

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)  
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014, 5:30 P.M.  
INDIANA LANDMARKS CENTER**

Attendees: Sue Zilisch, Broad Ripple; Clay Miller, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Joan Hostetler, Cottage Home; Maribeth Bailey, Cottage Home; Jim Lingenfelter, Fletcher Place; Patricia Stephens, Forest Hills; Richard E. Campi, Fountain Square and Irish Hill; Linda Sturges, Lockerbie Square; Lorraine Vavul, Meridian Park; Paul F. Smith, Old Northside; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway City; David Parkhurst, Old Speedway City; Kent Schwob, Watson-McCord; Missy Ellis, Woodruff Place; Tom Abeel, Individual; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual; Marjorie Kienle, Individual; Marsh Davis, Indiana Landmarks; Mark Dollase, Indiana Landmarks, Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks; Bonnie Ranion, Katy Brett, Renew Indianapolis, Guest; and Norm Pace, MCANA, Guest.

President Marjorie Kienle called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. She announced that in the spring, HUNI co-sponsored two initiatives with Indiana Landmarks. One was a seminar on how to research the history of your house. The second was a series of walking tours of five historic neighborhoods -- Old Speedway, Meridian Park, Old Northside, Lockerbie, and Cottage Home. We plan to have four or five tours again next year. This fall, HUNI will be co-sponsoring a speaker in the Cornelius O'Brien Lecture Series of the National Council on Public History. Suzanne Stanis of Indiana Landmarks had heard him speak elsewhere and made the arrangements. Ron Tanner will speak about his experiences as a Do-It-Yourselfer, renovating a former fraternity house, which he wrote about in a book, *From Animal House to Our House*. Please also put the fourth quarter HUNI meeting on your calendar.

Tom Abeel introduced the meeting's guest speaker, Katy Brett, whom he first met about a decade ago when she was the Mayor's Liaison for the East Side. She has served in several positions with the City since then and is currently the Executive Director of Renew Indianapolis. Katy explained that although her organization works closely with the City and the County, it's actually a separate nonprofit with its own board of directors. The purpose of the organization is to work specifically on abandoned properties, returning them to productive use and viewing them as assets. She showed some photos of rehabilitated properties.

A common question that is asked of her all the time is how many abandoned properties there are in Marion County. It's almost impossible to answer at any given point in time, as the definition of abandoned properties is complicated, and as the number of abandoned properties is constantly changing. Properties can simply be vacant -- between occupants -- but not actually abandoned. Properties may be vacant because the owners are no longer paying taxes. Properties may be in the tax sale redemption period. Properties may be to the point of being county surplus. Properties may be in mortgage foreclosure. Banks may have walked away from foreclosed properties. Properties may be vacant because they are considered brown fields.

Another question she gets all the time is the difference between a tax sale and a surplus sale. If a property is in a tax sale, then the owner has missed two years of paying property taxes. The minimum bid in a tax sale includes the amount of back taxes plus penalties and other fees, repairs, or demolition order. A surplus sale is a property that went unsold in a tax sale, the owner didn't bring the taxes current, and the City sells it for whatever amount it can get.

A statutory amendment in 2006 allowed for the establishment of a land bank. It allowed the City to increase the carrying cost of a property. It also eliminated the A tax sale and B tax sale that used to exist under a previous system. Currently, there are about 800 properties in the land bank. At its height, it went up to about 1,200. Registered neighborhood associations are now informed of properties in the land bank.

Marjorie Kienle than introduced Marsh Davis, who discussed the National Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

The next two speakers on the agenda had not yet arrived, so Marjorie began a discussion of the billboard ordinance. Everyone needs to contact his or her City-County Councillor. Clear Channel is willing to take down the old style billboards

Lorraine Vavul reported on the HUNI Editorial Board's activities.

Norm Pace of MCANA arrived. He had been looking for the meeting at the wrong address.

Cottage Home will throw its 31st annual block part on October 11th.

Meridian Park is planning to have a home tour in 2015, either the third or fourth weekend in June. Meridian Park was one of the five walking tours Marjorie discussed earlier. Meridian Park's "pocket park" on East 33rd Street will open in August.

The Broad Ripple Historic Home Tour will be on Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. One of the tour stops is the newly opened Hotel Broad Ripple, which is composed of two historic residence on Westfield Boulevard that have been joined together to be an eclectic lodging. As this is tenth anniversary, there will be a special preview party and celebration on the Friday night before the tour.

Watson Park has an almost completely new board of directions. The neighborhood recently had a cleanup. Watson Park participated in National Night Out. A Christmas party is being organized. A computer app called Next Door has been helpful to the area. About 85 people attended a meeting with the Chief of Police.

Joan Hostetler mentioned that the seminar on house history research was so popular that she may try to organize another one in October.

Forest Hills just published a new directory. The neighborhood's annual summer picnic will occur again. The neighborhood's annual luminaria display will occur again this December.

In the interest of conserving time and adjourning the meeting, Woodruff Place requested that everyone visit its website.

Old Speedway has a picnic on tap for September 6th. A neighborhood garage sale will occur on September 5th and 6th.

Lockerbie noted that Renew Indy does affect Lockerbie. The neighborhood organization is working on initiatives with David Baker

The next HUNI Quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 5:30 p.m., at Indiana Landmarks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Butsch Freeland  
Secretary