

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Roberts Park Methodist Church

Attendees: Garry Chilluffo, President; Glenn Blackwood, Vice President; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary; Paula Brooks, Ransom Place and Editorial Board; Marjorie Kienle, Editorial Board; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board; Lorraine Vavul, Editorial Board; David Pflugh, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Clay Miller, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Jim Garrettson, Forest Hills, Meridian-Kessler, and Oliver Johnson's Woods; Jim Simmons and Linda Simmons, Garfield Park; Katherine Carllon Robinson, Herron-Morton Place; Robert Uhlenhake, Irvington; Bryce Mosey, Lockerbie Square; Ryan Noel, Meridian Park; Jordan Ryan, North Square; Mark Godley, St. Joseph; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Robert Kennedy, Guest; Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks; and Cameron Radford, Director of Community Outreach, City of Indianapolis.

President Garry Chilluffo called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. He expressed thanks to Roberts Park Methodist Church for allowing us to meet there on short notice and to Clay Miller for orchestrating the arrangements. Clay asked if he could do a one-minute promo. The church was designed by Diedrich Bohlen, who also designed the Fletcher Place United Methodist Church on the point at South East Street and Virginia Avenue. Bohlen's firm changed names over the years from Bohlen; to Bohlen and Son; to Bohlen, to Meyer, and Gibson; to its present name of Schneider Engineering. The firm still has the original drawings of the church. It was constructed over several years' time and was dedicated in 1876.

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the neighborhoods or organizations they represented.

Glenn Blackwood spoke about the special resolution proposed by Jeff Miller to recognize the 50-year anniversary of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission (IHPC). The resolution will be introduced and voted on at the next City-County Council meeting, Monday, November 6, 2017.

Garry noted that HUNI is specifically mentioned in the resolution, so it would be nice if as many of our members could attend as possible. The resolution will be early on the agenda. Marjorie Kienle inquired as to the exact time. Garry will send out an e-mail confirming the Council meeting's start time. Marjorie noted that you need to get there early. The Council chambers will be packed, due to another agenda item, a proposal by Zach Adamson to request that the State of Indiana in putting an end to gerrymandering. Despite support on both sides of the aisle last session, the chair did not allow the bill to come out of committee. A number of groups that want to see redistricting reform will be in attendance at the City-County Council meeting to support the City of Indianapolis in taking a stand on this issue.

Garry introduced our speaker, Molly Chavers, Executive Director of IndyHub, an organization that is an advocate for the city's twenty and thirty-somethings. Its mission is to attract, engage, and motivate young professionals to make Indianapolis an even greater place to live, work. and play.

Molly had brought a PowerPoint Presentation, but her equipment wasn't working, so she dispensed with it. Molly has resided in Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood for almost nine years and respects the work that HUNI does to promote historic neighborhoods. She grew up in Terre Haute and went to DePauw University. She came to Indianapolis for a government job, thinking it would be a stepping stone to somewhere else, but she fell in love with the city and stayed.

Molly has been involved with IndyHub since it was started in 2005 by BioCrossroads as a way to attract and retain talented young adults. In 2005, there were no social media. There were different ways to get involved in the city but no central hub. They learned that if someone gets engaged in the community within the first 90 days after arriving in the city, they will stay. An interesting fact is that Indianapolis has more nonprofits per capita than any other major city in the country.

IndyHub has five distinct areas of focus. 1. They help program their own unique activities. 2. They promote all of the organizations they work with in their programming. 3. They do research on what appeals to twenty and thirty-somethings, as well as research their levels of engagement. 4. They convene leaders between the ages of 18 and 28 in a group called 1828, which is now in its sixth class. 5. They run an initiative called Live Indy, a citizen's guide to community, culture, schools, and neighborhoods. IndyHub's online platform is "No mean city," a term first used by President Benjamin Harrison in 1897 and expanded in 1909 by Mayor Charles Bookwalter's to, "I am a resident of no mean city."

IndyHub's "Hello Neighbor" events have been a nice way to engage people in their neighborhoods. IndyVolved is their biggest event, and 2018 will be IndyVolved's 13th year. Passport to the Arts is a sampler of local performances that are attended as a group. One of the things they've noticed is that young adults who participate in IndyHub appreciate knowing the history of the city and its neighborhoods. IndyHub appreciates being kept informed about events going on in HUNI neighborhoods that 20 and 30-somethings would like.

Lorraine Vavul will be getting together with Molly Chavers about HUNI and IndyHub doing some activities together. Marjorie Kienle asked if IndyHub works with the big employers in town, so that companies like Lilly don't send their new employees to live in Carmel. Molly replied that they are. Garry Chilluffo asked if a neighborhood could plug into one of IndyHub's activities. Molly replied, "Yes." Upon the conclusion of her presentation, Molly handed out her business card.

Gary asked for a motion to approve the August 3rd meeting minutes. Jim Garrettson moved to accept. Marjorie Kienle second. The motion carried.

Robert Kennedy provided information on the project to rebuild the portion of the Interstate system that's in the downtown area. It will be a huge project. It's not a matter of IF they will do it but HOW they will do it. Every neighborhood it touches needs to get involved. There are huge issues that need to be resolved. Appropriate lighting, wide sidewalks, easy pedestrian access, sound barriers, and quiet pavement are some of the issues that need to be discussed. The woman coordinating things is Kia Gillette. Marjorie Kienle stated that HUNI needs to take a position on this matter. Bob Kennedy commented that there has been no new design work.

President Chilluffo suggested that we table the discussion on this subject for now, but we form a sub-committee to investigate all the things we've just talked about. We'll handle it like we've handled earlier issues. He'll send out the minutes from the October 6 meeting. The 106 process just started.

Cameron Radford from the Mayor's Office reported that INDOT is doing a series of public events primarily focusing on the North Split. They are also discussing long-term plans under the name Strong Indy. They are public discussions. The next one is tomorrow at Sun King Brewery. Indy Moves is a brand new group focusing on transportation in the future.

Chad Lethig reported on upcoming Indiana Landmarks events. On November 9th there will be a speaker on the Ford influence in Indianapolis, in conjunction with the November 11th "before" tour of the former Ford manufacturing plant on East Washington Street. On November 30th, Donovan Rypkema will update

a study he started 25 years ago on the value of historic preservation. On December 8th, Indiana Landmarks will host its Holiday Open House at the Propylaeum, 1410 North Delaware Street.

Lorraine Vavul, a past president of HUNI and the person who handles the HUNI website and social media, reported that there is a link on the front page of the HUNI website at which you can make your reservation for the Donovan Rypkema presentation. Lorraine also reported that she had attended an interesting meeting earlier in the day at Downtown Indy (originally known as Indianapolis Downtown Inc.), which is celebrating 25 years of existence. They will be planning some activities in recognition of their silver anniversary. Lorraine asked what the HUNI representatives thought of doing a survey of HUNI neighborhoods, asking what their favorite “save” in the last 25 years was. After the results are in, we could do something like David Letterman’s “Top Ten” only make it HUNI’s “Top Twenty-Five.” Lorraine also requested that if you own property in the Mile Square, please fill out the Economic Improvement District (EID) form. Downtown Indy is reviving the DWELL program. Downtown Indy also talked about Active Shooter Training. Another issue that came up at the Downtown Indy meeting was social isolation, which is the Number One cause of poor health. Lorraine also sent around some information sheets for anyone who doesn’t know who their HUNI Editorial Board rep is. Lastly Lorraine asked if there is a local newspaper that serves your neighborhood or community, please let her know.

Paula Brooks recommended participating in the People’s Planning Academy. If you complete the classes on YouTube or Channel 16, then you qualify to weigh in on the land use plan. Paula has completed four classes, and they are very informative. You must register, or they won’t know you’ve taken the classes. Paula also made a presentation regarding groundwater contamination.

Garry Chilluffo announced it was time for neighborhood reports and to keep them under three minutes.

Paula Brooks is no longer president of Ransom Place. She wants to focus on a wider scale. They have the same old issues – parking, kids acting up, etc.

Chatham Arch has scheduled its winetasting fundraiser for February 1st, Ground Hog’s Day. With the Bottleworks project going forward on Mass Ave, there are lots of development projects in the works. Everybody wants to upgrade. It was noted that Ground Hog’s Day is actually February 2nd.

Lockerbie had a successful block party in October. Upcoming activities are a neighborhood cleanup and a Christmas party. This year, it won’t be in a private home but in the St. Joseph Brewery.

Irvington had its annual Hallowe’en festival, which was attended by 40,000 people. The Irvington Historical Society’s Holiday Affair will be on November 17 and 18 at the Bona Thomas Center. Friday night is ticketed, and Saturday is free. The Irvington Business Association is having a Irvington Holiday Open House on December 8th, 5 – 8 p.m. with Santa will be in trolleys. The Irvington Winter Luminaria, started in 1976, will be on December 17th. Irving Circle and Audubon and possibly some other streets will be lined with luminaria.

St. Joseph had an outreach by IMPD. They organized it, and it was held in the park at 10th and Alabama. It was mainly the Bike Patrol. The neighborhood is in the midst of fundraising for banners. The neighborhood holiday party is probably going to be on the second Tuesday of the month, December 12th. Clay Miller asked about the status of the redevelopment of the Superior Plumbing site on Fort Wayne. Garry Chilluffo responded that nothing is going on. A month ago, there was some engineering equipment there, maybe to survey or level. Basically, though, It’s just sitting there.

North Square had a neighborhood cleanup last week. Art Squared was in September. The Fountain Square Music Festival was in October. The area has had a ton of crime lately – armed robberies, thefts from work sites, stealing tools and building materials, and the regular Fountain Square shenanigans. A number of businesses have closed recently, as well as the library (the only safe LGTB space), but they're getting four new restaurants, so everything is in flux in the commercial area. November 3rd is Fountain Square's next First Friday. November 17th is Tonic Ball, but tickets are pretty much sold out.

Meridian Park has had a packed social calendar. They finished their alley cleanup. They applied to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) for a grant to plant trees in the tree lawns on Pennsylvania Street from 30th to 34th and also on E. 32nd Street. The trees will be planted next spring. It's an amazing grant. In the past, the neighborhood was required to do the watering. Now part of the grant is that KIB waters the trees for up to three years and does maintenance pruning in years four and five. They focus on large, native shade trees. Marjorie Kienle remarked that Lockerbie had to pay \$18,000 to plant trees in their neighborhood, back when they did it a few years ago, plus they had to water the trees. KIB has gotten more funding in recent years, so that the neighborhoods don't have to pay anything, just supply the necessary volunteers to plant the trees. Garry Chilluffo commented that the pain and cost in the past was the downside of being trailblazers. The Meridian Park pocket park is nearing completion at 215 E. 33rd Street. Meridian Park's progressive dinner is next Saturday. It's also marathon season, which frequently impacts Meridian Park. The neighborhood Christmas party will be at Colby Manor. The Midtown Holiday Home Tour includes two Meridian Park homes, Tuckaway and Colby Manor.

Garfield Park had six murals painted on the streets and in the park, thanks to a grant. These help with traffic calming and walkability. One of the big events in the neighborhood is Conservatory Crossing. It's held in the Garfield Park Conservatory, with beautiful poinsettias and a model train, and Santa comes on December 9th. There are two dozen classes and events going on in the Art Center. There will be a Spirit and Place event in which you learn to paint like Jackson Pollock. The neighborhood Christmas party will be on the third Tuesday of the month. Friends of Garfield Park will put on "Rockin' Garfield." Their First Fridays usually have 3-4 businesses, plus Big Car. The 18th Annual Art Fair featuring all Indiana artists will be November 18 and 19 and is free. Garry commented that Indiana Landmarks and Garfield Park recently partnered for a wonderful tour in September, as did Indiana Landmarks and Irvington last May. Marjorie noted that Garry puts in many hours on behalf of historic neighborhoods.

Woodruff Place has its annual meeting on the second Monday in November. Woodruff Place wrapped up its projects for the year under their Economic Improvement District, which included the fountains, street lights, and town hall. The EID has been great. Tom Abeel was asked to put together a tour of Woodruff Place. He didn't realize it until after he agreed, but it turned out to be a landscape architecture tour for a big gathering in town. Sharon Butsch Freeland commented that she had attended the opening night party for the Cultural Landscape Foundation, who put on that event. The opening night party and all of the tours were free. In addition, a beautiful booklet of the features sites was distributed, which was free.

Old Speedway City is having a meeting next Monday at which the new town manager will be speaking. In December, a choir will perform Christmas music for the neighborhood organization. If you are excited about Santa Claus riding in on an IndyCar, that's the first week in December.

The HUNI Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), 1029 Fletcher Avenue. The fourth quarter meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Butsch Freeland
Secretary