

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015, 9:00 A.M.
JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY MUSEUM HOME VISITOR CENTER**

Attendees: Joan Hostetler, Cottage Home; Mark Reynold, Cumberland and Emerson Heights; Glenn Blackwood, Fletcher Place; Jim Garrettson, Forest Hills and Meridian-Kessler; Marjorie Kienle, Lockerbie Square; Lorraine Vavul, Meridian Park; Robert Kennedy, Old Northside; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway; Paula Brooks, Ransom Place; Gary Chilluffo, St. Joseph; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Jeanne Rogow, Woodruff Place; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual; Jeff Miller, Individual; Marsh Davis, Indiana Landmarks; Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks; Liza Lethig; Chris Mize, James Whitcomb Riley Home Museum; and Adam Collins, City of Indianapolis.

President Marjorie Kienle called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Agendas and minutes of the last meeting were available on the table near the entrance to the meeting room. Minutes had also been distributed via e-mail attachment prior to the meeting. Gary Chilluffo moved to accept the minutes as written. Lorraine Vavul seconded. Motion carried.

Marjorie pointed out that it's dues time, so please pay them today or send them to Chad Lethig as soon as possible. Due are \$15 for organizations, \$5 for individuals. Make checks payable to Indiana Landmarks.

Marjorie introduced Adam Collins, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. Attendees introduced themselves and the neighborhoods they represent. Adam began by stating that he is not fond of public speaking, so he hoped to keep his presentation more of an informal conversation. He began by noting that the "Live Indy" theme has prevailed in the City's decisions in recent years.

Tom Abeel noted that since its creation in 1967, the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission (IHPC) has been helping to create the environment for investing in older neighborhoods. Adam concurred that the downtown neighborhoods developed first, and that new development is the result of the success of the established neighborhoods.

In Adam's role to nurture Economic Development, he focuses on both job retention and job creation. He largely moves within the business climate and culture. He strives to keep Indianapolis competitive with cities like Columbus, OH, Cincinnati, Louisville, Nashville, and St. Louis. The property tax caps created a few years back helped Indianapolis move ahead of other cities, because the city had to find alternate tools for economic development. They have included tax abatement, TIF districts, public infrastructure, and training grants.

Tom Abeel made the point that although his is a simplistic view, to some extent TIFs and tax abatements encumber all neighborhoods, but the money is only poured into the TIF or tax abatement areas.

Adam stated that the City believes in the adage, "A rising tide lifts all boats." That is, successful projects tend to buoy other projects. The City is in a sense a sub-market investor. Lowes, Angie's List, and Interactions announced it was investing in more jobs.

Adam then listed several projects in the works: Market Square Tower North will include a Whole Foods Market and apartments; MSA South will include a division headquarters of Cummins, Inc.

Pulliam Square will include retail businesses, apartments, and a dog park; Millikan on Mass Phase II will include retail space and apartments; and Angie's List will rehabilitate additional historic buildings and expand its work force by 1,000+ people.

Bob Kennedy supported the City's help for projects and made the point that it's impossible to sell condos in advance of construction. Most lenders require 60% of the units be pre-sold in order to get a mortgage. People won't buy a place when they don't know much it will cost or when they will get to move in to it.

Marjorie asked what the estimated groundbreaking and completion date will be. Both Market Square South and Market Square North will break ground in the next few weeks. Both should be completed in between 18 and 24 months from groundbreaking.

The Mass Ave Fire Station project is underway in the former Red Cross headquarters. The size of the digital billboard shown in the rendering has been reduced. Marjorie wanted to go on record that the proposed billboard would be in a historic district. By nature, a historic district preserves its historic character. As two of Indianapolis' most iconic buildings are nearby, this project could be an example of outstanding contemporary architecture, instead of pasting up an LED screen that will blind you. "Everybody" is not for it, as the supporters say. In fact, we don't know anybody who is for it.

Paula Brooks stated that Ransom Place has a serious parking problem. Because of its proximity to IUPUI and medical facilities, there has been a great influx of people who are not long-term residents. Many units are occupied by multiple renters with multiple vehicles. To keep the meeting on track, Marjorie indicated that Paula and/or she would follow up with Adam after the meeting.

Other developments on tap are projects on the canal in Broad Ripple and at Tarkington Park at 40th and Meridian. Kent Schwob commented that the Tarkington Park project will be a phenomenal improvement for his neighborhood, as well as all of the Mapleton-Fall Creek, Mid-North, and Midtown areas.

Current projects underway include the Angie's List expansion. Bob Kennedy commented that he doesn't think the City has the ability to assess the viability of a company. It should only make decisions based on whether or not the project is good for the city. If the business eventually fails, it's unfortunate, but the city will still be left with the improved infrastructure. Marjorie made the point that the people in the room understand the value of saving the older buildings.

Other projects include the Consolidated Justice Center, Circle City Industrial Complex near 10th Street and Mass Ave (in the former Schwitzer property), 16Tech, 100 acres northwest of downtown around the former Bush Stadium.

Tom Abeel inquired about another tool for development, the Economic Improvement District (EID). Woodruff Place is close to petitioning the City-County Council to create an EID. WP needs a way to fund infrastructure like streetlights, fountains, benches, Town Hall, and statuary.

Adam concluded his presentation by providing his contact information:

Adam W. Collins
Adam.Collins@Indy.Gov
(317) 327-4532

Marjorie announced that she has one more year of her three-year term as president, and that Vice-President Tom Abeel and Secretary Sharon Butsch Freeland will continue on for another two years.

Marjorie also reported that she would like to create the position of President-Elect, so that the next President can ease into the position of President. She had approached Garry Chilluffo prior to the meeting, and he is willing to take that post. Nominations can still be made from the floor. Jim Garrettson nominated Garry Chilluffo to be HUNI President-Elect, Bob Kennedy seconded. Motion carried. Jim Garrettson then moved to tweak the HUNI Bylaws regarding the newly created office overlapping the other offices. Joan Hostetler seconded. Motion carried.

Kelly Gascoine shared details about events Indiana Landmarks has coming up.

- Treasure Hunt, Saturday, July 11, 2015. IL will extend invitations to HUNI members to have a booth to sell stuff or provide info on their organizations.
- Historic Neighborhood Walking Tours during Preservation Month:
 - Thursday, May 7 St. Joseph
 - Thursday, May 14 Fountain Square
 - Thursday, May 21 New Augusta
 - Thursday, May 28 Ransom Place
- House History Workshop (date to be announced)

Marjorie noted that since the neighborhood walking tours are on Thursdays, a conflict arises for the second quarter HUNI meeting. She asked if it would be acceptable to move the second quarter meeting back one week. Jim Garrettson moved that the next meeting be moved back to Thursday, April 30, 2015. Garry Chilluffo seconded. Motion carried.

Marjorie announced that she is working on speakers for the next meeting. She's trying to get both candidates for Mayor, Joe Hogsett and Chuck Brewer.

HUNI neighborhoods have been very supportive in opposing Prop 250. When this issue comes to a head, neighborhoods may need to call or write to their City-County Councillors again. Lorraine Vavul and Britta Rees are working on a petition through Change.org called "Drop the Prop." Once the petition is up and running, please sign it and forward it on to everyone you know. The link to Susan Williams' piece was provided in Marjorie's e-mail on Friday. Marjorie plans to meet with various groups between now and May and has strategies for each of them. The message is that this is not the right process. The matter should be studied by Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) staff and a proposal presented to the City-County Council.

Marjorie pointed out that three cities with which the City of Indianapolis wishes to compete are Portland, Oregon; Austin, Texas; and Denver, Colorado. None of these cities allows billboards. Marjorie then recognized Jeff Miller, the City-County Councillor who made HUNI aware of Prop 250. Jeff asked pointed questions and deserves credit for preventing the ordinance from sailing through. Jeff intends to introduce an amendment to the bill that it be referred to the DMD.

HUNI is 35 years old this year -- not 30, as was previously thought. Sally Cook, a Woodruff Place resident, past HUNI representative, and IHPC commissioner, discovered original documents in the Woodruff Place Town Hall. Julia Pratt shared a few fun facts about HUNI and will continue with a few more items at each meeting this coming year. Please help Julia by providing her with your memories of past HUNI activities.

Attendees then reported on activities in their neighborhoods. Cumberland is currently embroiled in an effort to save St. John United Christian Church ("the German Church") on the northeast corner of East Washington Street and German Church Road. The leaders of the church are planning to sell the property

to Giant Eagle in Pittsburgh, PA, which plans to erect a GetGo convenience store. Bob Kennedy made a motion that HUNI take a stand to oppose the demolition of the historic building. Joan Hostetler seconded. Motion carried.

Old Northside has a new board. Old Northside is raising money to care for parks in the neighborhood.

Historic Meridian Park will host a home tour on the last Saturday and Sunday in May, the 30th and 31st.

Watson Park has three new board members, making a total of seven. The neighborhood has five events and five membership meetings a year. Watson Park, along with Meridian Park, opposes the construction of a gas station on the corner of 32nd and Central Avenue.

St. Joseph is looking forward to hosting one of the IL-HUNI walking tours in May. New residents in St. Joseph include Marsh and Grace Davis, who now live in the historic Kemper House on Delaware Street.

The new President of the Woodruff Place Civic League, Jeanne Rogow, mentioned an uptick in violent crimes in WP. IMPD claims it's happening everywhere. A Vermont native (a state that has no billboards!), Jeanne is grateful for the existence of HUNI.

Cottage Home also has a new board. More renters are getting involved in the neighborhood. Six new homes are under construction. The *IndyStar* reported that Cottage Home is ". . . an overnight success."

Fletcher Place elected two new board members, one of whom is head of the Monumental Marathon. Next cleanup is March 28th. On May 9th there will be an event along Virginia Avenue from Calvin Fletcher's Coffee Company to Fountain Square. The neighborhood association is waiting to hear from IHPC about the future of a couple of historic homes on South Park Avenue. Hopefully one or both can be saved.

Ransom Place will be on the IL-HUNI tour in May. A Quality of Life event will be held on May 11th at Fairbanks Hall, 340 W. 10th Street. The neighborhood group is opposing the Crossroads development, based on lack of parking, the trash it will generate, and that it is not handicapped accessible.

Old Speedway City just had board elections. The City-County Councillor who attends Speedway meetings has changed her position on Prop 250. Mardi Gras on Main Street is tonight, February 7th. Annual picnic will be in June. City is now involved in a housing program and has just sold its first renovated home.

Lockerbie has new (and young!) board members. Lockerbie held a night time street fair last summer.

Marjorie announced that HUNI will have a table at IL's Treasure Hunt on July 11th. If you are an IHPC district, please let Marjorie know how you inform new residents of that fact. Please also let her know if your organization is a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4).

Kent Schwob commented that IMPD Chief Hite and Troy Riggs came to a gathering of 12 neighborhoods last July, but Kent felt it was merely a "dog and pony show." Don't get conned into their political jargon.

The next HUNI quarterly meeting will be on Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at Indiana Landmarks Center, 1201 Central Avenue. President Marjorie Kienle adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Butsch Freeland
Secretary