

**HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 2nd, 2023
Indiana Landmarks**

Attendees: Tom Abeel, President, Editorial Board, & Woodruff Place; Paula Brooks, Vice President, Ransom Place & Editorial Board; Jordan Ryan, Secretary, Editorial Board, & North Square; Lorraine Vavul, Editorial Board & Historic Meridian Park; Garry Chilluffo, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Scotty Wilson, Ex-Officio & Individual Member; Nick Zimmerman, Bates-Hendricks; Valeeta Dee, Chatham Arch (virtual); John Carmer, Historic Meridian Park (virtual); Jen Higginbotham, Holy Cross; Lesli Gibson, Irvington; Bryce Mosey, Lockerbie; Maggie Denari, Old Northside; Judith Essex, Old Southside; Heather Gallagher, Old Southside; Sarah Roberts, Old Southside; Kevin Espirito, St. Joseph; Brenda Freije, Rethink 65/70 Coalition; Tim Miller, INDOT; Matti McCormick, Communications Consultant; Lisa Wall, Senior Communications Specialist with HNTB INDOT

President Tom Abeel called the Annual Meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Brief Introductions

ProPEL Presentation: <https://propelindy.com/>; @ProPELIndy

-Matti: We want to receive your feedback

-Tim: What it is, expectations, study schedule - data collection, public input, data analysis, identify alternatives, alternative development and cost estimation, recommendations

-Tim: Goals - create an innovative vision for the future of Indy's urban interstates; identify transportation needs as well as opportunities to modernize our interstates; create a bold, actionable plan to modernize our interstates and enhance our community

-Tim: Expectations - transparency, active listening, consideration of bold ideas

-Tim: Engagement - conversations, presentations, street fairs, podcasts

-Tim: Study Overview - quality of life & livability; economic growth & opportunity; transportation & mobility; equity

-Tim: Looking at specific needs on a neighborhood-level next

-Looking at what other cities have done in regards to redevelopment of the highways

-Recessing/CAP considered a "bold" idea

-Provide comments here:

https://pima.indot.in.gov/public/comment/project-comment-dynamic?project_id=107

-Comments from Holy Cross: 465 interstate built on big dirt hills - can we reconnect some of the roads/grid that were separated along 465

-Comments from Woodruff Place: What can we do so the neighborhoods that were cut in half, how do we reconnect the neighborhoods? Combination of recessing the highway, more bridges

-Comments from Old Southside: Historic southside neighborhoods have been completely cut off from downtown by I-70, this has severely disadvantaged us economically, socially, and environmentally; we would like to recess the south leg of I-70 and reconnect the southside's historic street grid; restore the local community and economic center of the southside, especially in the South Meridian St, McCarty Street and Morris Street intersections; We endorse Rethink's proposals for a recessed interstate

-Reference to the *IndyStar* highway article:

<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2018/12/09/james-glass-how-65-70-came-indianapolis/2242850002/>

-Comments from Ransom Place: The request for written comments is discriminatory; someone should be taking notes for participants who have difficulty speaking or english is second language

-Comments from the Bates-Hendricks: Morris/Prospect Street bridge is unsightly, dangerous, and divides Fountain Square and Bates-Hendricks from the greater southside of Indianapolis; we want I-65 and I-70 overpasses to go underneath Morris and Prospect Streets like the southbound lanes do; we want a safer, surface street path for better connectivity and development over the interstate roadway; we want a host of multi-modal safety improvements combined with traffic redirection and traffic calming; the 5th lane in the SAFE project impedes the work of ProPEL, we want INDOT and HNTB to intervene with the SAFE project and stop the 5th lane - this needs to be clarified does ProPEL stop the SAFE project impacts

-Comments from Fountain Square: Morris/Prospect St bridge is unsightly, dangerous, and divides neighborhoods; we want I-65/70 overpasses to go underneath the street, for safety and connectivity; we want multimodal improvements; the Morris/Prospect St is clearly part of ProPEL Indy - we request that ProPEL stop the I-65 SAFE project from impeding future work of ProPEL; We endorse Rethink Coalition's position concerning the 5th lane [submitted to secretary]

-Next steps: INDOT does not have a specific timeline for implementation and bridge work

Short Term Rentals Update: Judith Essex

-Report issues with short term rentals in your neighborhood at this portal:

www.ShortTermRentalReport.com

-Meeting with Council for discussion of an ordinance

- Working on data aggregation
- Judith is reaching out to cities around the State with Airbnb issues
- Judith looking back at 2018 House Bill's authors and contacting them

Minutes Approval:

- Garry motioned, Sharon seconded

Editorial Board Update: Lorraine Vavul

- Does everyone know their editorial board member - check in with Lorraine

Neighborhood Reports:

Historic Meridian Park [<https://www.historicmeridianpark.org/>]: Alley clean up; Fall Festival; Progressive Dinner event; Considering becoming an IHPC district

Old Northside [<https://www.oldnorthside.org/>]: 12/8 Winterlights; 12/8 Grove Park-Santa Claus/hot chocolate

Holy Cross [<https://www.indyholycross.org/>]: Wine and cheese festival 7/20; Sculpture created for Highland Park

Woodruff Place [<https://www.woodruffplace.org/>]: Dec progressive dinner; Local interviews on our fountains; Raising money to restore a small fountain next

St. Joseph [<https://stjoeneighborhood.org/>]: Porch party; Working on a safety project at the Alabama and St. Joe intersection

Old Speedway [<https://oldspeedwayneighbor.wixsite.com/oscna>]: Town council elections (had a candidate forum); Successful trunk or treat; Santa Claus is coming to Main Street first week of Dec

North Square [<https://fountainfletcher.com/events/>]: District banners are up; 11/25 Small Business Saturday; 11/28 District meeting; 11/16 NSNA Nov meeting-ProPEL presentation, all are invited

Bates-Hendricks [<https://bateshendricks.org/>]: Annual Street Fest was a success; Dec Association meeting is a holiday pitch-in; Santa Claus coming to the gazebo

Lockerbie [<https://lockerbieneighborhood.org/>]: Good garage sale and Locktoberfest; Working with a graphic designer to hang signs with a map that shows the Lockerbie square historic district with greater Lockerbie district areas; Cyrus Place venue/coffee shop on the New York St side; Working on significant drainage issue project; Old City Hall renovation plans

Old Southside: Meets on the 2nd Wed of every month at parish hall on Meridian St; Some businesses have struggled with the construction/closures on S Meridian St

Indiana Landmarks' Treasurer's Report:

- HUNI's balance is \$1,986.01

Rethink 65/70:

-Working through the process of getting the grant up and running, making progress;
Kicking things off in February

By-Laws Discussion:

-Should we be a paying dues membership or switch to suggested donations?

Adjourned at 7:22 pm.

The next HUNI Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024, at 9:00 am.
Location TBD.