

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, February 1st, 2025
Indiana Landmarks

Attendees: Tom Abeel, President; Paula Brooks, Vice President, Ransom Place & Editorial Board; Jordan Ryan, Secretary & North Square; Lorraine Vavul, Historic Meridian Park & Editorial Board; Garry Chilluffo, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Marjorie Kienle, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Julia Pratt, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Scotty Wilson, Editorial Board & Individual Member; Clay Miller, Chatham Arch; Rich Whitney, Garfield Park; Kelly de Waal & Cornelius de Waal, Herron-Morton Place; Jean Gaunt & Tom Gaunt, Lockerbie Square; Chris Mize, James Whitcomb Riley House & Lockerbie Square; Mike Leland, Old Northside; Judith Essex, Old Southside; Randy Veatch, Woodruff Place; Charlie Richardson, Meg Storrow, John Kinsella, & Bruce Colville, Rethink 65/70 Coalition; Calvin Nguyen & Marsh Davis, Indiana Landmarks; Brittany Crone, Mayor's Office, City of Indianapolis

President Tom Abeel called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

Secretary's Report: Jordan Ryan

-In lieu of meeting in November, we urged members to attend Dr. Jim Glass' program

Treasurer's Report: Calvin Nguyen, Indiana Landmarks

-\$1,868 in the account

Keynote Address: Marsh Davis, Indiana Landmarks

-A look back at our historic preservation efforts: The Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission was established in 1967 & HUNI was established in 1980

-Place Economics report on Indianapolis neighborhoods:

https://www.placeeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/IndianapolisImpactReport_Final1.compressed.pdf

-Tax credits and grant programs - Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) program - Landmarks working on legislation to advocate for historic preservation tax credits

-Budget cuts are proposed to OCRA, which would harm the Main Street program

-Loss of Diamond Chain - could have been an adaptive reuse residential project

-Accomplishments: hosting the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in 2013; Landmarks + HUNI Mayoral Forums; Bush Stadium; Heslar Armory; St. Vincent's

Hospital; Old City Hall charrette; Miller House in Columbus; Black Heritage Program; Sacred Places Program; Affinity Groups-Modernism & Automotive; Bottleworks Project

- Unfinished business: L.S. Ayres Clock restoration; Beth-El Temple adaptive reuse
- Working with Ivy Tech on a preservation trades program
- Landmarks is in a strong position with funding, programs, and staff; building private sector support
- Landmarks is working on disability access in historic properties - Inclusive physical access committee established

Editorial Board: Lorraine Vavul & Scotty Wilson

- Marjorie and Gary gave Lorraine a gift to commemorate her time as the editorial board chair
- Scotty taking over as editorial board chair
- Website update - neighborhood boundary maps are up
- New page for digital donations: <https://huniindy.org/donate>

Vice-President Now President-Elect

- HUNI Vice President becomes HUNI President-Elect in third year of term
- By-laws updated: one of the biggest changes is going to a donation-only model; looked at the roles of officers

Mayor's Office: Brittany Crone, Director of Community Outreach

- Engagement team introduction
- DPW Director Todd Wilson announced, starting Feb 10th
- Pothole season underway, weather dependent
- Identifying solutions to issues/gaps with Request Indy
- Unhoused population: several active groups/committees working on solving homelessness, Blueprint Council, Continuum of Care, Mayor's Advisory Group on Homelessness, Emergency services working with Mayor's Office, Office of Public Health & Safety, Red Cross, and police for a winter emergency contingency plan - converted School 68
- Questions contact: Brittany.Crone@indy.gov

Short Term Rentals Update: Judith Essex

- Ordinance went into effect Jan 2025 - registration is mandatory
- DBNS Director reported that 82 facilities have been registered with the City
- We think there's 3,200 STR facilities in the county, so less than 2% have registered so far in the last month
- More efforts ongoing to communicate the information out

Rethink 65/70 & Reconnecting Communities Grant: Meg Storrow

-Web: <https://www.rethink65-70.org/>

-Visionary Study report: <https://www.rethink65-70.org/ourwork/visionarystudy>

-Book club: Feb 19th at 5:30pm at Indy Reads

-Next webinar in March, looking at development patterns and building our own mixed-use patterns in our neighborhood

-Design progress is underway, more updates coming

Billboards/Prop 349: Tom Abeel & Garry Chilluffo

-10 years of fighting with billboard companies

-City passed ordinance maintaining ban on new billboards inside I-465

-Billboard companies can still ask for a variance

Housing Committee: Kelly de Waal

-Working on STR issues

-Worked with Rep. Cherrish Pryor on property tax relief for long-time “anchor” residents in gentrifying areas; passed some legislation - working on communication and outreach to make sure residents know that they can claim these credits

What Should HUNI Focus on in 2025?

-Historic preservation tax credits

-Short-term rental issues

-Residential tax credit for historic properties

-Unhoused population

-Historic infrastructure

-Struggling membership and engagement

Neighborhood Updates:

Old Southside [<https://oldsouthside.org/>]: Variances, 200 unit apartment complex for workforce housing on South Meridian Street; 3 new builds on South Meridian Street; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra coming to the Old Southside at Sacred Heart Church on 2/16

Lockerbie [<https://lockerbieneighborhood.org/>]: Fundraisers to repair brick alleys; house tours coming back

James Whitcomb Riley Home [<https://rileymuseumhome.org/>]: Introduction; Riley Home trying to do more community and placemaking building with historic neighborhoods; April-Artists painting historic houses; June-Antiques event

Mass Ave [<https://massaveindy.org/>]: Working on scooter parking set up to get scooters off sidewalk in “parking spots”; community celebration events, rooftop socials and summer fest; cleanup; Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area discussion underway

Fletcher Place [<https://fletcherplace.org/>]: Pocket park developed in a previously vacant lot, will offer programming; INDOT installed a new interstate light pole on the Calvary Bridge ramp area-light pollution and light trespassing; Calvin Fletcher historical marker was hit in January and needs to be replaced

Historic Meridian Park [<https://www.historicmeridianpark.org/>]: Children’s Museum celebrating its 100th birthday; Propylaeum hosting a lost mansions exhibit 2/26

Garfield Park [<https://www.garfieldparkneighbors.com/>]: Working on engagement and outreach; economic development projects; working with Parks Department on bringing back summer concert series; Arts & Music Festival in September; doing new gateway mural

Herron Morton Place [<https://herron-morton.com/>]: Land use co-chair leading developing/planning session on 16th street to focus on connectivity and pedestrian use; Kennedy-King memorial initiative underway; Affordable development opportunity-advocating for height and density; Church at 21st & Central getting restored

North Square [<https://fountainfletcher.com/events/>]: FFDA + Fountain Square + Fletcher Place + North Square have a digital historic walking tour coming out in May, funded by Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks Historic Preservation Education grant

Old Speedway [<https://oldspeedwayneighbor.wixsite.com/oscna>]: Golf course ordinance

Woodruff Place [<https://www.woodruffplace.org/>]: Fountain Frenzy event: official kick-off for the fountain seasons is on May 2; Flea Market is scheduled for June 6–7; Woodruff is hosting their first official Fish Fry, scheduled for Saturday afternoon June 28

Adjourned at 11:41am.

The next HUNI Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 5:30pm at TBD.