

# **HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)**

## **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday, February 2, 2019**

**Irvington Lodge, 5515 East Washington Street**

Attendees: Garry Chilluffo, President and Editorial Board; Glenn Blackwood, Vice President and Editorial Board; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary, Editorial Board, and Individual Member; Paula Brooks, Editorial Board and Ransom Place; Marjorie Kienle, Editorial Board, Past President, and Lockerbie Square; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board, Individual Member; Lorraine Vavul, Editorial Board, Historic Meridian Park, and Past President; Beth Whitaker, Bates-Hendricks; David Pflugh, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Nancy Bain, Cottage Home; Janet Fry, Fayette Place; Jim Lingenfelter, Fletcher Place; Jim Garrettson, Forest Hills and Meridian-Kessler; Katherine Carlton Robinson, Herron-Morton Place; David Hittle, Holy Cross; Jim Obermaier, Irvington; Jordan Ryan, North Square; David Buchanan, Old Southside; Gillian Fletcher, Old Speedway City; Mark Godley, St. Joseph; Lora Teagarden, Woodruff Place; Tom Abeel, Individual Member; Matt Nunley, Guest, Bates-Hendricks; Molly Jefford, Guest, Cottage Home; Sandra McGuinness, Guest, Herron-Morton Place; Jay van Santen, Guest, Historic Meridian Park; Ben Langebartels, Guest, St. Joseph; Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks; Hannah Harper, Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate.

President Garry Chilluffo called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and the neighborhoods or other organizations they represented.

Garry introduced the speaker, Jordan Ryan, who is an architectural archivist at the Indiana Historical Society, as well as the HUNI representative from North Square. Her IHS job mostly consists of playing with blueprints all day. One day her bosses told her that she was doing such a great job at her existing job that they wanted to give her a second job. It was to coordinate the IHS's Indianapolis Bicentennial Collecting Initiative. Indianapolis will celebrate in both 2020 and 2021, since non-natives began settling in the area in 1820, and the town was officially laid out in 1821.

Jordan has recently processed the McGuire Photographs Collection, and many of the images she showed those assembled at the HUNI meeting were from that collection. James and Georgia McGuire were owners of a commercial photography studio. They photographed many downtown scenes from the 1960s to the 1980s. The collection helps to document the changing built environment in the downtown landscape.

In her role as Coordinator of the IHS's Indianapolis Bicentennial Project, Jordan is working to collect photographs from as many different sources as possible. She wants the images to be all-inclusive of the city's history, not just those of elite white men and impressive commercial buildings. She wants to include images of working-class people, modest buildings, the LGBTQ community, etc. There will be a 15- to 18-month semi-permanent in-house exhibit at IHS. Jordan

has been processing items in the Indiana Historical Society's backlog, as well as mining things that were already processed. She hopes HUNI reps are aware of people in their neighborhoods who have photos they will share with the IHS. Not just skyscrapers but public places, intersections with surrounding street scenes, neighborhood histories, and infrastructure. Really, anything and everything.

Among the images Jordan showed those in attendance at the HUNI meeting were the 500 block of Indiana Avenue, a map of downtown Indianapolis in 1854, a map of the same view of downtown Indianapolis in 1864, a photo of a wooden model of all of the homes that existed in the Lockefield Gardens area before they were razed for the housing project. This project was one of only two instances that the advisory council has ever gotten involved in city business. The model was built to justify building Lockefield Gardens. The racial / class implications are important to discuss.

Jordan has a team of three. They have been going through the city's aerial photos, Staley Sign Company's street images, Circle City Mall records, the William P. Jungclaus Journal, the Department of Metropolitan Development files, etc. Jordan has cards she can hand out. She's especially looking for neighborhood photos, slides, and histories. We're making history now with the I-65/I-70 fight.

Looking ahead to next week, Jordan will be moderating a panel called "Mapping Indianapolis With Survey Sketches" on Saturday, February 7, at the History Center. Admission is free. She has flyers. Jordan commented that MapIndy is an incredible resource.

Jay van Santen asked if there is any software for recognizing buildings, as there is facial recognition software for identifying people. Marjorie Kienle asked if the IHS has a collection of suffragettes materials, as the year 2020 is the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote.

Following Jordan's presentation, Marjorie Kienle gave an update on the digital billboards issue. She noted that David Hittle -- who is very knowledgeable about the subject -- was present and could help with any details. Marjorie challenged every neighborhood to get ten people to the City-County Building on Monday, February 11th at 5:30 p.m. The amendment says that we want to maintain the current ban on any new digital billboards in Marion County. If your neighborhood has not e-mailed both the Mayor's Office and your City-County Councillor to say you support the continued ban on digital billboards, please do it. If your Councillor will tell you that he or she definitely will or definitely will not vote for it, please let Marjorie know. A few councillors' positions are still unknown. All of the cities with which we compete for jobs, conventions, corporate headquarters, brain trust, etc., have total bans on digital billboards. The amendment will maintain the ban. Digital billboards are a blight.

Garry Chilluffo added that in addition to February 11th, we also need to pack the room again on Monday, February 25th, at 5:30 p.m. The City-County Council needs to see bodies to know that there is passion behind this issue.

Tom Abeel added that one of the lobbyists got up and said, "Indianapolis is under-billboarded," as if there is some level of blight to which we should aspire. If we give them an inch, they will take a mile.

Jeff Miller noted that the Metropolitan Development Commission will have the final "say." The MDC has shown itself not to care what the City-Council decides.

Marjorie Kienle and Garry Chilluffo then updated us on the Rethink 65/70 issue. They will be visiting Herron-Morton on Monday night to talk about it. Marjorie thanked Jordan Ryan again for her part in finding the information she did. The Arup study showed us how economically advantageous it would be to push the Interstate down. The State would not provide us with their data from 1960, which showed it would be less expensive to build below ground. Jordan found documentation from the first time that it was less expensive to build below ground. INDOT has compromised with taking out a couple of ramps, not planning to build big walls, and no expansion of lanes. They have sort of met our 1 and 2 demands, but not our 3 and 4 demands.

People have asked all along what our attorneys are doing. They are sharp. They are headed up by Russ Menyhart of Strong Indy. They are working with the National Trust. We can't sue until INDOT makes a decision. We're also working with Andre Carson, who is on the Federal Transportation Committee. We have not given up. We will not give up. It's too important for the future of Indianapolis.

Garry added that Marjorie and he attend a strategy meeting every two weeks. The National Trust is working with us. The Federal Highways Administration is looking a little askew at INDOT, as to how they are running the process. These two particular issues – digital billboards and Rethink 65/70 – are extremely important to the quality of life in Indianapolis. For example, 93 neighborhoods are on record as being opposed to digital billboards. These issues will be important in the next mayoral election. Lorraine Vavul is concerned that we make the point to Andre Carson that INDOT is prioritizing commuter traffic and not looking at the quality of life impact and the economic development in the neighborhoods that are impacted. Marjorie stated that Indiana Landmarks will underwrite the cost of having someone go to Washington, D.C., to talk to Andre Carson.

Garry introduced Ched Lethig, HUNI's treasurer and liaison with Indiana Landmarks. He had membership forms for anyone who needed one. HUNI has modest dues, which must be renewed every year. Please pay your dues for 2019.

Garry asked for a motion to suspend the reading of the previous meeting's minutes aloud. Jim Garrettson moved. Jay van Santen seconded. The motion carried. Beth Whitaker moved that we approve the meeting's minutes from the November 1, 2018 meeting that had been distributed to members. Paula Brooks seconded. The motion carried.

Garry reminded everyone that HUNI is not a stand-alone 501(c)(3) organization. It exists under the auspices of Indiana Landmarks. HUNI is essentially a committee of Indiana Landmarks, but we are very much autonomous.

Moving into a discussion of the Bylaws, Marjorie explained that because things moved so fast the last year or so that we did not follow our Bylaws. Glenn should have been more in the loop this past year. The plan going forward is that Glenn will be president-elect and perform the usual duties of the president, including the day-to-day tasks and running the meetings. Garry will remain president for one year, and he and Marjorie will continue representing HUNI on the issues we've been working on the past few years. Chad Lethig will remain treasurer.

Garry asked if everyone had read the Bylaws. Jim Lingenfelter asked for clarification of Article 2 A 1, that a member neighborhood must be on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for same. Who decides that a neighborhood is eligible? If a neighborhood is not on the Register, Chad Lethig and Mark Dollase go out and take a look at the neighborhood. They must be registered with the City of Indianapolis, and they must have enough fabric left in the neighborhood to be viewed as historic. Marjorie proposed that we add to the Bylaws that if a neighborhood is not on the National Register, its eligibility for HUNI membership must be approved by a representative from Indiana Landmarks or from an equivalent state organization.

Garry asked for a motion to approve the modifications to the amendment to the Bylaws. Jay van Santen moved that we approve the amendment. Marjorie Kienle seconded. The motion carried. Lorraine Vavul reported that the Editorial Board meets quarterly, generally the week immediately following the quarterly HUNI meetings. The board discusses which items to feature on the HUNI website and on the HUNI Facebook page. Each member neighborhood has a representative on the Editorial Board who will get neighborhood events that are open to the general public on the website calendar. Neighborhood representatives should write two or three sentences with the details of your events and send it to your rep. Lorraine introduced the Editorial Board: Paula Brooks, Sharon Freeland, Marjorie Kienle, Julia Pratt, Garry Chilluffo, Glenn Blackwood, and webmaster Jay van Santen. Marjorie thanked Lorraine Vavul for her prompt postings of updates. In the early days of the I65/70 activities, HUNI's website was the only website that had current information. Garry tagged on to Marjorie's statement with "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Lorraine mentioned that the home page of the HUNI website was overhauled at the beginning of the year, so that there were not as many items on the home page. Instead there are shorter pieces on the landing page with links to ancillary pages. Jay printed out recent analytics of the HUNI website activity, which were passed around. Lorraine highlighted some of the statistics to illustrate how much traffic the HUNI website has gotten in the past year. People really **do** care

about historic neighborhoods. Jay commented that the website has grown like topsy since it was started eight years ago under Lorraine's presidency. If you have a Facebook page, please "Like" the HUNI Facebook page.

Former Editorial Board member, Britta Anderson, has created digital maps that can be accessed from the HUNI website's home page. Each historic neighborhood is highlighted in a different color, so its boundaries can be seen. The Editorial Board is also working on creating a place on the website that provides walking tours of HUNI neighborhoods. Garry added that the tour content is already available, since Indiana Landmarks has done walking tours of the neighborhoods. Lorraine will reach out to the new president of IndyHub to partner with a younger group on tours.

Hannah Harper, the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate for the Far East Side, lives in Emerson Heights. There are two MNA positions that area about to be filled, if anyone is interested. Operation Night Light is Mayor Joe Hogsett's initiative to install about 4,000 new streetlights in Indianapolis by investing the savings generated from converting city-funded streetlights to more efficient LED technology. 27,000 existing streetlights are being retrofitted. Day Camp registration is now open. Over 100 summer camps will be held in IndyParks this summer, and 450 older youth will be hired for summer jobs in the parks department through Project Indy. Project Indy is comprised of a network of community organizations, employers, and corporate partners who provide job opportunities for youth. They teach the young people workforce skills, like how to write a resume, prepare for an interview, and dress for an interview. The City has launched a new website, indy.gov. The Great Indy Cleanup will be on April 27th this year. If your neighborhood registers your cleanup with the city, you will be provided with supplies, as well as dumpsters.

Marjorie Kienle mentioned that some residents in historic neighborhoods are having difficulty improving their older homes, because Code Enforcement has insisted on unreasonable demands. It's gotten so bad that some neighborhoods are no longer restoring existing homes but instead building new infill homes on vacant lots. If you are aware of residents who are having difficulty with such things as lead paint, asbestos, siding, foundations, etc., let Marjorie or Garry know.

Garry thanked Chad Lethig for bringing coffee and doughnuts for the meeting. He reiterated that Chad will continue to serve as HUNI treasurer, Glenn will be president-elect, and Garry will remain president for one year. New officers that need to be elected are vice president and secretary.

Jim Lingenfelter has accepted the nomination for vice president, and Jordan Ryan has accepted the nomination for secretary. Garry asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There being none, Jay van Santen moved that the nominations be closed. Paula Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried. Marjorie Kienle moved to elect the proposed slate. Beth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Garry thanked Sharon for serving as secretary for the past six years and gifted her with a vase of flowers.

Garry then asked for the representatives to give their neighborhood reports.

Historic Meridian Park just held its election of new officers. The neighborhood is looking to apply for 501(c)(3) status, as well as to install more streetlights. The Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center has its annual conference on March 9th. It's free and is always a great program.

Lockerbie had its best-attended ever Christmas party in December. It's grown so large that they had to move the event from people's homes to a larger venue, Historic Saint Joseph Hall. A change that is coming to Lockerbie is that the historic James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home, which has been owned and operated by the Riley Children's Foundation since 1922, may soon have a new owner. The foundation wants to separate the museum home from the children's hospital, as the former is not that profitable. It has been proposed that the Riley Museum Home be taken from the Riley Children's Foundation and placed under the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. However, neither the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites nor the residents of Lockerbie were consulted.

Woodruff Place will hold its annual flea market on June 1st and 2nd. Adult beverages and food trucks will be available. Woodruff Place's bi-annual home tour will be on June 29th and 30th. Seven homes and four gardens are slated for the home tour. Intensive fundraising efforts are planned to restore or replace the six ancillary fountains in the neighborhood. Woodruff Place will be hosting an as-yet-to-be-named Victorian ball as a fundraising project. The costumed ball will be in the fall, probably in September.

Cottage Home elected new officers at its January meeting. The final piece of public sculptures has been installed in the cul-de-sac by Pogue's Run at Dorman Street. It's a totem pole, created by art students at Arsenal Technical High School. The Cottage Home Block Party will be on the second Saturday in October. Cottage Home's home tour is bi-annual, rotating years with Woodruff Place, so the next home tour will be in 2020. Cottage Home was able to replace two sections of historic brick sidewalks along the properties that the neighborhood owns.

Irvington has five things going on right now. Later this month, they will be starting a project with the Urban Land Institute to re-envision Irvington Plaza. Margaret Lawrence Banning is no longer Executive Director of the Irvington Development Organization. IDO is now becoming a totally volunteer organization, as a result of budget cuts. Irvington is hoping to become an Economic Investment District and are working with Woodruff Place's Will Pritchard. Tom Abeel interjected that Will Pritchard and he will be making a presentation on EIDs at the state conference in Evansville on April 11th at 9 a.m. On February 23rd, Irvington will be putting on The Irvies, the neighborhood's version of The Oscars, where individuals and businesses are recognized for doing good things for the neighborhood. On April 27, they will participate in the Beaside Brewfest. The neighborhood is also pleased that a crosswalk that was a year in the making has finally been installed on Washington Street. Jim explained that the building in which HUNI was meeting was originally a Masonic Temple, the Irvington Lodge was built in 1922 as Irvington Lodge No. 666, F. and A. M. It's been used for a number of purposes over the years, and it had been vacant for several years when the present owner, Yasha Persson, bought it.

Old Speedway City used to have an annual picnic in the park, but they have revamped it as a block party. On Main Street, City Dogs Grocery is going in the space where Yogulatte had been for six years. The new Wilshaw Apartments at 1525 Main Street are now leasing and will be having an open house February 6th.

Herron-Morton Place's next neighborhood meeting is this coming Monday, February 4, 2019. Garry and Marjorie will be there, as well as City-County Councillor Vop Osili. There have been a couple of contentious issues in HMP recently. One is growing concern over short-term rentals, like VRBO's. There have also been issues with the replatting of vacant lots. Recently, three adjacent lots on New Jersey Street were turned into four lots. Building four houses on what used to be three lots is not consistent with the historic properties. The neighborhood association

meeting is this Monday at 7:00 p.m. at Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church at 16th and Delaware Streets. The next big event in Herron-Morton is a progressive dinner on February 9th. There are usually about 100 neighbors who attend this event. Participants progress to five different homes four different courses. It will be on February 23, starting at 5:00 p.m. You don't have to be a resident to attend. The cost is just \$10 for non-residents. Their spring cleanup is the second Saturday in April. They're gearing up for the Talbot Street Art Fair on June 15th and 16th. The fair began in 1956. There's no admission fee to attend.

St. Joseph had a wonderful Christmas party in December. Thanks to Garry Chilluffo for donating his studio for the party. The neighborhood will be saying "goodbye" to their president, Peter Houpers, as he has accepted a transfer to Cummins' office in Denver, Colorado. The White Castle building at Fort Wayne Avenue and Delaware Street has been sold by Indiana Landmarks. Built in 1927, it was #3 in the White Castle system. It's the only one of the original buildings remaining intact. Lastly, the five-story apartment building planned by Chatham Park for 11th and Alabama Streets is on hold.

Chatham Arch had a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 15th for their newly renovated Myron Street brick alley between 9th and Arch Streets. On January 31st, Chatham Arch had its second annual Ground Hog's Day wine-tasting event. They are still in discussion with the Phoenix Theatre about Brew-Ha-Ha, which for 20-some years was held in Chatham Arch. Now that the Phoenix has moved to 705 N. Illinois Street, it's not clear if the event will continue in its former neighborhood.

Bates-Hendricks reported that in partnership with Indiana Landmarks, there will be tours of the renovated South Side Turnverein on March 2nd. Even before that, a chili cookoff will be held on February 23rd in the Turnverein, so you can get a sneak peak then. Cost is \$5.00 per person. They will be relaunching their website soon. Their East Street Redevelopment Plan is getting a lot of traction as a result of a recent *Indianapolis Business Journal* article. Their land use committee is meeting monthly and is very active these days. Their board is working on a dog park for local neighbors. They're also working with their neighborhood school, IPS 31, regarding its future.

Old Southside had its board elections, like many other neighborhoods have reported. What was different for the Old Southside, though, is that six years after its founding, the organization has finally gotten some new people involved. They have new board members, a new president, a new vice president, and new enthusiasm. However, they have some controversy. They decided to hang placemaking banners. Part of the area includes Stadium Village. The Stadium Village Business Association said "No." They think the Old Southside does not include them and that the Old Southside is only south of the freeway. Since the Stadium Village Business Association is challenging the Old Southside's right to hang the banners, the Old Southside now has to go through all the steps necessary to be approved by the city. Many other neighborhoods have just hung banners without having to be approved.

Fletcher Place has a new president, Dawn Olsen. She may be their first female president ever. The board did not have a nominating committee or elections, and they failed to fill all of the board positions. On February 11th, construction of the Red Line will start on Virginia Avenue. The Cultural Trail will remain open, but Virginia Avenue will be closed to vehicles. The projected closure is six weeks. February 19th will be Fletcher Place's dinner at Loco Restaurant in Fountain Square, former home of Santorini's. Also, the neighborhood will have a game night on March 20<sup>th</sup>

at the Wine Market on Virginia Avenue. Their bi-annual home tour will be on May 18th, featuring mixed use buildings and newer apartments and condominiums.

North Square also reported on behalf of Fountain Square (since FS can get it together to have a representative). The IHPC proposal at Virginia and Woodlawn, which was to basically do a "facadectomy," that is keep the facades of three historic buildings and build a five-story building with a parking garage behind the facades. IHPC said, "No." The property changed hands again, and the new owner has just done some tuckpointing and brick replacement. Hopefully, the rest of his plans will be respectful of the historic buildings. The Greater Virginia Avenue Economic Improvement District is up. The money generated from that will go towards beautification, art, placemaking, maintenance, and safety. The EID has not been very good about reaching out to neighborhood residents. North Square would like to see better communication with how the EID funding is spent. Create Fountain Square just started. That's a city grant of funding potential. A lot of businesses are involved, but again, where is the neighborhood input? Tonight the Virginia Avenue Music Fest Lineup will be announced. It will be five days this, from May 8th to May 12th.

Ransom Place mentioned the house in the 900 block California that had to practically be reconstructed. It had been in the family for 50-60 years, and an addition on the back had to be rebuilt. The Madam Walker Building restoration is progressing. It will take two or three years to complete. The ArtsGarden is celebrating Black artists.

Holy Cross has its first new restaurant since (maybe) World War II, King Dough. It's in an old service station at Michigan and Highland. It's a pizza place out of Bloomington. Another building that had been vacant for a long time at Michigan Street and Arsenal Avenue is now occupied by Grounded Plant & Floral Co. They have an active land use committee that is constantly dealing with all of the variances everybody is asking for these monstrous houses everyone wants to build. There's a lot of infill going on.

Fayette Place is our newest HUNI member. Three people from the neighborhood were in attendance at the annual meeting. They too have new officers this year. They have a closed Facebook page. They are a very small neighborhood association, just 24 houses. The conservation district is officially called Fayette Street, but they prefer to call themselves Fayette Place. Their biggest issue is collecting the \$150 annual dues, primarily to pay for seven historic streetlights. After paying for the lights, there's no money for activities or fun things.

The next HUNI Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the Indiana Landmarks Center, 1201 Central Avenue. The HUNI Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Butsch Freeland  
Secretary