

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
QUARTERLY MEETING
THURSDAY, November 5, 2015, 5:30 P.M.
INDIANA LANDMARKS CENTER**

Attendees: Clay Miller, Chatham Arch-Mass Ave; Joan Hostetler, Cottage Home; Jim Lingenfelter, Fletcher Place; Glenn Blackwood, Fletcher Place; Richard Campi, Fountain Square and Irish Hill; Jim and Linda Simmons, Garfield Park; Lorraine Vavul, Historic Meridian Park; Nancy Inui, Old Northside; Bob Kennedy, Old Northside; David Parkhurst, Old Speedway; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway; Gary Chilluffo, St. Joseph; Kent Schwob, Watson Park; Tom Abeel, Woodruff Place; Jacob Miller, Woodruff Place; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual Member; Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks Staff; Lynn Molzan, Guest; Paul DePrez, Guest; Lance Boehmer, Justin Stuehrenberg, and Marcus _?_, IndyGo representatives.

President-Elect Garry Chilluffo called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Garry presided over the fourth-quarter meeting, as President Marjorie Kienle's was attending the National Preservation Conference in Washington, D.C. that week. Gary introduced the HUNI officers who were present, and then everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the neighborhoods they represented. Clay Miller passed around his leftover Hallowe'en candy.

Garry then introduced our three guests from IndyGo -- Lance Boehmer, Justin Stuehrenberg, and Marcus _?_, who came to discuss the IndyGo's Red Line. To start off the program, they played a video for the group, which can viewed on the IndyGo website here: <http://www.indygo.net/redline/>

The IndyGo Red Line is Phase One of the Marion County Transit Plan. The Red Line will be a clean, quiet, energy-efficient, battery-operated bus system. The Red Line route will extend from Broad Ripple Village on the north side to the University of Indianapolis on the south side, a total of 35 miles. The route north of downtown will be straight up and down College Avenue, and the route south of downtown will be on Virginia Avenue and Shelby Street. The bus lanes will be in the middle of the streets and dedicated to bus use only. A bus rapid transit system was chosen over a rail rapid transit system, because of the cost and the disruption that would have occurred in installing a rail system (digging up the streets, relocating utilities etc. New sidewalks, new crosswalks, and new traffic signals will be installed along the route. The average stop will take less than 10 seconds, unless there is a handicapped person or a large group of people waiting to get on or get off the bus.

Garry Chilluffo announced that Jeff Miller had intended to be at the HUNI meeting, but something came up. Jeff had planned to report on the outcome of the BZA meeting that same afternoon, at which two variance requests were heard for static billboards to be changed to digital billboards. There were about 35 remonstrators. Both billboard requests were turned down, and the vote was unanimous. In addition, last night at IHPC, the digital canvas part of the Montage on Mass project was separated from the residential part. The digital canvas part has been pushed into next year. Finally, the BZA is hearing the public outcry.

Gary asked if we needed to approve the last HUNI meeting's minutes. Sharon responded that the minutes have not routinely been approved in the past, but she is not sure why they have not. The members could make a decision on this for the future. Since the minutes will be mounted on the HUNI website, we need to ascertain that they are accurate.

Lorraine Vavul reported on the Editorial Board's activities. She requested that neighborhood representatives pass on info about their events and activities that are of general interest, so that they can be posted on our site. Regarding social media, the HUNI Facebook page had 100 more "Likes" since last she checked. Lorraine requested that everyone go on the HUNI Facebook page and start a discussion or post a picture. She also asked that other neighborhood representatives volunteer to serve on the HUNI Editorial Board. Finally, Lorraine will pass around a sign-up sheet for the name of the person who serves as webmaster for all neighborhoods who have websites. The HUNI website is huniindy.org, but the entire name is included in the Facebook

Richard Campi asked when the organizations need to pay their dues. Chad Lethig responded that dues are due at the Annual Meeting in February.

Garry made a special point of welcoming HUNI's newest member, Garfield Park Neighbors Association.

Julia Pratt discussed Old Speedway City issues. Incorporated in 1926, Speedway is now on the National Register, but that doesn't prevent developers from doing things they shouldn't. Jim Lingenfelter suggested Julia look at the National Register nomination and pick out the characteristics that qualified the neighborhood for register status, then try to accentuate the positive with developers. Garry suggested starting a newsletter in which the historic aspects are highlighting. Bob Kennedy added that the only real protection is the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission (IHPC), and she would need approval of 70% of the property owners. Zoning ordinances don't always protect that well. The people in the older generation, who know the history of Speedway, are dying or leaving the area for retirement facilities.

Tom Abeel announced that Woodruff Place is the second Economic Improvement District in the State of Indiana. The only other EID is in Fort Wayne. About 88% of the people contacted signed the petition. An assessment will be added to each lot's property taxes, which will go into a fund to maintain the infrastructure. The City will collect the money, along with the usual property taxes; Woodruff Place does not have to collect the assessment. Twice a year, the City will issue a check to Woodruff Place.

Garry then asked that each neighborhood report on their activities. He further asked

Historic Meridian Park will have a progressive dinner tomorrow, November 6th, and intends to collect dues. Crimes are up in the neighborhood, with a shooting right next door to Lorraine. Police have been very responsive. Lorraine added that Kelly Gascoine asked that she remind HUNI members that the Morris-Butler House is available to nonprofit organizations at a

discounted price. The Old Northside had a 25-year anniversary event at Morris-Butler and were very pleased with it.

Garfield Park incorporated two years ago. The original board stayed on initially, but the Bylaws call for half the board rotating off each year, so they will soon have six new board members. Jim just wrote the third column for *Urban Times*. Jim and Linda recently met with Mark Dollase to explore preservation issues with Indiana Landmarks. They had their annual neighborhood crawl. The Morris Street bridge has opened. Big Car has just relocated to Garfield Park. They're sponsoring a 5 x 5 arts

event. The Garfield Park holiday party is December 5th and is already sold out. They are also working with the University of Indianapolis on a project.

Old Northside is celebrating its 25th year since being founded. The neighborhood is in its third year of a 3-year capital campaign of over \$100,000. The money will primarily take care of maintenance of parks. An Old Northside resident won a 5 x 5 grant to light the highway underpass.

Woodruff Place's annual membership meeting is next week. At that meeting, they will welcome new neighbors and elect new board members for 2016. Going into winter, this is their down time until the new year.

Cottage Home is going into a downtime, too, having just held its annual block party, its biggest event of the year. It's getting out of control with two stages, but the good thing is that there is new energy. Cottage Home just had an underpass painted on St. Clair, just west of College Avenue. The artist incorporated some things about the neighborhood in the design. The neighborhood is trying to buy the abandoned power station at St. Clair and Highland Avenue. If anyone has any experience working with Indianapolis Power & Light, Cottage Home would appreciate your input. The neighborhood has raised the money to buy it, but now IPL is acting as if it doesn't want to sell the property. Lots of new houses are going up in the neighborhood on 10th and on Dorman. Joan still hopes to have another HUNI-sponsored "How To Research Your House's History" workshop. In addition, Joan is working on the Indiana Album.. She would be happy to do a "scanathon," as well as post some of the old photos on the HUNI site. It's not technically their neighborhood, but Cottage Home is in favor of improvements of the Circle City Industrial Complex in the Windsor Park neighborhood.

Old Speedway recently had its general meeting. It followed a community garage sale which raised about \$300. More and more events are occurring on Main Street in Speedway, like Monsters on Main Street at Hallowe'en, and Light the Night at Christmas time on December 2nd. A Progressive Dinner is planned for December 3rd. The board has four new board members, so they're excited to get some new blood. There's lots of development on Main Street, like Big Woods Speedway Restaurant and Sarah Fisher's Go-Cart and Restaurant. Next year will be the 10th running of the Indianapolis 500. Speedway has received a matching grant for a trail development on the north end of Main Street near the roundabout.

Watson Park had a fall cleanup in which they completely filled one dumpster and partially filled a second one. Two homes in the neighborhood on the opposite ends of Watson Road will be on the Midtown Holiday Home Tour, Saturday, November 14th and Sunday, November 15th. This is the first Midtown tour on which two homes from the same neighborhood have been featured. Volunteers are still needed for the tour. The neighborhood is having its annual holiday party in the home of Jackie Nytes and Michael O'Brien. Cost is \$5 and bring an appetizer to share. Watson Park will be one of the historic neighborhoods on the walking tours during National Preservation Month in May of 2016. Kent would like to propose that the quarterly HUNI meeting normally held in May be rescheduled.

Fox 59 will be filming live early tomorrow morning at Milktooth Restaurant in Fletcher Place. Milktooth was named one of the 10 best new restaurants in America by *Bon Appétit Magazine*. The Virginia Avenue Folk Fest was May 5th. There were over 70 bands. At the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resources Center (INRC) annual meeting, they were given the Collaborative Spirit Award for 2015. In November, they will have a game night at the Dugout. There's also a dinner club every other month, and the featured restaurant in December will be Rook. Next year, the neighborhood will host Calvin Fletcher Days to celebrate the Bicentennial, and it hopes to have a home tour. Two big development announcements are The View, on College Avenue south of the railroad tracks near the Milano Inn, and the second phase of City Way. In addition, the new City Way YMCA will be opening in December.

The representative from Fountains Square and Irish Hill took offense to keeping his remarks as short as possible. He did not give a neighborhood report but stood and left the meeting.

Chatham Arch continues to study the parking challenges in their neighborhood. More and more people are parking on the residential streets and leaving their cars there all day, which means residents and their guests have nowhere to park. The Firefighters Union continues with their extensive projects, including the construction of a new credit union adjacent to the union hall. They have completed a very nice new parking lot, similar to the parking lot at Indiana Landmarks. The neighborhood association is looking for a new place to host its meetings. The Bethel African American Church will host the neighborhood group, at least temporarily. Sadly, the Phoenix Theatre will be leaving Chatham Arch, due to lack of parking. They've made progress in restoration of brick alleyways with brick pavers. It will be funded by the neighborhood; the City will only be providing services. Allen Chapel will have its Homecoming on December 4th.

St. Joseph's president is at Allen Chapel this evening. Rehabilitation of their alleys will occur in 2016. Garry asked if anyone went to the Neighbor Power event. He mentioned the Arts Council will help in painting control boxes.

The Annual Meeting of HUNI will be held at the Garfield Park Arts Center on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary