

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)**  
**SECOND QUARTER MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 28, 2016, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Central Library, Knall Meeting Room, 40 East St. Clair Street**

Attendees: Clay Miller, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Mark Reynold, Cumberland; Glenn Blackwood, Fletcher Place; Linda Simmons, Garfield Park; Darrell Unsworth, Garfield Park; Joe Schierling, Lockerbie Square; Erica Stout, Meridian Park; Donna Gaebel, North Square of Fountain Square; Bonnie Ramin, Old Speedway City; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway City; Ben Langebartels, St. Joseph; Gary Chilluffo, St. Joseph; Kent Schwob, Watson Park; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual Member; Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks Staff; Perry Hammock, Guest Speaker.

President Garry Chilluffo called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. He reminded those assembled that HUNI and Indiana Landmarks will again be co-sponsoring walking tours of HUNI neighborhoods on each of the four Thursdays in May, which is National Preservation Month. This year, the neighborhoods being featured are Old Speedway City, Herron-Morton Place, Watson Park, and Holy Cross.

Garry then introduced our speaker for the evening, Perry Hammock, Executive Director of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. The commission was created in 2011 by then Governor Mitch Daniels to oversee a statewide celebration of Indiana's 200th birthday. Indiana became a state on December 11, 1816. The activities to celebrate that date began back on December 12, 2015, and will continued to the official date that marks the Bicentennial, December 11, 2016. Perry was hired in March of 2014 and spent nearly two years planning for the celebration. He noted that in addition to Indiana's two-hundred years of statehood, 2016 also marks the one-hundredth anniversary of three state-related events. In 1916, the Indiana State Parks were founded, the Indiana State flag was created, and the Society of Indiana Pioneers was organized. These accomplishments will also be highlighted during the Bicentennial.

Perry gave a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated just some of the many ways in which Indiana's Bicentennial is being observed around the state. In addition to counties, cities, and towns mounting their own events, schools, museums, neighborhood organizations, churches, and businesses have also created activities to observe the milestone. Many have been endorsed by the commission and are deemed official Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Projects.

One of the signature events will be a 92-county torch relay. The torch will be transported from one county to the next not only by people, but also by other modes that represent Indiana's heritage, like horse and wagon, farm equipment, antique automobile, racecar, and boat. The torch will cover 3,200 miles over a 5-week period. It will begin in Indiana's first state capital, Corydon, on Friday, September 9th and end in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 15th. There is an app you can put on your cell phone to track the location of the torch.

HUNI member are encouraged to visit the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration's website and see all of the great events that are already planned. Neighborhoods are also encouraged to organize their own localized observances of the state's birthday. The Bicentennial website is: <http://www.in.gov/ibc/>.

Following Perry's presentation, Gary continued with the agenda items. He passed out flyers for the Indiana Album Project and the 100th Running Porch party. He also distributed a HUNI Editorial Board report from Lorraine Vavul, who was not able to attend the meeting. Gary announced that HUNI will have a booth at Indiana Landmarks' Treasure Hunt on July 9th and asked for volunteers to help staff the HUNI booth. The subject of a reception for new City-County Councillors, discussed at a previous meeting, has been tabled for now.

Copies of the February 6, 2016, Annual Meeting minutes were distributed. Tom Abeel of Woodruff Place made a motion to accept the minutes. Linda Simmons of Garfield Park seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhood reports were then given.

Clay Miller of Chatham Arch reported that the decision on the former Coca Cola plant has been postponed. Chatham Arch is planning a block party.

Mark Reynold of Cumberland reported that The Whitsett Group, the developer that was interested in redeveloping and preserving the St. John United Church of Christ at Washington Street and German Church Road a year ago and suddenly withdrew, is back in the picture. They have made an offer to the church that's less than the asking price, just to see how it goes. Their hope is that additional funds could come from Indiana Landmarks, the City of Indianapolis, the Town of Cumberland, etc. The good thing is that the church is still standing.

Tom Abeel of Woodruff Place announced that their annual Flea Market is coming up Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th. This year, they will have two beer trucks. Woodruff Place is now maintaining its own street lights, fountains, medians, town hall, etc., and will be using funds from its newly established Economic Improvement District account. Property owners received their first assessment since the establishment of the EID, and their first payment will be next May. The money will come back to the neighborhood to be reinvested in infrastructure. It took years to put together the EID, and the neighborhood is eager to see how it works.

Mark Reynold added to his earlier report that Cumberland has added another festival to its annual events, called Founders Day. It will be on Saturday, June 25th and will include food, games, entertainment, a beer garden, and fireworks. On Saturday, August, 20, the 8th Annual Cumberland "Arts Goes to Market" festival will be held.

Kent Shwob reported that Watson Park will be one of the four neighborhoods on this year's walking tours during Preservation Month. The Watson Park tour will be on May 19th. There will be a block party to which they have invited both IMPD and KIB. Watson Park is hoping

to partner with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful in revitalizing McCord Park on the small triangular piece of land near E. 36th Street, Watson Road, and Powell Place. Watson Park will have its flea market on the same weekend as Woodruff Place, but only on Saturday, June 4th. Watson Park will have a table at Indiana Landmarks' Treasure Hunt on July 9th. Watson Park will again participate in the National Night Out on August 2nd. It will be in the park north of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church's parking lot. The Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corp. will be one of the sponsors.

Joe Schierling of Lockerbie Square reported that their spring cleanup will be on May 21st.

Ben Longebartels reported that St. Joseph is also participating in National Night Out on August 2nd. English Ivy, a neighborhood bar, will provide food for it. St. Joe is looking to fund some lighting for the corridors project. They want to light the overpass on Alabama Street with LED lights. The neighborhood is also on creative marketing of the neighborhood. St. Joseph will participate in Indiana Landmarks' Treasure Hunt on July 9th. Its yard sale will be under the Interstate overpass.

Bonnie Ramin reported that Old Speedway City will be one of the neighborhoods on this year's walking tours during Preservation Month. Although it was on a previous year's tour, due to this year's being the 100th running of the race, as well as significant improvements to Old Speedway in recent months, the neighborhood was chosen again this year. The tour will be on Thursday, May 5th. Speedway recently reviewed its Bylaws, which hadn't been updated for ten years. The neighborhood association hopes to erect a flagpole in the center of the new roundabout at 16th and Georgetown, which will be lit by solar power. A home was torn down that the redevelopment commission planned would become a parking lot. Instead, an RFP has recently been issued, and the lot has been added to an adjacent property that faces Main Street. The neighborhood association is worried that assurances made by the Town ten years ago about the kinds of developments that could occur there are not going to be upheld. The Old Speedway City annual picnic will be June 6th in Leonard Park. The neighborhood association offers babysitting during its meetings, to encourage young families to attend. Five new projects have recently been completed on Main Street.

Linda Simmons reported that Garfield Park just completed a successful "Reforest Garfield Park" project in which 240 volunteers planted 175 trees in three hours' time. It was a collaboration of the Friends of Garfield Park, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, and the Rotary Club of Indianapolis. Garfield Park will have its first farmers market starting May 7, which will continue through October. The Humane Society's annual Mutt Strut will be at Garfield Park on Sunday, May 15, 2016. Food trucks, a biergarten, and demonstrations will be set up near the GP Art Center. The Garfield Park garage sale will be on May 14th and 15th. In the future, Garfield Park will be hosting a home tour in conjunction with Big Car, a nonprofit artists' collaborative that bought an old building and turned it into the Tube Factory ArtSpace. Big Car has bought several houses on Cruft Street, which have been renovated for artists to rent out at low a cost. An ongoing project is the Shelby Quality of Life Plan. Garfield Park will also participate in National Night Out

on August 2nd. With regard to the dining options in the vicinity of Garfield Park, she noted that everyone misses The Fireside South Restaurant on Raymond Street.

Donna Gaebel of North Square reported that their neighborhood is a little pocket within Fountain Square and adjacent to Fletcher Place. It consists of just three streets, two blocks long. The residents are trying hard to keep North Square a residential area. It's a hot area right now, and there are lots of projects in the works or proposed. The neighborhood recently had a cleanup and updated its bylaws. North Square will participate in National Night Out on August 2nd and will feature its customary Back-To-School supplies. They are still working on keeping a public library in the neighborhood.

Glenn Blackwood reported that Fletcher Place has the Virginia Avenue Folk Festival coming up on Saturday, May 16th. The venue will stretch from the Milktooth parking lot to Fountain Square Plaza. There will be folk, bluegrass, acoustic, etc., on at least 12 stages with at least 70 bands. All proceeds go to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB). The Italian Street Festival is coming up on June 10th and 11th, hosted by the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. It's been an annual event in the neighborhood since 1983. Fletcher Place's National Night Out event will occur on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Edna Balz Lacy Park and will include a bocce tournament between IMPD and IFD. Local ice cream and gelato stores will provide treats. A new Mexican restaurant, Mr. Tequila, will have a Cinco de Mayo party on May 5th. The owner has ordered a mechanical bull for the parking lot, so put on your cowboy boots and hat, and come on out.

Garry Chilluffo reported for Ransom Place, as Paula Brooks was not able to attend the meeting. The dedication for Ransom Place Park is scheduled for Sunday, June 19th at 3:00 p.m. The neighborhood is selling engraved bricks for \$45 to help with maintenance costs. The 900 and 1000 blocks of MLK, as well as adjacent streets, have been identified as part of a hazardous waste site created by a ground water plume that's tainted with contaminants. IDEM has referred it to the Environmental Protection Agency for cleanup.

Garry closed the meeting by commenting how impressed he was by Perry Hammock's presentation. He urged neighborhoods to consider creating a Bicentennial event and then getting it registered on the official website.

Garry also reported that the recycling containers in the former Marsh Supermarket lot have been relocated to the Old City Hall parking lot at Alabama and New York.

If you want an update on the Montage on Mass digital billboard, visit the HUNI website.

The third quarter HUNI will be held at Indiana Landmarks, at 1201 Central Avenue, on August 4, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary