a resident for the past four years. Harris, 104 years-old on February 7, has been a resident for seven years.

Brown, a former steel-mill worker, raised four children and has 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Brown lived through many events including the Depression, World War's I and II and she remembers the advent of television and even radio.

Harris raised two daughters and many foster children. She has 12 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. She has outlived one of her daughters, who was also a resident of Highland Park Care Center.

"We have birthdays here throughout the year, but celebrating more than 100 years of life is really special. Both Bertha and Amanda consider Highland Park Care Center as their home --- and we're glad to have them here," said Bernard Erb, administrator, Highland Park Care Center.

Highland Park Care Center, located at 745 N Highland Avenue, is a skilled nursing facility owned and operated by Grane Healthcare. The facility includes a 44 bed Memory Impaired Unit.

St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - March

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship

Nursery and Church School at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Visit our Homepage:

www.forministry.com/15206saec

October 2001 House Tour a Success!

Dana Thomas

Thanks to all who helped to make the 2001 Highland Park House Tour a success. We had many new volunteers as well as new homes on the tour. Through ticket sales and a handful of ads, we raked in close to \$5000.00! I especially want to extend my appreciation to those homeowners who graciously opened their homes on the day of the tour. I still have some sketches to deliver and will do so as soon as possible. Please call me at my new number if you would like to pick up your framed sketch of your home.

I have overheard and been told nothing but compliments on the state of our neighborhood and the number of wonderful homes in Highland Park during and after the tour. Those attending the tour were thoroughly impressed with homes on the tour which overflowed with character and impressive details. Many of this year's tourgoers had never ventured into our part of the city and were pleasantly surprised - mission accomplished!

The perfect fall weather also contributed to a beautiful day which

made the tour very walkable. We employed Molly's Trolley in case of inclement weather or for those who were unable to walk the tour. However, the service was not used by many. The fact that we had the trolley available did attract many to purchase tickets ahead of time, though.

The **Art Show** in the park provided many original and interesting displays. Those who participated in the tour found the displays to be of great artistic quality and participating artists appeared to have had an enjoyable time presenting their creations. I am grateful for the multitude of talented individuals who displayed their creations - it was a wonderful addition to the house tour

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to those involved with the tour for being so great to work with during my first year as chairperson of the tour. Thanks for being understanding! In addition, thanks to those neighborhood members who donated to the Highland Park Community Club by participating in the tour. Hopefully, you already know that your donations will be put to good use in and around the neighborhood.

We should all be very proud of the favorable impression Highland Park made on the hundreds of people who took the afternoon to explore our streets. Watch for details on the 2002-2003 tour yet to be scheduled and (as always) call me if you are interested in volunteering your time!

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Around St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

March, 2002, includes the final weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, and will be a time of many meaningful services and community events around St. Andrew's.

Musical events early in the month include the Winter Concert of the Pittsburgh Camerata at 8 p.m. on the evening of Saturday, March 2 (tickets by subscription or at the door). A service of Choral Evensong for Lent, featuring the Choir of St. Andrew's Church, under the direction of Peter J. Luley, will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday evening, March 7, to be followed by a recital by pianist Donna Amato.

On Saturday evening, March 9, at 7 p.m., our monthly "Cinema St. Andrew's" will feature the classic film, "Born Yesterday", with William Holden and Judy Holiday, plus Cartoons! (Bring a snack to share!)

On Saturday morning, March 16, from 8:30 a.m. until noon there will be "A Quiet Morning in Lent," with brief presentations and meditations, times for quiet reflection, and a concluding celebration of Holy Communion.

Holy Week begins at St. Andrew's on Palm Sunday, March 24, with the Liturgy of the Palms at both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Weather permitting, the 11 a.m. service begins in the Churchyard, with procession into the Church by the congregation.

On March 28, our Maundy Thursday observance begins at 6 p.m. with a service of Holy Communion "around the dinner table" in Brooks Hall, immediately followed by a simple potluck supper. All are invited.

On Good Friday, March 29th, our observance of the Great Three Hours begins at 12 noon with a service of the Stations of the Cross. At 1 p.m. we will participate in the Prayer Book Liturgy for Good Friday, including hymns, meditations, and the reading of St. John's Passion Gospel, and at 2 p.m. the St. Andrew's Choir, under the direction of Victoria Cole, will offer a Service of Music with the rarely-heard Lenten portions of G.F. Handel's "Messiah" and with anthems by Tomas Luis de Victoria and Ralph Vaughn Williams. At the end of the last hour there is a time for silent reflection, with the traditional Tolling of the Bell at 3 p.m.

On Saturday morning, March 30th, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, children of the congregation and neighborhood (with parental help when possible) are invited to the Rectory to color Easter Eggs. (Call 412 661-1245 to let us know if you're coming!)

Easter Sunday services on March 31 will include celebrations of Holy Communion at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with the later service to include festive music and a Brass Choir. A champagne reception and Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard will follow at noon.

On the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue for

nearly a century, St. Andrew's Church is committed to life and service in this neighborhood of Highland Park. If there are any pastoral needs that we can assist with -- a child to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, support and care in times of illness or when a loved one dies--please do feel free to give us a call at (412) 661-1245.

Highlights of February 21 Meeting

Ollie Rieley

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Guest: Michael Sobkowiak, Director of Communications for the Western Pennsylvania Field Institute, introduced himself and described a program he is going to run at the Farmhouse. The program will be for children in elementary or middle school and is intended to instill and nurture a sense of wonder of growing things in the students. They will examine outdoor plants in the vicinity and plant seeds and tend the resulting seedlings. The program lasts for ten weeks. Enrollment in the program will be through local schools such as Fulton and Dilworth. The program is one of two sponsored by Citiparks that will be taking place in the Farmhouse. Watch for announcements of other future programs.

House Tour: Chair Dana Thomas thanked everyone who participated in the successful house tour in October.

President Branden Weber noted the poor attendance at this meeting. He noted that no one has stepped forward to volunteer to be Vice President or to occupy the vacant committee chairs. There was general discussion of possible changes in the club. See his column included in this news letter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.



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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2002, at St. Andrew's

MARCH CALENDAR

<i>MARCH CALENDAR</i>	
<i>MARCH 2</i>	<i>PITTSBURGH CAMARATA, ST. ANDREW'S, 8:00 P.M., ADMISSION</i>
<i>MARCH 17</i>	<i>AFTERNOON CONCERT, PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 3:00 P.M., ADMISSION</i>
<i>MARCH 21</i>	<i>HPCC MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:30 P.M.</i>
<i>MARCH 23</i>	<i>EASTER EGG HUNT, RHODODENDRON GROVE, 12:00 NOON - 2:00 P.M.</i>
<i>MARCH 26</i>	<i>NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN TOWN MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, <u>7:00</u> P.M.</i>