

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 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 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. 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 Greg Townsend. This month's meeting was held at Calvin Fletcher's Coffee Company. Special thanks to the owner Doug Litsey for hosting the meeting. We will continue to meet at the Coffee Company for as long as Doug is able to house us. A big thanks to Linton for letting us stay at College Place over the years.

Attendees: Robb and Ginger Biddinger, Glen Blackwood, Jennifer Cole, Georgia Cravey, Julie Devine, Doug Dilling, David Edy, Keith Holdsworth, Mike McCormick, Jeff Miller, Larry and Rhonda Pepper, Mary Ann Petrosino, Gerold and Marlina Schmid, Greg Townsend, Jennifer Wolfe.

Guests: Officer Tony Brown (IMPD), Dennis Papenmeier (Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison).

Last meeting's minutes: Minutes were posted online. No changes. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

IMPD Update: Julie mentioned that a stranger was wandering around Lord Street and after police were called, he was determined to be dangerous and it even led to a police chase. It was likely random that he was in Fletcher Place, but it is a reminder that we need to watch for dangerous individuals.

Officer Brown came and reported the following:

- They have caught the graffiti artist who has been vandalizing downtown. He used the word "choke" in his graffiti and has vandalized over \$100,000 in damage.
- There has been a recent vehicle break-in criminal who was caught but will be released soon so this is a reminder to remove all valuables from our cars.
- There were questions regarding loud and incessant dog barking. Officer Brown will check into what can be done regarding this.

MNL Update: Dennis shared info about the following items:

- Dennis double checked to see if the alleys got filled for potholes. The alleys look great in most of the neighborhood now. Thanks, Dennis! We will look into the alley between Harrison and Fletcher as we

believe that still needs work. Also, Norwood Street and the north portion of Noble. These were likely not on Dennis' list as he focused on alleys.

- Dennis also noticed some faded "No Parking" signs and turned those in for repair.

- Rush Hour recycling is coming on Thursday and it is the last one for this cycle.

- Monday was the beginning of the fall leaf season. It runs until Friday, December 4th. You can have up to 30 bags of leaves per week. Please bag them separately and in special bags if possible. Southside landfill will compost them and you can pick them up. For more info, call 247-6808.

- Robb asked what to do when people park on the sidewalks. Dennis said to report to the police and / or report to him.

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 were no open IHPC violations and no open code/zoning issues to discuss.

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 cash balance is \$10,944.48 with about \$2,000 of that committed to various projects. We discussed doing snow plowing again, as we did last year. We also discussed needing an article in the Parchment to remind folks to move cars if they can so that the plowing can occur. We only plow when it is 6" or more, due to the large cost of plowing (\$600 last year).

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 next meeting will be Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:00 at the Fountain Square Theatre building. The closer we get the more final the plans get, so make sure to attend if you are interested in seeing how things will look.

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. We are also working with KIB to do a significant daffodil planting at the top of the Fletcher Street exit from I65/70 the last weekend of October.

Update: On Saturday, October 31st, there were 26 trees planted from one end of the neighborhood to another and there were hundreds of daffodils planted at the Fletcher Ave interstate exit. We had 10 neighbors and also a large crew from KIB that came to help. There was a question regarding the large stack of top soil left at the Fletcher ramp and it is unclear if people can take it for use or not.

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: Julie Devine is planning for a Progressive Dinner on December 12th. Please contact Julie to be a host or be an attendee.

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

request.

Update: We discussed the recent request regarding making College Ave two-way from Virginia to Fletcher. It has strong support from businesses (and is highlighted in the recent economic development study) but has concerns from residents. The fear is that traffic will use Pine to go south from the Fletcher interstate exit and then turn left on Lexington or Elm onto College. We want to avoid this becoming a polarizing issue so we need to talk to residents about it and see where things fall. No action will be taken unless a vast majority decision can be reached that meets as many needs as possible. It has been suggested that we put a “residential thoroughfare only” sign at Fletcher and Pine. Another idea suggested at the meeting by residents on Pine was making Pine go one way north. We are working with Nathan Sheets from DPW on studies of the area to explore different options. If you have interest in discussing College and making it two-way, please contact Jeff at jeff030167@indy.rr.com.

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 request to demolish 518 Warsaw was discussed. The case was continued and we will keep watch on how things proceed. The Land -Use Committee, the City Regional Center staff, and the association are opposing the petition.

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: The economic development work plan for Virginia Avenue is almost complete, but still isn't considered official. However, it has been posted on the web under news. Feel free to check it out at <http://www.fletcherplace.org/?p=news>. At the next Econ Dev meeting they will discuss the Unsung Indy program.

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 next issue is complete and will be delivered soon. Kathy will be stepping down as editor of the Parchment when two years rolls around, which is after the March/April issue. Thus, we are looking for a new volunteer as our editor. Kathy is hopeful to find one by early Feb, which would allow her to work on the March/April issue together with the new editor, to see how it is done. Thanks, Kathy, for two great years with the Parchment.

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: No update.

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

Update: Jeff presented to the Public Works Council meeting on November 5th. He shared with the committee about the infrastructure study that was done in Fletcher Place and the greater southeast side. He stressed that the budget that exists for infrastructure repairs is too low. It is only about 1/3rd of the annual rate of deterioration, meaning we aren't even keeping up with the damage that occurs each year to our streets and sidewalks, and thus not digging into the massive backlog (\$1.5 billion) that we have. This was a particularly important point for the council to hear because they help oversee the DPW budget each year. Additionally,

Jeff stressed that the southeast side's infrastructure is in worse shape than the city as a whole and needs more funding.

Harrison's sidewalk has not been replaced yet, so Jeff will check on it. Jeff is also checking on why the Fletcher interstate exit isn't being mowed regularly.

Old Business

Community Garden: Robb gave an update on garden. We are going to stress to the owner that we need all references to the association removed from the release form.

Dog Park: Georgia asked about that status of it. Doug Dilling wrote an article in the Urban Times regarding a Dog Park for our monthly Fletcher Place article and is checking into locations. The buffer by the interstate near Buchanan is the most logical spot. Doug said that the area needs to be large or the dogs will wear it down. If you are interested in a dog park in the neighborhood, please contact Doug at doug@dougdilling.com.

New Business

Indy Ferral: Maryann Petrosino spoke about this program. She had some stray/ferral cats in her yard, so she contacted Indy Ferral and is participating in their program to neuter/spay and vaccinate stray cats. They clip their ear for identification. The cats are then cared for by the person, but aren't reproducing or spreading disease. She wanted to share this info so people are aware of the program and also so people know that cats with clipped ears are vaccinated and cared for.

HUNI: Bill Lovejoy attended the HUNI (Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis) meeting on our behalf. At the meeting, there was a request for all participating HUNI neighborhoods to write a letter in support of saving the St. John United Church of Christ in Cumberland. The MDC hearing on this property will be Dec. 2 at 1:00 p.m. at the City County Building. It was agreed that we would write one on behalf of Fletcher Place.

IDI Report: Indianapolis Downtown Resident's Association meeting was attended by Doug. He shared that a new idea being considered is Third Thursday open houses. The goal is having several open houses at the same time, which allows each neighborhood to be ambassadors for the area.

IHPC Commission: Doug shared that the composition of the commission is going to become 5 mayor appointees and 4 city council appointees. This is just something for us to be aware of and hopefully this won't make the commission more political.

Nominating Committee: Each November a nominating committee is chosen to help find new members for the next year's board slate. The nominating committee will present their suggested slate at the December meeting. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at that meeting. We recommended Georgia Cravey, Glen Blackwood, Gerold Schmid, and Larry Peffer for the committee. Georgia will help gather the committee together, either by physical meeting or by email. If you are interested in serving on the board, please email Georgia at gcravey@sbcglobal.net.

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:** 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
Secretary	Doug Dilling	965-1001	doug@dougdilling.com
Treasurer	David Edy	638-6802	davidkeith89@sbcglobal.net
	Bill Lovejoy	491-1985	bllovejoy123@yahoo.com
President	Jeff Miller	917-0545	Jeff030167@indy.rr.com
	Rhonda Peffer	632-3728	rlpeffer@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	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 Liaison	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