

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14th, 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, Hannah Brown, Paul Buckley, Julie Devine, Doug Dilling, Keith Holdsworth, Bill Lovejoy, Jeff Miller, Ron Reichel, Gerold & Marlina Schmid, Dennis Sheets, Greg Townsend, Craig Von Deylen, Jennifer Wolfe, Mike Wright

Guests: Jonathan Mirgeaux (Bates Hendricks Art Project), Dennis Papenmeier (Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison)

Last meeting's minutes: Jeff Miller posted minutes online.

MNL Update: Dennis mentioned that Community Role Call is a way for police to be more visible in the neighborhood. We might look into doing it for Fletcher Place. Animal Care and Control is having a community event on April 19th from 11 to 5.

Bates Hendricks Art Presentation. Jonathan Mirgeaux presented plans for a large scale art project at the Morris Street intersection with East Street where the Burger King is located. It is just south of the interstate at the southern border of our neighborhood. The scope of the project at this time is trees, in particular Juniper. He came to ask for a small donation for the project. Neighborhoods being asked are Bates Hendricks, Fletcher Place, Friends and FACT, and Fountain Square Merchants Association. There was discussion of setting up a challenge that we would match other neighborhoods. Ultimately, Robb and Greg made a recommendation of \$200 which was approved.

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 1 open IHPC violations and 0 open code/zoning issues.

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

Update: None

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 quarter-to-date financials were presented with total revenue at \$3,285.86, total expenses at \$1,652.92, and a change in net assets of \$1,632.94. The ending balance is \$13,212.75, with \$2K of that set aside for planters, \$2K set aside for the econ dev study, and an upcoming donation to the Cultural Trail.

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 Parchment deadline is April 20th.

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 have 114 members signed up so far. The optional donation for Cultural Trail has resulted in \$1230 so far.

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 committee presented their recommendation to the board and the association regarding the Fletcher Place Arts Building proposed on Virginia Ave & McCarty St (the location of the current MAIL of Indy building). It was as follows:

The Holy Rosary/ Danish Church Land-use Committee (HR/DC LUC) of the Fletcher Place Neighborhood Association is supporting the Fletcher Place Arts Building project proposed by Perkins VonDeylen Architects, with the following conditions and recommendations:

The Exterior Plans as proposed on April 2, 2009 , will be accepted.

The HR/DC LUC would prefer a building only 3 stories in height, and requested that of the Developer. However, due to the provision of the Arts Museum, that request cannot be achieved.

- The Developer has agreed to step back the third and fourth floors from the South and West facades.
- The Developer has agreed to eliminate alley parking along both alleys.
- The project will have landscaping and a green space in the alley setbacks, so as to buffer the first level.
- The “glass” façade will be reduced significantly in order to reduce reflection.

- Resident parking is to be required within the building as part of the lease agreements
- The Developer will provide a list of recommended commercial uses, that the FPNA can review and agree upon, as part of the petition to the City.

The HR/DC LUC met with the impacted neighbors along Noble Street at 2 separate meetings: one with the developer, to outline the project. A second meeting was held, without the Developer, to discuss the project candidly.

The essence of the second meeting was that the project, due to the immense scale, would impact the neighborhood in a negative way.

However, the committee also acknowledges that the Developer has made every effort possible to alter the plans to meet the requests of the Noble Street neighbors. Yet, the greatest overriding factor is the building height. By “stair-stepping” the stories, the effort is made to negate the height’s impact upon Noble Street residents.

The HR/DCLUC also recognizes that the Developer has created a project that meets minimum city building codes relative to height, parking, density, and setbacks. The project, which has been carefully designed to meet all City land-use or zoning regulations outright by the Developer, and leaves the HR/DC LUC with no legitimate regulatory grounds to oppose.

Therefore, the HR/DCLUC is recommending support of the project, with the conditions as noted above.

We recognize that individual residents along Noble Street, may oppose the project. And we recognize their right to do so, and we encourage them to present their opinions both to the Developer, the FPNA, and to the City at the proper hearings.

The HR/DC LUC further “ Recommends” to the Developer, to the Cultural Trail Design Committee and to the City DOT , that this project provides a great opportunity for redevelopment of the Virginia Ave/ McCarty Street intersection and for the creation of a “pocket park” in the currently unused space (owned by the State INDOT) across McCarty.

The creation of Arts Museum, will provide many occasions for public events. This will increase the demand for event parking in the area.

Therefore the need has arisen to redesign the “bend” at McCarty, so as to provide additional on-street parking, to redesign the dead-end section of old McCarty Street for more parking, an access to the triangular open-space, and to provide for the development of a small “pocket park” in that triangular open space. This little park will be a benefit to the FPNA neighbors, visitors to the Museum and to folks utilizing the Cultural Trail as it moves across the Interstate to Fountain Square. Further, the alley behind Noble Street will need to be paved, and new curbs poured.

These are ALL public works obligations beyond the scope of the Developer. To allow the Fletcher Place Arts Building to proceed, without making commitments to redevelop, improve and maintain the adjacent “public” areas will be a disservice, to the neighbors directly impacted along Noble and McCarty Streets.

Therefore, serious consideration must be given to the immediate surrounding public areas. Otherwise, we will have missed an opportunity to properly tie this project to the Cultural Trail, to add on-street parking and to utilize an open space.

Because this is a City obligation, the HR/DC LUC cannot make these public improvements “conditions” as part of our support. But, let there be no doubt, these public improvements are an integral part of our support for the project.

After reading the above recommendation from the HR/DC LU committee, discussion ensued. It was mentioned that the state of Indiana owns the McCarty Street section affected and thus should be listed as

being part of the parties that are obligated to address the problem. There was a discussion regarding whether renters would give up their garage to get a reduced rent rate and then park on the street. It is hoped that this would not happen.

After more discussion, a motion was made to support the recommendation. Robb suggested that the board take more time to read it over first and then make a decision next week. Based on that recommendation, the vote was taken to allow the board to make the final decision, which will happen within a week.

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 next committee meeting will include discussion of which corridors are covered in the economic development study.

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

Update: Robb painted out several TCB graffiti incidents. We voted to spend up to \$200 on graffiti paint. Jeff pointed out that East Street is now repaired, passing on his thanks to DPW. It was recommended that we turn in to health and hospital the house on Lord that has the wall collapsing, but we will first contact the owner, if possible.

Robb and Jeff gave special thanks to Dennis who helped us get illegal propane tanks hauled away from 324 S College. They had been in the building before it was torn down, but after it was demolished, they were left standing on the sidewalk. Some were even leaking. Dennis acted fast and got them taken away.

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: April 22nd is a wine tasting at Deano's Vino. Julie also asked for homes that are interested in being on a Progressive Dinner as a host house on May 16th.

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 is April 15th at 6 p.m. in the Fountain Square Theater building. This is a very important meeting because it will be a sharing of the trail design for our leg of the trail, art work designs, and other important updates.

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: Jeff shared an update for Rhonda. People are starting to volunteer to be block coordinators for the Adopt-a-Block program through KIB. When it gets a little warmer, Rhonda will go out and encourage more involvement.

Starting in May, the committee is going to have monthly neighborhood, show-us-your-yard events. Mary Ann Petrosino has volunteered her home for May (date TBD) and Keith Holdsworth volunteered for June. Rhonda is going to ask a volunteer Master Gardener to attend at Mary Ann's in May to answer questions and give advice. This will be a time to see what your neighbors have done, get ideas, and socialize.

She is also considering what to do with the space around the Fletcher Place sign down by the interstate exit. Jennifer and Rhonda have talked about it and will nail down a plan before the next meeting.

The planters are still in progress at College and Pine. Also, we are considering a daffodil planting at Fletcher

and the interstate. There is an Indy Free Tree event is on the circle next Friday the 24th at noon.

Old Business

Robb proposed that we need to have a discussion about appointing officers for 2009 from the board members. After some discussion of the roles of the officers, it was decided that the by-laws address this appropriately and can be reviewed by anyone online on our website. A motion was made to nominate Jeff as President, Greg as Vice President, Doug as Secretary, and David as Treasurer (this position was actually made official in January). We will formally vote on these officers in May

New Business

Joe wanted to pass on that Spring Bocce begins next week. They still have openings for 2 teams on Wednesdays, if anyone is interested.

Meeting adjourned shortly after 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 |
| | Doug Dilling | 965-1001 | doug@dougdilling.com |
| | David Edy | 638-6802 | davidkeith89@sbcglobal.net |
| | Bill Lovejoy | 491-1985 | bllovejoy123@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 | 270-2954 | wolfe_jennifer@lilly.com |

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| 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 |