

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 13th, 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 Lord 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 325 S College (College Place).

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. For reading convenience, a Microsoft Word version of the minutes has been attached.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Tiffany Ellefson. The meeting started by enjoying the Iaria's pizza and drinks provided by the neighborhood association and the sides and desserts brought by neighborhood residents.

Attendees: Robb & Ginger Biddinger, Paul Buckley, Nick Burrow, Jennifer Cole, Georgia Cravey, Mark Crouch, Nate Davis, Doug Dilling, David Edy, Tiffany Ellefson, Joe Giacoletti, Doug & Judy Litsey, Bill Lovejoy, Jennifer Martin, Michael Martin, Jeff & Carolyn Miller, Larry & Rhonda Pepper, Ron & Sylvia Reichel, Peggy Spohr, Greg Townsend, Todd Von Deylen, Stina Wedlock, Jennifer Wolfe, Julie Yeater

Guests: Dennis Papenmeier (Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison), Mark Nardo (Montessori School 56), Kelli Safford (Fountain Square Arts Council)

Last meeting's minutes: Jeff Miller posted minutes online. No changes.

IMPD Update: No officer present at the meeting.

4th of July Parade: Kelli Safford with the Fountain Square Arts Council came to discuss an exciting project happening this year. There will be a parade up and down Virginia Ave starting around 5 or 6pm. Similar to the art parade in 2008, artists and individuals develop their own imaginative floats, sculptures, and abstract art creations which are displayed during a parade down Virginia Ave. Kelli is looking for volunteers to help with the event and/or people interested in being part of the parade. She can be contacted at fsacouncil@yahoo.com.

MNL Update: Dennis passed out a booklet named EASY (Essential Aid & Services for You) and it has information on many of the useful services in Marion County. There were questions about painting the underpass at East Street just south of Washington, but Dennis said this can be difficult to accomplish if it is owned by CSX for train services. Dennis shared that the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) has had a major overhaul and is much easier to use now. Call wait time has dropped radically. Don't forget to call the MAC regarding potholes in the neighborhood (see MAC contact info at the bottom of the minutes).

Montessori School: Mark Nardo, the principal at Montessori school 56, came to speak about how his school services Fletcher Place. Montessori is a unique learning experience and strives to create an enriched environment so children are inspired to reach their highest potential. The Montessori philosophy of education fosters a strong sense of community and respect for self, others, and the environment, which builds a strong academic foundation for a lifetime for learning. For more information, Mr. Nardo can be reached at nardom@ips.k12.in.us.

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: Currently there are 2 open IHPC violations and 0 open code/zoning issues.

The following properties have open or proposed requests with the IHPC and/or zoning board:

324 S College: The owner of the property has requested to demolish the building. The board discussed the request in depth and recommends that while the property is in bad shape, it has potential for rehab and we would like to ask the IHPC to help facilitate a discussion with the owner regarding his future plans for the structure. A motion was taken at the December meeting and all voted in favor of this position.

Update: Jeff has been in contact with the owner and he states that it is very expensive to repair the building and will be providing documentation of the estimates he has received.

518 S College: This is the home that was recently burned in a fire. The owner now wants to tear it down. While the board believes that the back part of the building which is not in good shape could be removed, the building itself should be saved. Jeff shared that if anyone was interested in working with the land use committee on the case, please contact him. Otherwise the board will put together a recommendation to the IHPC.

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: Jeff presented the year-end financial review. Total Revenue was \$6,316.28, total expenses were \$2,728.33, and the change in net assets was \$3,587.95, giving a final balance of \$11,579.81. Jennifer Cole asked why the balance is so high and whether we should be spending more money. David explained that the tree planting didn't happen this year which is normally around \$1,000. Joe mentioned we are saving money for the econ dev committee projects and any cultural trail expenses. This includes the \$2,000 grant that must be used for the project to put in planters at the end of Pine Street at College and \$500 allocated for the newly formed merchants association budget.

Newspaper: The Parchment is a bi-monthly paper that comes out six times a year. We are always looking for stories for the Parchment, so please feel free to submit them to Kathy McKimmie (kmckimmie@sbcglobal.net). 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.

Update: The latest issue is out and should be delivered soon. The deadline for the next issue is February 16th and the theme is schools so any input on area schools is welcomed (E-mail Tori at vbcavert@hotmail.com).

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: We had no new members since last month. Next month is the annual membership drive. Jeff presented figures regarding the membership, and for the first time in several years membership dropped by 19 people from 154 to 135. There was a discussion regarding why this might have happened, but other than the economy, there were no reasons that we could come up with. We will continue the multiple membership level options and will include the ability to donate anonymously. Jeff also shared meeting attendance figures, which have gone up since last year from an average of 19.7 to an average of 21.4 members.

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

Update: All updates were given 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.

Update: The next meeting is tomorrow night. The group continues to progress on several projects.

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: Jeff shared Cynthia's update, which is that we continue to review and revise the vision plan created by the Indiana Business College. The next meeting is Jan. 21st. Hopefully, we should be able to complete the reviewing/revision process and have something to submit to the Board by early spring, perhaps March.

We were also contacted by Linton Calvert this week. He is President of the Fountain Square merchants association, and would like to attend our Econ. Dev meetings, so that we might join efforts in developing our commercial spaces/business. He will attend in February, as we will be finishing up on our vision plan at January's meeting.

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

Update: Jeff shared the results of the infrastructure assessment of the neighborhood, listing the top 10 roads and sidewalks in need of repair. Full details of the assessment can be found on the web at <http://www.fletcherplace.org/?p=news>.

It was also mentioned that we should contact IPL if there are lights out on our block. The link to their web page can be found on our Fletcher Place Safety Tips page: <http://www.fletcherplace.org/?p=crimeprevention>.

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: Leah has asked to step down as committee chairperson, so we are looking for someone to take the lead this year. An email was sent out to all current committee members looking for someone. If anyone is interested, they can contact Jeff (contact info is at the bottom of the email).

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

Update: Trail is \$3 to \$5 million behind in funding. We now have a link on the website for donations

(<http://www.fletcherplace.org/?p=news>). We also discussed donating some funds from the neighborhood association to the effort and/or allowing people who donate to the association to mark funds specifically for donation to the trail.

Garden Club: The Garden Club committee goals are to build community / connections among neighbors, beautify the neighborhood and education / information sharing in all things green.

Update: Robb is looking for a new chairperson for this committee in 2009 who has more passion for it.

Old Business

All old business was reported under committees.

New Business

Nominating Committee: For 2009, both Carl and Tiffany are rolling off the board. Special thanks to Carl who served since 2007 and Tiffany who served from 2003. Your efforts were very much appreciated!

15 people were called regarding their interest in being on the board. Two residents have accepted: Jennifer Wolfe and Rhonda Pepper. No new names were given from the floor at the December meeting, and thus we have a slate of nine names. A huge thanks to Jennifer Cole for leading this year's nominating committee, which was also composed of: Joe Giacoletti, Doug Litsey, Georgia Cravey, and Frederick Frosch.

The association took a motion to accept the slate for the 2009 board:

Rob Biddinger—Biz on Fletcher
Jennifer Cole—Noble Street
Doug Dilling—Noble Street
David Edy (for Treasurer)—Pine Street
Bill Lovejoy—Greer Street
Jeff Miller—Fletcher Avenue
Rhonda Pepper—Elm Street
Greg Townsend—Greer Street
Jennifer Wolfe—Horace Mann Condos

There was a discussion regarding the fact that we do not elect officers, other than treasurer. Jeff stated he felt that this put us in an awkward position because all other neighborhoods have presidents. Also, we are technically in violation with the bylaws. It was also asked if we were in violation with the secretary of state, but David assured everyone that we were not, because they only require signature of one officer (treasurer) and a second board member. It was left for the board to decide what to do with the officers for 2009.

Italian Heritage Society: Joe Giacoletti invited people to join the bocce leagues and/or join the heritage society. Contact Joe for more info at giacoletti@mibor.net.

Petty Crime: It was recommended that we all keep an eye out for crimes and curtail them as quickly as we can. As an example, we need to address graffiti right away. First, send pictures of it to Officer Tony Brown (contact info below) so that he can identify if it is gang related or just taggers (which all of our graffiti has been so far). Then, we have republic blue paint to help with dumpsters and gray paint for other locations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

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	Robb Biddinger	631-2775	biz-on-fletcher@sbcglobal.net
	Jennifer Cole	372-2450	jmwcole@yahoo.com
	Doug Dilling	965-1001	doug@dougdilling.com
	David Edy	638-6802	davidkeith89@sbcglobal.net
	Bill Lovejoy	491-1985	blovejoy123@yahoo.com
	Jeff Miller	917-0545	Jeff030167@indy.rr.com
	Rhonda Peffer	632-3728	rlpeffer@sbcglobal.net
	Greg Townsend	423-0581	iiiimpress@aol.com
	Jennifer Wolfe		wolfe_jennifer@lilly.com
IHPC Contact	Meg Purnsley	327-4408	mpurnsle@indygov.org
Community Prosecutor	Jan Lesniak	327-6333	jlesniak@indygov.org
Paralegal	Leah Spencer	327-6304	lspencer@indygov.org
Health & Hospital	Ben Miner	221-3081	bminer@hhcorp.org
Mosquito Control		221-7440	
Zoning inspector	Carmen Frye	327-5543	cfrye1@indygov.org
Police Contacts	Major Darryl Pierce	327-6500	P7078@indygov.org
	Tony Brown	327-6515	B7086@indygov.org
	Non-injury	327-3811	
City County Councilor	Dane Mahern	506-2707	dmmahern@hotmail.com
Mayor's Neighborhood Liason	Dennis Papenmeier	327-5595	dpapenme@indygov.org
Community Outreach	Nicole Wilttrout	327-6397	nwilttrou@indygov.org
Crime Watch	Shirley Purvitis	327-3781	P1527@indygov.org
	Tony Brown	327-6515	B7086@indygov.org
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