

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014, 5:30 P.M.
INDIANA LANDMARKS CENTER**

Attendees: Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Barbara Beeker, Herron-Morton Place; Tiffany Benedict Berkson, Plan 2020; Richard E. Campi, Irish Hill and Fountain Square; Gary Chilluffo, St. Joseph Historic Neighborhood; Marsh Davis, Indiana Landmarks; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual; Kelly Gascoine, Indiana Landmarks; Marjorie Kienle, Lockerbie Square; Jim Lingenfelter, Fletcher Place; Jeff Miller ; Dave Parkhurst, Old Speedway City; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway City; Britta Rees, Individual; Linda Sturges, Lockerbie Square; Lorraine Vavul, Historic Meridian Park; and Sue Zilisch, Broad Ripple.

President Marjorie Kienle called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m. She noted that there was a packed agenda, so we need to keep things moving along.

The first item on the agenda was the Bylaws. They have not been updated since 2/15/1997. Both hard copies and electronic copies were distributed to neighborhood representatives in previous months. The primary proposed revisions were 1) member organizations must be located within Marion County; 2) a neighborhood association wishing to join HUNI must submit a copy of its bylaws, charter, or other organizational documents; 3) an Editorial Board will become a standing committee of HUNI; 4) neighborhood representatives who are elected to offices may resign as neighborhood representative and fill the vacancy with another representative from that same neighborhood, 5) the president shall represent HUNI as a member of Endangered Places Board of Indiana Landmarks, 6) the regular meetings of the HUNI Board of Directors will be on the first Thursday in the second month of each quarter (i.e., February, May, August, and November).

Jim Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the updated Bylaws as distributed. Gary Chilluffo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Marjorie announced that HUNI and Indiana Landmarks are co-sponsoring walking tours of five historic neighborhoods during National Preservation Month. On each of the five Thursdays in May, a different neighborhood will be featured. The first tour is tonight in Old Speedway City, which is why there may not be an Old Speedway City representative at the HUNI meeting this evening.

Marjorie announced that HUNI and Indiana Landmarks are also sponsoring a House History Workshop on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, on how to research your house. The seminar is free, but one must register on the Indiana Landmarks website, as space is limited in the Morris-Butler House. The main speaker will be Joan Hostetler. Consultants available to answer attendees' questions will be Deedee Davis, Sharon Butsch Freeland, Jordan Ryland, and William Selm.

Marjorie introduced Sherry Siewert, President of Indianapolis Downtown Inc., who spoke on the subject of Velocity, a five-year strategic plan for Downtown Indianapolis. IDI is responsible for 60% of the plan, and partner organizations will implement the remaining 40%. Short-term tactics taking fewer than eighteen months and longer term tactics taking up to five years to complete are part of the program. In the past, people looked at downtown as a place to work or visit but not to live. That's rapidly changing. Sherry suggested a homework assignment for HUNI members to think about how we can better market downtown. We need to put a more positive spin on preservation. Indianapolis has a lackluster reputation.

Following Sherry's presentation, Tiffany Benedict Berkson spoke about Plan 2020, a Bicentennial Plan for Indianapolis and Marion County that will help define the next century for the city and county. All neighborhoods -- not just historic ones - will be included.

The subject of electronic billboards was discussed. Bottom line is that it will happen, so we must try to do what we can to make it the least offensive. Historic neighborhoods may be protected somewhat, but we should still be vigilant.

Lockerbie Square reported that there will be a walking tour of the neighborhood as part of the five Preservation Month tours by HUNI and Indiana Landmarks. There is development on the northwest corner of E. Michigan and N. Park Avenue. The neighborhood is having every other month get-togethers, as there are lots of new neighbors in recent years. Emphasis is on engaging younger people. The new Riley Education Center adjacent to the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home is now open.

Chatham Arch reported that the former St. Joseph Catholic Church, which has been vacant for more than a quarter of a century is being renovated. The Chatham Tap folks are installing a restaurant. The neighborhood is concerned about the Firefighters Credit Union, which wants a new place with drive-through service. The neighborhood has installed pergolas in the pocket park, Chatham Commons, which also contains the Tom Otterness sculpture. A block party is planned for May 17th.

Historic Meridian Park has new officers. The neighborhood will also be one of the five walking tours during Preservation Month. In preparation for the tour, the neighborhood will be doing an alley cleanup. The neighborhood is also developing a pocket park on 33rd Street, between Pennsylvania and Washington Boulevard, where there was at one time a residence.

Richard Campi discussed issues surrounding the parking lot across the street from his home on Fletcher Avenue. Calvary Tabernacle Church, which owns the property, has not complied with the plan that was approved for the lot.

Old Northside is thinking about a another home tour. The neighborhood is planning a capital campaign to pay for infrastructure and pocket parks. The Old Northside Foundation owns two pocket parks.

The Meridian-Kessler Home & Garden Tour will be June 7th and 8th, with a preview party the evening of Friday, June 6th.

Holy Cross Neighborhood Association is working to clear out invasive vegetation in their area.

Broad Ripple will be hosting the 10th Annual Historic Home Tour on Saturday, September 27th, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

St. Joseph plans a neighborhood cleanup this spring. A new restaurant has opened at 43 East 9th Street in the Ambassador Building. Plow & Anchor is the brainchild of former Bluebeard chef, John Adams

The next HUNI Quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 5:30 p.m., at Indiana Landmarks. Guest speaker will be Katy Brett, Executive Director of Renew Indianapolis, a nonprofit community land bank that seeks to return vacant and abandoned properties to reuse. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Butsch Freeland
Secretary