

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 3, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Indiana Landmarks Center, 1201 Central Avenue

Attendees: Garry Chilluffo, President; Glenn Blackwood, Vice President; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board; Jim Simmons, Editorial Board; Lorraine Vavul, Editorial Board and Historic Meridian Park; Chris Carlson, Broad Ripple; David Pflugh, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Jim Garrettson, Forest Hills and Meridian-Kessler; M. Jean Pontius, Herron-Morton Place; Bryce Mosey, Lockerbie Square; Jordan Ryan, North Square; Gillian Fletcher, Old Speedway City; David Parkhurst, Old Speedway City; Kent Schwob, Watson Park; Jim Leich, Woodruff Place; Marjorie Kienle, Individual Member; and Jeff Miller, City-County Councillor of Indianapolis/Marion County.

President Garry Chilluffo called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves and the neighborhoods or organizations they represented.

Jeff Miller opened with the comment, "I am happy to report that digital billboards are *still* illegal," which elicited a number of chuckles. Jeff loves using his IT background in his Council position, because it helps him do his job better. The Council is now collating the data on vacant or abandoned properties from several different City departments. Citizens Energy is also assisting in gathering information on which properties appear to be abandoned. The City is taking a more proactive approach to getting abandoned properties out of the hands of absentee owners who don't care. Jeff asked neighborhood reps "How much data is too much data?" Jeff also discussed the future site of the Marion County jail, sheriff's office, the courts, etc. The new facility will be on the site of the former Citizens Energy Coke Plant at 2950 Prospect Street. Nearby neighborhoods include Twin Aire and Norwood, whose residents hope the criminal justice center will bring jobs and businesses to the area's residents.

Garry then introduced HUNI's Immediate Past President Marjorie Kienle, who served as facilitator for a discussion on how to get neighborhoods fired up. Marjorie has seen the historic neighborhoods get very active for a period of time, then become very inactive for a period of time, then become active again. She asked the neighborhood representatives to comment on what the issues were that caused their neighborhoods to become inactive.

Old Speedway City finds that sometimes it comes down to the organizations in the neighborhood don't talk to each other. There's a lack of communication among neighborhood groups, and one doesn't know what another one is doing.

St. Joseph has a constant influx of new, mainly younger, people coming into the neighborhood. They haven't had the same experience as the people who were the "pioneers" in reviving the neighborhood. The newer residents don't have the same sense of ownership and pride, so it's hard to get them engaged. There is a difference in commitment among newer residents and older residents.

In Meridian Park, people are so busy, they lack the time to participate to any great extent.

Watson Park has two extremes in the neighborhood. Thirty to forty home are occupied by people in their 70s and 80s, most of whom have been there since before the neighborhood was declared a historic district, and they don't have the means to maintain their properties. A second group of significant size are families who have children and are involved in raising them. Neither group seems able to be involved in neighborhood-wide activities and efforts.

When Lockerbie first enjoyed its revival, in the Seventies and Eighties, there were a lot of kids. Then there was a period in which there were hardly any. Now there seem to be more younger couples moving in, who either have children or plan to have children, and who intend to stay in the neighborhood.

Woodruff Place has had a complete turnover in recent years. In 2005, there was the first birth in Woodruff Place in a decade. On the Monday before the HUNI meeting, there were 41 kids waiting for the school bus, the most in years.

Herron-Morton Place reports that they young families in the neighborhood send their kids to the nearby neighborhood charter school. The kids are all schoolmates, as well as neighbors, and they can walk to school together.

Meridian Park has experienced people moving into the area for the OPS/Butler University pocket park

Nearly all neighborhoods have experienced a resurgence of young children in residences. In many cases,

Meetings that run too long cause attendees not to come back. Activities need to be have some fun.

Lack of communication. Different levels of commitment. Different values and expectations. Neighborhoods then reported on what has gotten people to get more active.

More fun. More social.

Most effective workers are the older folks, many of whom are retired, or younger residents who have no children.

Meridian Park's model seemed very foreign when they changed their approach. In the past, they had lots of meetings. When a new president dispensed of all ongoing traditional type of meetings and replaced them with social events. With e-mail blasts, Facebook, and other social media, people can get They don't have IMPD reports, Health Department reports,

but they have in depth discussions about issues when they gather socially. They have one annual meeting to elect board members. They also occasionally have a special meeting.

Marjorie asked what forms of social events are successful.

Woodruff Place has an annual flea market, as well as July 4th event. They do have an e-mail newsletter that helps keep people informed.

Herron-Morton Place has an event just about every other month. Oktoberfest is open to anybody, but the Rock and Romp, Easter Egg Hunt, Treasure Hunt, Hallowe'en, and Progressive Dinner are generally just neighborhood residents. They don't take time to discuss neighborhood issues at these social events.

North Square relies on Fountain Square for events. North Square does have monthly meetings, but only 5 to 10 people attend. On National Night Out, they have a block party, and they have a block party on Hallowe'en. They promote their activities on Nextdoor. Over half their neighborhood is over 80 years of age.

Fletcher Place's biggest annual event is their picnic, which brings in 100-120 people. The Hallowe'en party is big for the kids. Holiday party Dinner at a neighborhood restaurant. About two years ago, they started having a social hour before their business meeting. They use Nextdoor and *Urban Times* to publicize.

Chatham-Arch has a social hour before their meetings. They recently had a block party. They have a monthly dining group that tries out a new restaurant in the neighborhood. They have a wine-tasting fundraiser once a year. They hope to build up more social events, particularly to get more people from the condos involved.

Garfield Park has a monthly meeting, a page or more in the *Urban Times*, use Facebook, and sends regular e-mails. First Friday events have drawn more people in. An evening garden walk, National Night Out brought out a lot of people. Generally, they have a business meeting and one or two fund events every month.

Neighborhood Reports were then delivered by their representatives.

Upcoming events in Broad Ripple include the 13th Annual Broad Ripple Historic Home Tour, Hoods and Hops Car Show, The Ripple Effect 5K Run/Walk, and Broad Ripple *Lights Up!* Please visit the neighborhood association's website, brva.org for specific details.

Upcoming events in Chatham Arch-Mass Ave include the Monster Mash on Sunday, October 29, 2017, from 1 to 7 p.m.

Upcoming events in Meridian-Kessler include the annual Business Breakfast on November 9, 2017. Two ongoing issues for the neighborhood include the IndyGo Red Line on College Avenue and the redevelopment of the former Indiana Bell Telephone facility at College Avenue and Kessler Boulevard.

Herron-Morton Place will host "Hallowe'en Pizza in the Park" on October 31, 2017, at 5 p.m.

Lockerbie Square plans the Lockerbie Square Street Market for Saturday, September 16, 2017. It's been held annually since 2002 and features antique dealers, artisans, yard sales, food trucks, live music, etc.

Historic Meridian Park's Fall Alley Cleanup will be on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. will celebrate its 15th annual Fall Festival on October 1, 2017, in the Historic Meridian Park Pocket Park at 215 East 33rd Street. The gathering will include a chili cookoff. The Children's Museum Black Hat Dash will be Saturday, October 28, 2017, and will be almost entirely within Historic Meridian Park's boundaries.

Being a small neighborhood, both geographically and population-wise, North Square looks to Fountain Square and Fletcher Place for events. The primary focus of North Square residents is monitoring the activities of developers and "flippers," as well as keeping desired services or businesses in the neighborhood.

The Old Speedway City Neighborhood Association's Annual Community Sale will be on Friday, September 8th and Saturday, September 9th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Old Speedway City continues to welcome new businesses to town.

Woodruff Place reports that the Economic Investment District is working well, and many much-needed maintenance or repair items are being tackled with the EID funds. On Saturday, October 7, Will Pritchard and Tom Abeel will lead of tour of Woodruff Place as part of the National Cultural Landscape Foundations "What's Out There" weekend. The Fall Neighborhood Cleanup will be on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Woodruff Place Halloween Party will take place all day at the Woodruff Place Town Hall, 735 Woodruff Place East Drive.

The next HUNI meeting will be on Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at Roberts Park United Methodist Church, 401 N. Delaware Street. The third quarter meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Butsch Freeland
Secretary