

Fletcher Place Neighborhood Association, Inc. (FPNA)
(www.fletcherplace.org)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 11th, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Mission statement: Preservation, restoration, renovation, revitalization and the promotion of the neighborhood as a community of the City of Indianapolis known as historic Fletcher Place, with the goal of creating a total urban community while maintaining a respect for the past.

Boundaries: The FPNA represents the area east of East Street, south of Louisiana Street, west of I-65/I-70 and north of I-70. This encompasses two historic districts, the Fletcher Place Historic District and the Holy Rosary Danish Church District.

Meetings: The meetings are every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at 615 Virginia Ave (Calvin Fletcher's Coffee).

Note: These meeting minutes are for all FPNA members. If you know of other FPNA members not on the list, we would be happy to add them.

Annual Meeting - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Jeff Miller.

Attendees: Jim Ailes, Glenn Blackwood, Paul Buckley and Peggy Spohr, Georgia Cravey, Julie Devine, Doug Dilling, Chris Fields, Jason Flora, Joe Giacoletti, Doug and Judy Litsey, Bill Lovejoy, Jeff Miller, Sam Newland, Larry and Rhonda Pepper, Ron Reichel, Paul and Erin Romer, Gerold and Marlina Schmid, Greg Townsend, Jennifer Wolfe.

Guests: Officer Brown (IMPD), David Kingen (Downtown Zoning).

Last meeting's minutes: Minutes were posted online. They were accepted unanimously.

2010 Financial Review: Jeff presented the annual financial review. Total revenue for the year was \$10,251 and total expenses for the year was \$12,720.09 leaving a change in net assets of \$-2,469.09. Net assets on 1/1/10 were \$10,998.32 and net assets on 12/31/10 were \$8,529.23. Of that amount, the following restricted funds exist: Business Members Fund - \$525, Pine Street Planting \$100, FletcherWoods - \$1,500 (the \$1000 donation from Calvin Fletcher Coffee is coming in 2011). Donations made by the association for the year included: \$2,000 for the Cultural Trail, \$2,000 donation to the Economic Development Study along Virginia Ave, \$1,280.72 (project expense) + 282.94 (mailing expense) for FletcherWoods, and \$200 for the Bates-Hendricks landscaping project at Morris and East Street. If anyone wants a detailed yearly breakdown of the expenses, please email Jeff at jeff030167@indy.rr.com.

There was a question from Doug if this was considered an audit. Jeff said that some spot checks were done on individual invoices but not on every one. The entire financial packet is available for review by anyone, however. Another question was raised by Joe about whether the same process for raising FletcherWoods funds could be used for other projects such as McCarty and Virginia improvements. It is possible we could use SEND again as a fiscal agent, which allows for donations to be tax deductible and with the potential for Nap Credits (which gives donors 50% back in state taxes), which gives a very nice incentive to donate.

A motion was made and carried to accept the year end review.

Annual Board Election: Each November a nominating committee is chosen to help find new members for the next year's board slate. The nominating committee presents their suggested slate at the December meeting. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the January meeting. The committee is composed of Georgia Cravey, Gerold Schmid, Linda Perdue, Doug Litsey and Larry Pepper. Georgia will head up the committee. The slate is voted upon at the annual meeting in January.

Board member Doug Dilling is stepping down after six years. Thanks Doug for all you have done over the years! You have made quite an impact during your time on the board, whether in the role as Urban Times contact, Land Use, Parchment billing, Secretary, or the many other hats you have worn.

The nominating committee therefore submitted the remaining eight board members and added Ron Reichel (435 Virginia Ave) as the slate of nine board members. They submitted the following officer / board slate:

Greg Townsend--President
Rhonda Pepper--Vice President
Mike McCormick--Treasurer
Jennifer Wolfe--Secretary
Glenn Blackwood
David Edy
Bill Lovejoy
Jeff Miller
Ron Reichel

Update: After the December meeting, Jeff also asked to step down from the board, having served 11 years on the board. He asked the nominating committee if they had any additional board suggestions. The nominating committee met and recommended Judy Litsey (927 Noble). At the January meeting, Jeff nominated Judy Litsey from the floor and asked to remove his name from the slate. Following that up, the slate was unanimously voted upon. Thanks to Jeff for all he has done on the board, including taking meeting minutes for the entire 11 years, but also serving as President the last two years.

Yearly Membership Numbers: This year we had 155 association members (140 residents /15 businesses). This was just a few off of the record membership in 2007 of 158 (148 residents /10 businesses) and was up from last year's membership of 149 (135 residents /14 businesses).

Also, this year had an average association meeting attendance of 19.8. This was just slightly off of the record average attendance in 2008 of 21.4 and was up from last year's average attendance of 18.2. We also set an 11 year record for single meeting attendance this year, hitting of 35 in November when the Mexican Consulate and the North of South project presented.

This officially concluded the annual meeting. The meeting was turned over to the new president, Greg Townsend.

Monthly Meeting - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Greg Townsend.

Attendees: As above.

Guests: As above.

IMPD Update: Officer Brown said he had no big news to report as our neighborhood has once again experienced very little crime. It was asked what we can do about graffiti such as just appeared in the alley behind Elm. Officer Brown said that it is hard to control and we need to make sure to keep reporting it. It was asked if there is pressure that can be put on a building owner to cover it up quickly. Officer Brown said unfortunately no, not from a legal standpoint. It is not an Office of Code Enforcement item. This is really something we need from the council to get a change.

MNL Update: None.

COA/Code Compliance/Zoning

As a neighborhood, we need to monitor things happening w/o a certificate of appropriateness (COA), which is required for most work done on the exterior of the home as well as some interior work. Also, we need to watch for health code issues on older / abandoned homes.

Update: David Kingen came to present a request for 608 Lexington. It was to have a variance of use of the D-8 Zoning Ordinance to allow a two-unit structure and a one-unit structure on the same site. It was also a variance of development standards of the D-8 Zoning Ordinance to reduce the required off street parking from 6 parking spaces to zero parking spaces. There is nothing changing on the property, but the potential buyer is requiring that the variance be documented before he will purchase the property. The hearing is on Feb 2nd. There was a question regarding whether a dumpster is needed, but no dumpster is required unless there is four units. The current owner has checked with one of the neighbors and the feeling is there has not been parking or trash issues.

There was a question regarding it not being owner occupied and how this would impact it. David stated that we can't predict how future owners will treat the property, but the current owner and potential buyer plan to make no changes to the property. There was a question of why the variance was needed and David said that it seems that it is being driven a lot by the recent changes in regulatory laws. Basically, this variance need has always existed, but is more of an issue now. It was asked if there were any other comments from the floor and if not, we will turn this over to land use to allow that committee to weigh in (the committee had not seen the info yet) and propose a final recommendation to the board.

Committee Reports

Finance: The neighborhood funds are raised through such events as the Home Tour, FPNA membership dues, and the Plant Sale. The funds are used for neighborhood expenses and improvements like the annual tree planting, the neighborhood Fletcher Place signs (including the wooden sign at Fletcher and Pine) and events such as the picnic. FPNA uses money from city grants to fund these items as well.

Update: The annual report was given above. The cash balance is \$8,529.23. There are also restricted funds designated for several items, including the Economic Development Committee, Pine Street landscaping, and the FletcherWoods project. If anyone is interested in the detailed monthly breakdown of the finances, it can be emailed to you by contacting Mike at mike@cpamccormick.com.

Cultural Trail: This committee has the goals of helping bring the leg of the Trail that will be coming through Fletcher Place to life. The construction timetable goals are:

- From Washington St. south to East St. - Construction complete early Sept. 2011; landscaping by mid-Nov. 2011.
- From East St. south to FS - Construction complete by end of December, 2011; landscaping will be completed after Super Bowl is done (Feb. 2012).

Update: Hunt Paving Company has not officially been selected as the contractor, but the next public meeting will be happening soon.

Social Committee: This committee is tasked with coming up with and implementing ideas that would bring the neighborhood together to have fun events with the goal of promoting one big neighborhood.

Update: The Annual Fletcher Place Holiday Party was a great turnout. It involved a white elephant exchange and fun was had by all. After some very successful and fruitful years as the social committee chair, Julie is stepping down this year. Thank you Julie for all you have done to add a greater sense of community in the neighborhood. All of your efforts have been greatly appreciated! If anyone is willing to steer the committee in 2011, please let us know.

FP Land Use: This Land Use Committee represents the Fletcher Place Historic District and meets upon request.

Update: No update, other than the special presentation above.

HR/DC Land Use Committee: This Land Use Committee represents the Holy Rosary Danish Church Historic District and anyone is welcome to attend. Meetings occur on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. The location is rotating, so please contact Joe Giacoletti at giacoletti@mibor.net for the location.

Craig Von Deylen came to share at the October meeting the project he's been planning for awhile is now ready to get underway. The project is the old Mail of Indy building at the south end of Virginia. Craig presented on the project several months ago and the association voted to support it at that time. Craig is now proposing a change to it. In particular, the building is going down one story. Because height was the only lingering concern that some association members had with the original plans, this will likely be very well received by everyone.

The plans are to break ground for the residential portion late spring of next year and the business portion would start six months to a year later. There is a letter of intent from the IMOCA to occupy the building. We voted to write a letter of support for the revised plans. However, the new formed Holy Rosary Neighborhood Organization did not receive notice of the hearing, as they were not registered with the city at the time, but Craig decided to continue the case to allow the president, Tony Simeone, to review the plans. It was then approved at the next meeting. It now awaits Regional Center approval.

Update: We had some final discussion around the Fletcher Arts building. Jeff shared the answers Craig gave to questions that Gerold had posed after the last meeting. In regards to whether the previously planned alley maintenance, repairs and landscaping will occur, Craig said yes including the 10' buffer. In regards to whether not having a center piece such as IMOCA would lower the planned rental rates, Craig said he sees no impact on the pricing points. In answer to whether there will be a full time full time property manager in the building, Craig said no, but due to there being 100 total units in the neighborhood that he owns, offices will continue to exist in the neighborhood, meaning property managers are just a few blocks away. In regards to whether there is a budget set aside for maintenance of just this property, Craig said there is an account of over \$120K for maintenance. Lastly, Craig confirmed he will continue to look for some type of retail component for the property. The regional center approval happens later this week and the association continues to be in support of the project.

Next, there was some discussion around whether this land use committee should continue exist, now that there is the newly formed Holy Rosary Neighborhood Organization, which feels they represent the HR/DC district. The bigger question is how to handle overlapping associations and is this okay? We have confirmed with the city that having two associations representing the same area is fine, as this has happened in the past just east of us in Fountain Square. Because our bylaws have included the entire neighborhood for 16+ years, we feel we should continue to have a Holy Rosary / Danish Church Land Use Committee. Joe confirmed he is willing to continue to serve and Doug said he is as well. Anyone else interested in serving can contact Joe to join the committee.

Marketing/Econ Development: This committee's purpose is to increase the profile of FP in the Indy community. They are looking at a vision and marketing plan. They meet every third Wednesday at the Impact Group (501 Virginia) at 12:00 noon.

Update: No update. We are looking for a new committee chair as Cynthia is stepping down after serving several years.

Newspaper: The Parchment is a bi-monthly paper that comes out six times a year. We are always looking for stories for the Parchment. Ads are \$5/column inch for a one-time ad and \$3/column inch if you run the same ad six times. If you patronize one of the people who advertise in The Parchment, please let them know where you saw their advertisement.

We do need to search for a new editor. If anyone is interested, we would love to have the Parchment back up and running again. It is our preferred means of communication with the association. Please contact David Edy (davidkeith89@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

If we can't get the Parchment going again, we should start discussing the Urban Times as an option for being our official means of communication with the association. This has responsibilities as well, such as home delivery like the Parchment, but we don't need a formal editor (we just need to send a monthly submission) and we don't need to do the graphic arts layout work. However, we are hopeful we can find a Parchment editor.

Update: Doug reached out to the Urban Times to see if the offer is still open for us to join. As it has been several months since the last Parchment, everyone agreed that it makes sense to pursue getting added to the UT. We still need to send articles and would likely have one page. It was suggested that we have a pool of writers. It would be a committee and Rhonda agreed to chair it. Volunteers included Jeff, Doug D, Rhonda, Chris, Erin, Ron, and Doug L. Because there are no ad sales, that means there are no revenues. But since we only made just over \$100 last year on the Parchment, this isn't a big loss. We do need to maintain our distribution system. Jeff will check with current volunteer base on delivering the UT, which goes out 11 times a year rather than just 6. A motion was taken and was unanimously voted upon to work with the UT on inclusion.

Membership: To become an FPNA member, it costs \$5/year for individuals and \$20 for businesses. There is a discounted price for joining after June.

Update: Membership drive is in February.

Infrastructure: This committee will work with the FPNA and City representatives to improve sidewalks, lighting, traffic signage, alleys, safety, etc.

Update: No update.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Noble/Greer: There was a discussion by residents on Noble around making it 1 way or restricting parking on one side only or perhaps even adding a speed hump. It was mentioned that this would need to be a resident led decision and would need a petition. It was then mentioned residents should consider Greer as well so that both streets work in conjunction, such as Greer going south and Noble going north. This is only an issue between Buchanan and McCarty. A meeting of impacted residents is likely the best next step. Lastly, Jeff made a comment that due to continued advocacy by the infrastructure team, Noble might get paved soon, so things could be done in conjunction with that.

Top five issues/concerns/priorities: Greg mentioned that Jeff is leading a meeting with several of the district 19 neighborhood groups to understand the common issues and is asking Fletcher Place for the top 5 issues facing the association. The group brainstormed ideas, which included: Greenspace maintenance (such as the city park), getting a dog park, adding more businesses, abandoned houses/boats, McCarty having too many lanes and needing more parking, speeding along McCarty (an idea was floated to ask the police to occasionally post a speed trap and give tickets), the confusing 6-point East, Fletcher, South, Virginia intersection (needs better signage), infrastructure (water/sewer) is old and water pressure is bad, infrastructure (alleys, roads) is bad, sign to direct people to Fountain Square coming off of the interstate is needed at Pine, and burying our electric cables. Greg thanked everyone for the ideas.

Holy Rosary Neighborhood Organization Meeting: There was a question about how the meeting went and if anyone who attended could give a report. Doug reported that there was around 19 or so people in attendance, including members of the FPNA that live south of Virginia. The meeting was very well organized and the bylaws are being worked on. Several FPNA members will be members in both associations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Always On Tap

- **MEMBERSHIP:** To become a FPNA member, it costs \$5/year for individuals and \$15/for businesses. Discounted price for joining after June. Contact David Edy (see below) or look for a form in an issue of the Parchment or on the website to join.

- **SIGNS:** Anyone can purchase a Fletcher Place sign to hang in their window. It is \$5 for FPNA members and \$10 for non-members. Contact David Edy to purchase one (contact info below).
- **DIRECTORIES:** Neighborhood directories are available from David Edy (contact info below) at the cost of \$1.50. Call for them at 638-6802.
- **MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION:** The Merchants Association meets every third Wednesday at 12:00 at 501 Virginia. Please contact Cynthia Buswell at cbuswell@impactgroup.org for more info.

Miscellaneous

- Heavy trash pick-up day is the 4th Thursday.
- As a neighborhood, we need to police things happening w/o a certificate of appropriateness.
- Please let us know if you are aware of any new members to the neighborhood, so we can give them a warm welcome.

Key Contact Information

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Fletcher Place Board	Glenn Blackwood	423-0735	glennblackwood@gmail.com
	David Edy	638-6802	davidkeith89@sbcglobal.net
	Judy Litsey	503-7840	Judy.Litsey@fmcna.org
	Bill Lovejoy	491-1985	blovejoy123@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Mike McCormick	263-0192	mike@cpamccormick.com
Vice President	Rhonda Pepper	632-3728	rlpeffer@sbcglobal.net
	Ron Reichel	632-4991	reichelronald@sbcglobal.net
President	Greg Townsend	423-0581	iiiimpres@aol.com
Secretary	Jennifer Wolfe	270-2954	wolfe_jennifer@lilly.com
IHPC Contact	Meg Purnsley	327-4408	Meg.purnsley@indy.gov
Community Prosecutor	Jan Lesniak	327-6333	jlesniak@indy.gov
Paralegal	Leah Spencer	327-6304	lspencer@indy.gov
Health & Hospital	Ben Miner	221-3081	bminer@hhcorp.org
Mosquito Control		221-7440	
Zoning inspector	Carmen Frye	327-5543	cfrye1@indy.gov
Police Contacts	Tony Brown	327-6515	B7086@indy.gov
	Non-injury	327-3811	
City County Councilor	Dane Mahern	506-2707	dmmahern@hotmail.com
Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison	Tonya Beeler	327-5564	tbeeler@indy.gov
Community Outreach	Nicole Wilttrout	327-6397	nwilttrou@indy.gov
Crime Watch	Shirley Purvitis	327-3781	P1527@indy.gov
	Tony Brown	327-6515	B7086@indy.gov
SEND	Mark Stewart	634-5079	mark@sendcdc.org
Mayor's Action Center		327-4MAC	
Lilly Comm. Relations	Jalana Eash		jceash@lilly.com
Community Dev Law Center	Bruce Kleinschmidt	921-8806	bklein@colap.org