

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)**  
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013, 5:30 P.M.  
MORRIS BUTLER HOUSE LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendees: Sue Zilisch, Broad Ripple; Clay Miller, Chatham Arch; Jamar Cobb-Dennard, Cole-Noble; Mark Reynold, Cumberland; Linda Sturges, Lockerbie Square; Marjorie Kienle, Lockberbie Square; Edward Frazier, Old Speedway City; Elizabeth Frazier, Old Speeway City; David Parkhurst, Old Speedway City; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway City; John McNett, Ransom Place; Andy Sheff, Ransom Place; Paula Brooks, 1000 Block MLK Street; Garry Chilluffo, Historic St. Joseph; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place Civic League; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual; and Lorraine Phillips Vavul, Individual.

President Marjorie Kienle called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. She introduced Adam Thies, Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development of the City of Indianapolis. Adam provided a little of his background before assuming his present position. Born in Fort Wayne, he received a degree in urban planning from Ball State University in 1999. His parents were teachers, as is his wife, so education has always been important to him. He worked for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, a Chicago architectural and engineering firm, before taking the position in city government. Departments under the DMD umbrella include Neighborhoods and Housing, Planning and Zoning, Community Development, Metropolitan Planning Commission, and Redevelopment Authority. He admits to being a bit blunt sometimes, but says he'd rather be honest and open.

Adam's presentation touched on the following subjects:

The Land Bank corruption scandal will be fully investigated, and the persons involved will be prosecuted.

The Monument Circle Historic District is now official. An extensive and appropriate plan will be developed in coming months.

As a result of a charrette involving Cole-Noble and Market Square neighborhoods, plans are in the works for the first floor of the former City Hall to be in use in 2014.

One of the City's major challenges is the viability of Union Station. 60 tons of freight pass through that structure 24 times a day.

The future of Indianapolis depends on people moving back into the core of the city. A person pays taxes based on the county in which he or she lives on January 1.

A good transit system is necessary for the city to succeed. IndyConnect was formed to study and advocate for a better system than now exists. It will take years to accomplish.

A generation ago, the societal trend was towards the suburbs. Today the trend is toward the city. In the next few years, Indianapolis will need 89% more apartments than it now has.

Many older neighborhoods have alleys. The City would like to make them more useful.

All public infrastructure falls under the Department of Public Works.

Property taxes aren't the total answer. Income taxes can supplement them and other funding sources.

The old axiom, "You can't be a suburb of nothing" is no longer true. Suburbs are more and more self-sufficient these days. They are not dependent on the major cities that they border, as they once did.

Adam concluded his talk with the following advice to HUNI representatives:

Continue to research and build details that support your position. Continue to think of yourselves as proponents of the entire city, not just your own particular neighborhood.

Adam excused himself from the meeting, due to a prior commitment with his children.

Following Adam's presentation, Marjorie Kienle gave a report on the National Preservation Conference that was held in Indianapolis from October 29 to November 2. Conference attendees were very appreciative of the reception they received in Indianapolis. The field sessions were interesting. The candlelight home tour was well-attended, despite the pouring rain. Indiana Landmarks will offer some of the field sessions in coming months. The overall experience was very inspiring.

Neighborhood representatives made the following announcements:

Cumberland will hold its annual Weihnachtsmarkt on Saturday, December 7, 2013, from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. In recognition of the heritage of many area residents, the event has a decidedly German flair to it.

Broad Ripple reported 750 to 850 attendees at its 9th annual Broad Ripple Historic Home Tour. The next event will be BROAD RIPPLE *Lights Up!* on Saturday, December 14th, with children's activities beginning at 2:00 p.m., a parade at 5:30 p.m., and a tree-lighting at 7:00 p.m. The activities will be centered around the Broad Ripple Firehouse.

St. Joseph will have its neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, December 12. Crime Watch will be the main topic. The city has launched [www.indy.safetown.org](http://www.indy.safetown.org), an easy-to-use suite of cloud and mobile apps that empower citizens to share information with local law enforcement, fire, emergency services, and other citizens.

Forest Hills will be aglow on Christmas Eve, beginning at dusk, as luminaria line the winding streets of the north side neighborhood.

Lockerbie will have a neighborhood holiday party for residents. The neighborhood recently held a cleanup in preparation for the 2013 National Preservation Conference.

Historic Meridian Park has gotten approval for a pocket park in the 200 block of East 33rd Street. HMP hopes to partner with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to develop the site with appropriate plantings and equipment. A cleanup is scheduled for November 16, 2013.

Old Speedway City has many ongoing projects, including the construction of a large traffic circle connecting W. 16th Street, Crawfordsville Road, and Main Street. A progressive dinner is planned for the second Monday in December. "Light Up the Night" will be held on Saturday, December 7. New establishments are opening all the time, including Barbecue and Bourbon, Main Street Yoga, and Lino's Coffee. They are hoping that a parking permit program for residents can be implemented during race month.

Woodruff Place raised \$5,200 for infrastructure projects with an event in September, called "Woodruff Idol." Tom Abeel was one of the performers. The next WP event will be "Casino Woodruff" on Saturday, March 1. A recent neighborhood cleanup turned into a party, with people working together instead of individually.

Chatham Arch has a Tom Otterness sculpture in Chatham Commons Park that has recently been cleaned and lighted. The park is on the southeast corner of East and St. Clair Streets. The neighborhood is still waiting to see the details of the new firehouse.

Ransom Place reported their big news is that the former Second Christian Church at 9th and Camp Streets, having been saved and stabilized by Indiana Landmarks, is being turned into residences. Paula Brooks, a resident of Ransom Place discussed the problems plaguing the 1000 block of Martin Luther King Street. She has been trying to get the City to deal with the "block from hell" for many years.

The next HUNI Quarterly meeting will be the Annual Meeting. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, at 9:00 a.m., at the Firefighters Union Hall, 748 Massachusetts Avenue. Our guest speaker will be Michael Huber, President and CEO of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Butsch Freeland