

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 8th, 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 7:05 by Bill Lovejoy.

Attendees: Robb & Ginger Biddinger, Paul Buckley, Cynthia Buswell, Tori Calvert, Cinnamon Caughlan, Jennifer Cole, Doug Dilling, David Edy, Kevin Grau, Keith Holdsworth, Sharon Kitchens, Aak Lengkeek, Bill Lovejoy, Jeff Miller, Larry & Rhonda Peffer, Linda Purdue, Ron & Sylvia Reichel, Jessica Riley, Leah Smith, Peggy Spohr, Greg Townsend, Suzannah Walker, Jim Whittemore, Marcus Wright

Guests: Officer Tony Brown, David Kingen, Gail Payne (Cultural Trail), Kevin Osborne (Cultural Trail), Dennis Papenmeier (Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison)

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

Cultural Trail Presentation: The trail construction for the Virginia Ave leg will begin in spring of 2009. The plans that were presented were at a "30%" design stage. The plans are to try to reduce the driving lanes in a small fashion and thus allow the parking to not be lost along Virginia Ave. No signals will be added where they do not exist already. Crossing the interstate bridge will be a combined trail, but the rest of the trail will be a separated trail. The same signage, lighting and benches seen on the Alabama leg will be used on our stretch of the trail. This is to have a consistency along the entire 8 miles of the trail. Please attend the Cultural Trail meetings hosted by Bill Lovejoy if you have design considerations to discuss.

IMPD Update: Officer Brown came to mention the August 5th National Night Out. There are many events planned around this special day. Robb mentioned the flat tires on the boat that is on College Ave.

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 2 open code/zoning issues.

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

Villaggio Pool: David Gilman came representing the Villaggio, which has petitioned for a use variance to build an outdoor inground pool where their old sales office building is on East Street. The building would be razed and brick walls along the street and wood fence along the alley would completely enclose the pool. The pool would be for the Villaggio residence under a 10-year lease. There would be no lifeguard. It would be managed by the tenants, once the building is turned over to them.

Mr. Gilman met with the Holy Rosary Land use Committee and Joe presented their position at the meeting, which was that the loss of a historic structure was disappointing, a pool was not an appropriate usage of the land, and this usage would not attract additional businesses or encourage commercial revitalization in the area. However, they were unsure on whether to fully oppose it and thus the recommendation was to take no position on the case.

At the neighborhood meeting we discussed first and foremost that all buildings in the HR/DC district can be legally torn down because the district has no conservation status to protect it. Jeff stressed that we need to pursue conservation status as quickly as possible or we will continue to lose historic structures and homes.

Regarding the pool itself, all agreed it wasn't what they would desire to see. We discussed that the alley is a mess and no matter what happens, it should be paved ("empire street"). We then discussed that if the pool were to be built, we would want several commitments. These included: no pool structures visible over the wall, some type of ornamentation along the brick wall so that it isn't solid brick along the whole wall, and something other than vinyl along the south wall, such as brick or masonry. It was decided that while we don't want a pool, if we could get commitments such as these, then it might be better to work with the petitioners on the project. A vote was taken to support the pool and Mr. Gilman would work with HR/DC district land use committee and the board to iron out the commitments and agree on the design of the wall before the regional center hearing.

Update: The pool was approved. The next step will be for the Land Use Committee to review the plans before their submission to the Regional Center.

Dugout: David Kingen came representing Tom Ford, the owner of 621-635 Virginia Avenue (aka the Dugout). Mr. Ford asked to get the necessary approval for the outdoor cafe which has been in operation at the Dugout for a few years and was told that he is zoned I-3-U (Industrial). They are therefore on a fast track to get a rezoning on file in order that he might open the outdoor cafe soon.

The request is CBD-2 and the commitments being proposed are: Petitioner commits to restrict the use of the property to C-3-C, C-3, C-2 and C-1 uses for the property with the following further exclusions:

1. Oil Lube facility
2. Blood donor station
3. Check Cashing facility
4. Drug addiction counseling office
5. Emergency Shelter
6. Outdoor advertising signs
7. Tattoo parlor

He met with the Holy Rosary Land use Committee and Joe presented their recommendation at the meeting which was to support the rezoning.

The discussion during the neighborhood meeting immediately turned to the CBD-2 zoning request and the fact that the board had voted to stop supporting the further intrusion of this undesirable zoning. Our neighborhood is not part of the Central Business District and the zoning has several negative traits: undesirable usages, no height restriction (as was seen with the Villaggio) and very limited parking

requirements. In particular, it was asked whether the Dugout had a parking plan, because we would not be supportive of making it official that the Dugout has limited parking. Additionally, 632 Stevens Street was included in the rezoning and this is right across from residences. Before that property could be rezoned, we would want to know the plans for it. Lastly, it was cautioned that when the Cultural Trail comes through, it may make the outdoor dining impossible at that point.

A vote was taken to stand against the proposed zoning and that instead a parking plan needed to be provided. At that time, we could look at whether getting rezoned to an appropriate C-3-C, C-3 or C-2 would make more sense. David Kingen will get back with the board once more discussion has happened with the Dugout.

Update: The zoning request was sent out and the hearing is set for July 24th. The request sent out was not much different than what was discussed at the last meeting. No height limitation had been set, even though it was requested at the last meeting. Because the date of the hearing is before our next neighborhood meeting a vote was taken to ask for a continuance so that the case could be discussed further.

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 quarterly review of finances was provided. Year-to-date revenues were \$2,953.69 and year-to-date expenses were \$934.29 for a change in net assets of \$2,019.40. The ending account balance is \$10,011.26.

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 ad.

Update: The next issue, July/August, is being printed as we speak. There will be a garden walk at the end of the month and we will have more info on it soon. This goes along with the Parchment focus on gardening. The following issue after that will be on arts and architecture. Articles are due by August 18th for the September/October. Two landmarks guided walks are planned Sep 27 and Oct 11th.

Jeff also mentioned that we are continuing to work with the Urban Times and will have more updates by next month. This would be in addition to the Parchment and have no impact on the way the Parchment is currently operating.

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 currently have had 1 new resident from last month. There was a discussion about how the website is currently giving non-member businesses free advertising by listing them on our website. While we would prefer that all businesses pay association dues, we are also using the local business directory on the web as a marketing tool to show how many great businesses we have in the neighborhood and if we only show those that are members, it will drastically limit the business shown on the website.

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

Update: No update.

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 last Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. The location is rotating, so please contact Joe Giacoletti for the location on a given month.

Update: All updates were given earlier under the Zoning report. There was more discussion around the need for a conservation district for the HR/DC district. We will discuss this with Joe Giacoletti to see if he would be willing to help lead an effort to establish this.

Marketing: This committee's purpose is to increase the profile of FP in the Indy community. They are looking at a marketing plan.

Update: Study circle grant was submitted. We are looking at putting planters at the intersection of Pine and College. It will beautify the area and hopefully correct the traffic issues where people try to drive down Pine to College.

The Indiana Business College, which is helping us with our marketing efforts, is planning a “Fab” Friday in Fletcher Place. It will be on Friday, July the 11th from 6 – 8 pm at 501 Virginia (the Impact Group). There will be food, drinks, a silent auction, raffle, and all proceeds go to the neighborhood. It will allow the IBC to get to know more of the neighbors and learn more about what we want to see happen with the neighborhood.

The Economic Development Committee met for the first time last month and it is open for any to attend who are interested in setting the vision for the future of the neighborhood. Mark Stewart with SEND will be helping us form the committee and set goals.

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

Update: Robb reported on several ongoing efforts. He is still working on wifi, but it is moving slowly. Still working on the crosswalk on the Fletcher Ave highway exit, which was originally designed without one. We are still looking into getting gravel to fill potholes in the alleys. And efforts are ongoing for getting ADA compliance for our sidewalks, particularly regarding addressing the telephone poles in the middle of the sidewalk.

Gateways: This committee's purpose is to create gateways to frame the neighborhood, define FP boundaries, serve as a welcoming gateway, and determine internal and external identity.

Update: No update.

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: July 18th is the next ice cream social. We need a yard sale representative for the upcoming yard sale and picnic. Jeff will send out an email looking for volunteers. Sep 6th and 13th are the dates for the yard sale and picnic.

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: The update was discussed above during the trail presentation.

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 ideas to get things going for the year.

Old Business

All old business was covered under the appropriate committee report.

New Business

Volks March: Indy Walkers will do a Volks March on Saturday July the 26th around 9:00am starting in Fountain Square and marching up to Fletcher Place. For more information drop by the Biz Spa Salon at the corner of Fletcher and College to pick up a brochure.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

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:** Because Fletcher Place does not yet have a formal Merchant's Association, we are encouraging local merchants to join the Fountain Square merchant's association. Fern Calvert is in charge of Fountain Square's Merchant's assn and can be reached at Fern@FountainSquareIndy.com. Joe Giacoletti is our Fletcher Place liaison.

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
	Carl Davis	634-8253	cdavisjr06@sbcglobal.net
	Doug Dilling	965-1001	doug@dougdilling.com
	David Edy	638-6802	davidkeith89@sbcglobal.net
	Bill Lovejoy	491-1985	blovejoy123@yahoo.com
	Tiffany Ellefson	917-0153	tiffanyellefson@yahoo.com
	Jeff Miller	917-0545	Jeff030167@indy.rr.com
	Greg Townsend	423-0581	iiimpres@aol.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	Cheryl Hubbell	221-2484	chubbell@hhcorp.org
Mosquito Control		221-7440	

Zoning inspector	Lori Momberg	327-5818	lmomberg@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 x16	mark@sendcdc.org
Mayor's Action Center		327-4MAC	
Lilly Comm. Relations	Bryan E Devore	276 2663	devore_bryan_e@lilly.com
Community Development Law Center	Bruce Kleinschmidt	921-8806	bklein@colap.org