

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, 1029 Fletcher Avenue

Attendees: Garry Chilluffo, President; Glenn Blackwood, Vice President; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary; Paula Brooks, Ransom Place and Editorial Board; Marjorie Kienle, Editorial Board and Past President; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board; Lorraine Vavul, Meridian Park, Editorial Board, and Past President; David Pflugh, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Clay Miller, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Bruce Buchanan, Cole-Noble District; Joan Hostetler, Cottage Home; Jim Lingenfelter, Fletcher Place; Andrew House, Fountain Square; Jim Simmons, Garfield Park; Katherine Carlton Robinson, Herron-Morton Place; Kelly Wensing, Holy Cross; Bryce Mosey, Lockerbie Square; Jordan Ryan, North Square; Regina Torella, Old Speedway City; Pete Houpers, St. Joseph; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks; and Ike McCoy, Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate for the City of Indianapolis; Jeff Miller, City-County Council; Joe Jarzen, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful.

President Garry Chilluffo called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. He thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone that it is time to renew your membership. He thanked Keep Indianapolis Beautiful for hosting the meeting.

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

Indianapolis City-County Councillor Jeff Miller extended kudos to HUNI for its ongoing involvement in historic preservation, INDOT, and IndyGo. The council passed \$13 Million in infrastructure work. The justice center is moving along. They also passed witness protection, which will help solve crimes. He also spoke of the weird situation going on in the council with power plays going on. Currently, the council has no legal counsel and no clerk. Fred Biesecker was escorted out of the building, despite his years of loyal and competent service. The legal counsel also serves as parliamentarian, and a meeting cannot be conducted without a parliamentarian. He is hopeful that things will settle down soon, and the council can get back down to business.

Marjorie commented on how this affects your neighborhood. Up to that time, the Mayor of Indianapolis appointed the IHPC commissioners. With David Baker retiring, the IHPC needs continuity. It takes 5 commissioners to vote on a decision. The appointments are critical.

Garry noted that Jeff Miller is a past president of HUNI and lives in Fletcher Place. Tom Abeel recommended we give Jeff a sitting ovation.

Joe Jarzen is Vice President of Program Strategy at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. He's been with KIB for seven years. He worked for Indiana Landmarks for seven years before that. He asked how many had worked with KIB, and many hands went up. KIB is now 42 years old, having come into existence during Mayor William Hudnut's Administration. They started doing cleanups and getting blocks adopted. Their mission has expanded KIB is the largest, more comprehensive Keep

America Beautiful organization in the country. About 20,000 volunteers help KIB a year. The organization is supported by the City of Indianapolis, of course, but also Citizens Energy and Eli Lilly and Company. It's really the volunteers who do the bulk of the work, many of whom are repeat participants in tree-planting, cleanups, habitat restoration, and days of service. To mitigate water runoff, KIB is planting trees in the Riverside and Martindale-Brightwood neighborhoods. Almost all the blocks in historic neighborhoods have been

adopted, and the names of the individuals or groups are available on the maps KIB has created. 28,000 volunteer experiences, more than 1,100 blocks adopted, 1.8 million pounds of litter, planting over 3,000 trees, and watering 6,000 per week. The Adopt-A-Block maps KIB has developed demonstrate the neighborhoods that are engaged. When evaluating a neighborhood for a project, KIB looks for those that have a low canopy, a high plantable space, and are in an area where homes have a low property value.

Tom Abeel commented that Woodruff Place has been treating for Ash Borer disease, and it's working. The ones they have treated are thriving.

KIB has a 98 or 99% success rate for the KIB has quite a bit of investment along the Interstate highways. The trees they planted 10 years ago in Lockerbie neighborhood are now mature enough to help with air quality. Joe referenced the Green Heart Project in Louisville that documented the fact that trees decrease the levels of environmental pollutants and promote physical activity and social cohesion. KIB helped with painting the underpasses.

KIB worked with neighborhoods to evaluate whether treating diseased or dying trees would be worthwhile or if they should be removed.

Lorraine Vavul made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous HUNI meeting. Bryce Mosey seconded. The motion carried.

Garry turned the meeting over to Marjorie Kienle for a discussion of the Interstate 65-Interstate 70 expansion. Marjorie recognized Bob Kennedy, who realized early on that people needed to check into the plans, and who brought it to our attention at our last HUNI meeting. A group was able to get a meeting with the mayor Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, the mayor claimed it was a state project and outside his jurisdiction. In the first meeting, he was cautious, the mayor has really stepped up to say that the city needs to be involved in the plan. We now have a consortium of HUNI, CICF, LISC, KIB, StrongIndy, and Indiana Landmarks. Affected HUNI neighborhoods are now focusing their efforts on this issue from the bottom up.

The dialogue about the redesign of I65-I70 has evolved. Initially we hoped they would merely slow down the process. Then we want them to expand their scope. Since the mayor has stepped in, our goal now is an independent study with the city, the state, and the MPO, which focuses a broader vision that includes transportation, livability, and connectedness. Emily Kibling of Borshoff was hired by the State of Indiana to do public information meetings. Our groundswell has resulted in INDOT saying they will look at alternatives, but we believe it is lip service. Once the updated slides are on

the website, HUNI will let everyone know. We've gotten their attention. INDOT is having public meetings, but only one person from an organization could have a seat. If we have an independent study, we will get some concessions. It's a design/build project, which is the cheapest way to do a project. We're going to push for the 4-F, not a fast-track.

Bryce Mosey noted that comments are due by February 9th. A statement will be sent by Garry or Marjorie. Use the basic points, but personalize your letter.

Lorraine Vavul reported on behalf of the Editorial Board. Downtown Indy has resurrected DWELL.

Fletcher Place reported that the Virginia Avenue Music Fest will be May 9-13. The Italian Street Festival will be June 8 and 9 in the blocks around Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

North Square reported there are two proposed buildings that they will possibly remonstrate against.

Tom Abeel reported that Woodruff Place's Casino Night will be February 10. The Annual Flea Market will be in June.

Cottage Home will have its home tour on May 5th and its Block Party on September 17th.

Old Speedway City has no big issues at the moment. Lots of development is going on. Picnic in June. Their ongoing project is getting a flag for the flagpole in the roundabout.

Herron-Morton Place's annual progressive dinner will be February 24th, adults only. A family event on March 31st will be an Easter Egg hunt. A neighborhood cleanup will be done with KIB in the spring.

Ransom Place reported that the developer was not able to widen an alley for his development, so his project will not be built. An 18-month renovation of the Walker Building will be underway soon.

Lockerbie Square will have a spring cleanup.

Fountain Square reported that Milhaus is undertaking a huge project.

Jim Lingenfelter has had discussion on good density vs. bad density. What is good density?

The second quarter HUNI Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks, 1201 Central Avenue. The HUNI Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Butsch Freeland
Secretary