

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, February 10, 2024
At the Tube Factory

Attendees: Tom Abeel, President, Editorial Board & Woodruff Place; Paula Brooks, Vice President, Editorial Board & Ransom Place; 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, Editorial Board & Individual Member; John Carmer, Historic Meridian Park; Lesli Gibson, Irvington; Bryce Mosey, Lockerbie; Meg Storrow & John Kinsella, Mass Ave Cultural Arts District; Maggie Denari, Old Northside; Judith Essex, Old Southside; Mark Sprout, St. Joseph; Charlie Richardson, Rethink 65/70 Coalition; Meg Busch, Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission; Jacob Barnes, Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate; Chris Mize, James Whitcomb Riley Home

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

Brief Introductions: Tom Abeel

Minutes Approval: Tom Abeel

-Lorraine motioned, Scotty seconded

Indiana Landmarks' Treasurer's Report: Tom Abeel

-HUNI's balance is \$2,014.01

Introductions: Jim Walker

- Introduction to BigCar, and BigCar's locations
- Discussion of BigCar's properties in Garfield Park, history of the site
- Providing affordable housing for local artists
- SPARK on the Circle programming: <https://circlespark.org/>
- Tactical urbanism and street calming for neighborhoods

Guest Speaker: Meg Busch

- Administrator of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission:
<https://www.indy.gov/agency/indianapolis-historic-preservation-commission>
- Presentation: What the IHPC is, digitization project, new initiatives
- 9 member commission formed under state law in 1967

- Differences between IHPC Historic Districts, National Register of Historic Places Historic Districts, and the Meridian Street Preservation Commission
- IHPC: 17 districts, 12 individual sites, roughly 6,000 properties
- IHPC also acts of Board of Zoning Appeals for variances
- Certificate of Appropriateness
- Meridian-Kessler Designation - conservation plan -reviewing demolition & land use only
- Monuments & Memorials Designation - American Legion Mall area
- Meridian Park Designation - designated by the end of the year
- New initiatives: monitoring deed transfers & listings; public education; enforcement
- IHPC can write letters to home insurance companies explaining the state statute for things like hail damage on slate roofs

Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate: Jacob Barnes

- ARPA grant funds (neighborhood public art or programming) available with Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center - app opens March 16th
- Tactical urbanism - apps are on a rolling basis with DPW - Community Powered Infrastructure Projects
- Indianapolis Neighborhood Infrastructure Partnership - DPW program
- Art in the Public Right-of-Way - DPW program

James Whitcomb Riley Home: Chris Mize

<https://rileymuseumhome.org/>

- Upcoming programs: concert series inside the parlor and summer camps for creative writing
- April 27th: Lockerbie Garden Party

2024 Topics/Projects: Tom Abeel

- Topics/Projects: Rethink, billboards, short term rentals, by-laws, housing committee
- Zoning ordinance issues with IHPC districts for artwork/signage in unoccupied storefronts for revitalization - FFDA wants to put up wayfinding posters to deter first floor window vandalism - FFDA asking for support from other HUNI neighborhoods - Mass Ave/Meg, OSS/Judith, Irvington sharing these concerns - decorative/artwork/wayfinding vs advertisements
- Outdoor sidewalk cafes - approved by IHPC, but now ATC overruling outdoor sidewalk cafes - Mass Ave asking for support

Rethink 65/70 Update: Charlie Richardson

-New website: [<https://www.rethink65-70.org/>]

- 1938 City Map showing the grid and density of the city
- Urban Times issue featuring the new concepts is out now

- USDOT federal planning grant starts this year
- Spring: look for a date on a public hearing on the I-65/SAFE project - Rethink Coalition worked with 8 projects areas and 11 neighborhood associations on community engagement to develop a report
- ProPEL: HNTB and INDOT have established 4 committees - we encourage you to mention the Rethink Coalition, and recess the inner loop

BZA Billboard Update: Tom Abeel

- Working with MCANA
- Billboard companies are relentless in trying to break the City's ordinance
- 2400 Roosevelt Ave billboard testimony at last BZA
- Feb 13th BZA hearing, 3210 Chief Way - encourages supporters to come
- Check out: <https://huniindy.org/issues/digital-billboards>

By-Laws Discussion: Tom Abeel

- Still working on them
- Changing from fee-based membership to donation-based membership
- Write donation checks to Indiana Landmarks for HUNI donations

Short Term Rentals Update: Judith Essex

- Report issues with short term rentals in your neighborhood at this portal: www.ShortTermRentalReport.com
- City ordinance - met with city 2/9 - City-County Council drafting an ordinance
- Following what the state says we can do with this city ordinance
- The main issue is a revenue stream for registering properties; the state only allows us to charge a one time fee of \$150, no renewals, even if the registration expires
- DBNS Director Brands getting the software together for the registration/permitting process; should be operational this spring
- Introduction of the ordinance in April, it will then go to committee, assigned to Metropolitan/Economic Development, go back to council May
- Dakota from the Fountain Square Neighborhood Association encourages people to use the portal - please share: www.ShortTermRentalReport.com
- We want to advocate for STR in residential areas owned by an LLC should be required to get a change of zoning - city attorneys were not willing to do that

Website Update: Scotty Wilson

- Check out new features on the redesigned website: <https://huniindy.org/>
- Art + design direction - who we are, what we do, who we aren't, what we don't do
- Numbers: 2,000+ unique visitors; top pages - home, neighborhoods, and billboards

-Working on: new neighborhood map; way to solicit digital donations

Editorial Board Update: Lorraine Vavul

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

-Scotty is taking over the editorial board from Lorraine

-Pocketsights App - HUNI just added Woodruff Place tour last fall - share with your neighbors - <https://huniindy.org/tours>

-Pocketsights Blurb:

Explore Downtown Indy's historic neighborhoods with a free app

Looking to get a bit of fresh air while soaking in some of Indy's history or seeing some beautiful architecture? The Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis (HUNI) partnered with 16 of Indy's historic neighborhoods to digitize their neighborhood's walking/biking tours. These free tours discuss significant architecture as well as prominent business and civic leaders who called these neighborhoods home. Tours can be done on a smartphone in person via [PocketSights](#) -- a free GPS guided tour app available in the Apple Store or on Google Play -- or from the comfort of your own place via the [HUNIindy.org/tours](https://huniindy.org/tours) website. Prefer to browse each tour to decide which one intrigues you most? Head to [HUNIindy.org/tours](https://huniindy.org/tours) for a brief summary of each historic area.

Neighborhoods included in order of proximity to Lady Victory on Monument Circle are Lockerbie Square, Old Northside, Ransom Place, St. Joseph Place, Holy Cross, Garfield Park, Woodruff Place, Herron Morton Place, Historic Meridian Park, Watson Park, Riverside, Irvington, Old Speedway, and Fort Benjamin Harrison. HUNI undertook the digitization initiative in honor of Indy's Bicentennial and has continued to add tours including the most recent addition, iconic Woodruff Place. The project was made financially possible through the generous support of Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

Neighborhood Reports:

Fletcher Place [<https://fletcherplace.org/>]: Calvin Fletcher Historical Marker is up - ceremony coming up

Mass Ave [<https://massaveindy.org/>]: Ask for letter of support for a storytelling grant - Indiana Landmarks Heritage & Education grant

Irvington [<https://www.irvingtoncommunitycouncil.com/>]: New signage on light posts

Ransom Place [<https://www.ransom.place/>]: Pushing back on IPS' plan to upgrade the Attucks athletics facilities - they have to move a cell tower and concerned about increased parking

North Square [<https://fountainfletcher.com/events/>]: new neighborhood FFDA banners installed; public art and mural planning; new trash cans along Shelby St; tactical urbanism/traffic calming for Prospect & State - historic building hit again by cars 3rd time in 2 years

*Neighborhoods - please send your events to the editorial board and/or check out neighborhood websites below for more news:

Chatham Arch: <https://chathamarch.org/>

Cole-Noble: <https://colenobledistrict.com/>

Cottage Home: <https://cottagehome.info/>

Cumberland: <https://www.town.cumberland.in.us/>

Emerson Heights: <https://emersonheights.org/>

Forest Hills: <https://foresthillsindy.org/>

Garfield Park: <https://www.garfieldparkneighbors.com/>

Herron-Morton Place: <https://herron-morton.com/>

Holy Cross: <https://www.indyholycross.org/>

Lockerbie Square: <https://lockerbieneighborhood.org/>

Meridian Kessler: <https://www.mkna.org/>

Meridian Park: <https://www.historicmeridianpark.org/>

Old Northside: <https://www.oldnorthside.org/>

Old Speedway City: <https://oldspeedwayneighbor.wixsite.com/oscna>

Springdale: <https://www.springdaleindy.com/>

St. Joseph: <https://stjoeneighborhood.org/>

Watson Park: <https://watsonpark.org/>

Windsor Park: <https://www.windsorparkindy.com/>

Woodruff Place: <https://woodruffplace.org/>

Adjourned at 11:26 am for a tour of the Tube Factory.

The next HUNI Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, at 5:30pm at Indiana Landmarks.