

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 6, 2021
Virtual - Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Garry Chilluffo, Outgoing President and Editorial Board; Glenn Blackwood, President, Editorial Board and Fletcher Place; Jim Lingenfelter, Vice President and Fletcher Place; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Treasurer, Editorial Board, and Individual Member; Marjorie Kienle, Editorial Board, Past President, and Individual Member; Lorraine Vavul, Editorial Board, Historic Meridian Park, and Past President; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board, Old Speedway; Paula Brooks, Editorial Board and Ransom Place; Beth Brandon, Bates-Hendricks; Dan Riggins, Fayette Street; Jeff Miller, Fletcher Place; Tad Aschliman, Fountain Square; John Hornberger, Garfield Park; Alyssa Lauer, Irvington; Maggie Denari, Old Northside; Bryce Mosey, Lockerbie Square; Mark Sprout, St. Joseph; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Elaine Delbacq, Woodruff Place; Kim Evans, IMPD; Guest Speakers Sherry Seiwert, Downtown Indy Inc.; Justin Moed, House Representative District 97

Featured Speaker: Sherry Seiwert, President of Downtown Indy Inc

-We have recently published the community report (State of Downtown); traditionally this is a time to talk about all of the good happenings of downtown.

-Brief overview- 2020 started as any year with a number of hotels under developments, a number of developments announcements, and when COVID hit halt- 414 million dollars worth of development completed in 2020 (including Bottleworks and DPW infrastructure)

-While there were a number of closures (restaurants and retail), but there are many new leases being signed which is a testament to the residency of downtown- hopefully by mid-year you will start to see the build out of some of the these new retailers (like new business on the circle)

-Most of the workforce is still not back downtown, we are sitting at about 32% in our larger towers, but many are bringing back in a hybrid situation after the 5th of July, a few others say after the September holiday. This will be a gradual return to the office spaces, anticipating 75%.

-By comparison to other cities, we are by far ahead of others in how quickly the vibrancy of our city is returning (thanks to the NCAA, and the money that the city put towards it; street ambassadors, etc)

-Total of 9 projects completed; assessed value on properties grew at 3.5%; average number of days homes were on the market was 23 days (16, 65, 70, river) 337k was average price of homes sold)

-Anticipating events starting to happen, a lot more fillings have been going through the city which is great to see for our restaurants and retailers

-Fireworks- Emmis is no longer going to be doing that, Downtown Indy Inc is looking for locations to host those; Currently looking at Military Park/ White River/ Zoo

-Questions

-Lorraine: What are they doing along Delaware St: Pulling up old tracks, doing two lanes at a time, all of Delaware will be completely refinished

-Paula: 80% of the services (street ambassadors and safety ambassadors, clean ups, working with employers) happen in the mile square, but will work with new businesses in broader footprint; About a year and half ago the street ambassadors (4 people) walk the sidewalks as cleanups in mile square, recently have worked with veteran group who is working with people experiencing homelessness to hire 12 more, all will be covering the mile square.

-Marjorie: College ave up until the pandemic was bumper to bumper parked; in covid the spots were empty; in the past couple of weeks parking and traffic is starting to pick up again.

-Lorraine: In years past we have had fireworks off the region building; is the reason we can no longer do them there due to new builds? Yes because of the new residential builds out there.

-Marjorie- What are some of the events that have not been announced but we might want to know about? Because of the 50% capacity, new events are shying away from being put forth, still looking at circle of lights, and a number of the traditional conventions (gencon, ffa, motorcycles on the circle) are still planning on coming at a reduced number (which will still be significant draw to the downtown)

Speaker: Kim Evans- IMPD, Community Relations Officer (downtown district)

-Crime Data: represent just under 5% of crime in the downtown ward for the city; Our downtown is unique as we have several units that serve (Homeless, bike, narcotics, and others that are crime focused)

-Relay App that IMPD rolled out (info in the chat) www.relayap.com this app allows you to snap a picture, send a message directly with the officer responding to the call; this is something that launched prior to the final 4, and was piloted in the north district, working on it downtown, and are rolling it out city wide soon

-Parking is the top complaint coming in right now, officers are seeing a big influx of people out and about both week day and weekend

-Have met with all downtown crime- number one crime is theft from vehicles, and catalytic converters; It is something that happens in a matter of seconds, a few arrests have been made, though they are working with neighbors to grab videos

-Bike patrol is out everyday, horse patrol is out as well through residential neighborhoods

- Homeless complaints are down nearly 80%; we saw a huge influx in homeless individuals during covid, but what was found was that many people that were seen were people that were coming down, hanging out, and then leaving;
- Working with DMD on Lugar Plaza for people to be able to enjoy
- East end of district, Wheeler Mission, working on the trash that has accumulated along Washington; City street ambassadors are helping with this heavy lifting of washing and leaning (DPW was hand picking during the day, but DowntownINc is helping)
- Jeff Miller: Will downtown community day be able to happen again? Preliminary talks right now are that they are going to proceed with community day (late sept/ early oct date estimated for this year);
- Jeff Miller: Are there going to be more bike patrol with what some of the higher profile incidents along with canal/cultural? DMD manages this area, IMPD bike patrol is out there every day, the incident with the Oregon state reporter was an isolated incident, Kim's office is getting a lot of praise for the canal now; a lot of the problems seen in the past were happening at night, particularly with the juvenile crowd near the Colts playground
- Catalytic converters: At the state level, it is now a felony to steal one, and the scrap yards also are held criminally liable. (Justin Moed Authored this)
- Lorraine: Would like to get some social media text that we can share with neighbors on the app
- Lorraine: Scooters are they coming back?- they are making a comeback, geo-mapping was in pace during final four for parking, the number of scooters is starting to increase; as we bring more individuals back on the weekends, we will continue to see the increase (Marjorie: They are driving them over to Lockerbie and leaving them in our yards) Kim will be sending PIO a note to send something out on the public education piece of it;
- Kimberly.Evans@indy.gov, www.Relayapp.com

Speaker: Justin Moed- House Representative District 97

- Legislative session ended (for now) recently, not officially closed as the census was delayed so district lines still need to be redrawn. This will likely impact the city council maps being redrawn; Monday some veto override votes will happen
- State Budget Bill (2 year state budget), k-12 edu is 50% of this budget; Indiana's economy has done relatively better than expected, and thanks to federal funding there was a near unanimous passing of the bill. (60 million \$ small business grant loan program, increase in school funding, and possible teacher pay, IndyGo bill did not pass, nor did the take over of IMPD, or the removal of gun license)
- Working with IMPD on trespass as it comes to code enforcement;
- Soccer Stadium, did renew the tax incentive if the city were to move forward and build one if the city chooses to do so (extension due to COVID)

-5G- Unless you are in an IHPC protected neighborhood there is very little that a neighborhood can do to remonstrate against

-Marjorie: Thank you for being here to keep us informed on the state level of issues and as we have seen a lot of what is going on in the state affects what is going on in the city;

?: there was a movement the past year to push to allow more vinyl siding, where did that go? It didn't make it through the process

Minutes Approval: Unanimous, motion passes

Editorial Board Report - Lorraine

-Three additional neighborhoods are interested in being part of pocket tours

-Presently three are 13 neighborhoods included; from inspiration from Elaine, Lorraine has an email that can be shared with businesses on pocket sites

-In 2021 will likely need to update the website, move the landing page to more of a news format, and if you want to read more you click on the article to help move through the content- in need of 21k (?)

-Check out your neighborhood and note any changes to editorial board

-Need volunteers if someone is interested in writing- something like people preserving preservation, as great way to capture someone in your neighborhood; as done with Ms. Nancy we were able to capture that and have it long term; if you have someone in your neighborhood who is looking for that type of opportunity

-Also looking for someone to be pocket site coordinator (volunteer) (could be on this call or in the neighborhood) Lorraine will help to coordinate and show the ropes

-Reminder to pay dues :)

http://www.huniindy.org/files/9916/1090/8119/HUNI_Membership_form_2021.pdf

Featured Neighborhood: Woodruff Place

-Flea Market will not be same date- but tentative date of October 3 or 4

-Refurbished one the 12 fountains in the neighborhood (must come out to see)

-Participating in Humanities Bookmark project

-2022 is the 150th anniversary of Woodruff, stay tuned

Note: We were unable to record this meeting due to the host settings. Fill-in secretary had to leave before Neighborhood Reports began at this time.

Adjourned.

The next HUNI Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 5:30 pm virtually.