

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 10th, 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 Greg Townsend.

Attendees: Robb & Ginger Biddinger, Paul Buckley, Tori Calvert, Jennifer Cole, Carl Davis, David Edy, Tiffany Ellefson, Joe Giacoletti, Keith Holdsworth, Liz Huster, Bill Lovejoy, Jeff Miller, Peggy Spohr, Greg Townsend

Guests: Officer Tony Brown, Detective Busic, David Gilman, Natalie Harris (IBC), David Kingen, Paul Page, Tanner Starks (IBC)

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

IMPD Update: Officer Brown stated that IMPD is looking to gather a list of abandoned houses in the downtown neighborhoods. In particular, he is interested in those that are burnt out. Next in importance is those that need boarded up and/or are crime areas. Finally, he is interested in those that are simply abandoned.

Detective Julie Busic came to speak about a special project she is working on. By the end of next week, she is planning a delivery to Haiti of supplies. Her daughter is going there to adopt a child at the "Foyer de Sion" Orphanage and she will take goods for the babies.

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 Sign: David Gillman was going to present on this project at the March meeting, but was not able to make it. Jeff shared the general plans, which were for a 9', 3-sided sign that is Black Plex with Routed letters backed with White Plex with Shine Rite. It is an electrical sign. The first impression of folks was that it didn't fit with the neighborhood.

David Gillman then came to the April meeting to formally present the request to put up the sign. We all agreed that the rezoning of the area was appropriate, but there were concerns about the sign, even with the lowered height being proposed of 7'. The city planning staff is against any height over 4', but it was not felt that we necessarily needed to go along with the staff position. At our request, the petitioner agreed that a landscaping plan would be submitted, especially due to the large tree being removed so that the sign can be seen. Also, the petitioner agreed to a commitment that signage on the building is being given up for this extra height sign. After agreeing to these two commitments, a vote was taken to support the project.

The case was continued in May, due to the fact that there is now some controversy surrounding the Calvin Fletcher marker we placed in the city right of way. It is being argued that this is not in the right of way and instead on private property. The property is not owned by the Villaggio, but by another party. Jeff is working on the issue.

Update: It was decided that the discrepancy over the land surrounding the Calvin Fletcher marker should not hold up the case and the case was approved by the zoning commission. Look for an update on the marker situation under the Land Use update.

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.

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.

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 ending account balance is \$10,005.99.

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: Next issue is July/August. Focus is on gardening. The following issue after that will be on arts and architecture. Articles are due by June 16th for the July/August issue.

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 12 new residents from last month.

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

Update: Jeff gave an update on the small plot of land where the Calvin Fletcher marker is located. It was determined by the city that this land is not right-of-way and they gave us the permit to locate the marker there incorrectly. They are willing to refund the fee, but we will need to relocate the marker. We are unsure at this time how long we will be given before we need to move the marker. We are working with the Cultural Trail designers to see if we can move it into the landscaped area between the bike and pedestrian trails.

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.

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

Update: Paul Buckley has agreed to finish writing the study circle grant. 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. We are nearly complete with the grant and will have it submitted by the end of the month.

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 marketing committee will turn into the Economic Development Committee for the time being, as we feel we really need to focus on getting a good vision for where we want to go with our business growth. 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. He got in 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: Play date in the park went really well, and we are considering more of them. June 20th is the first ice cream social.

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 Cultural Trail design team will attend our next meeting to share with the group the initial survey. The 18th is a walk and talk starting at Anthem garage and extending down the trail ending with a dinner. Jeff also mentioned that we are looking to potentially relocate the US Colored Troops historical marker onto the trail. It currently sits just west of the bridge over the interstate on the north side of Virginia, but it isn't very

visible.

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

Neighborhood Clean-up: The spring clean-up happened on the morning of Saturday, June 7th, to get things cleaned up for the Italian Fest. Jeff led the clean-up team, which included Georgia Cravey, Bob West and Craig and Todd Von Deylen. There were also 12 Community Court workers that were brought in to help. It was the fastest cleanup Jeff has been part of, not just because of the rain (which made things move a bit faster than normal), but because of how well the neighborhood has been kept clean. It was quite amazing how trash-free things were, which is a huge credit to all of our neighbors who are taking pride in the neighborhood.

New Business

Day Care: Liz Huster passed around a flyer for babysitter / nanny service. She is living in the neighborhood and she has 5 years of daycare/pre-school experience and 3 years of camp counselor experience for children ages 6 – 18, including special needs. She is certified in CPR and First Aid. She can be reached at 512-789-4219.

Mosquito Control: It was recommended that we ask to have the neighborhood sprayed, because mosquitoes are becoming a problem.

Conservation District: It was asked why we don't have conservation status for the HR/DC district. Jeff gave a brief history of our last attempt, which failed mostly because it was the first time we had ever tried it and there was a lot of fear regarding what it would mean. It was suggested we should consider a Parchment article about it. We can show the difference in property values on the preservation side versus non-preservation side, which was put together by historic landmarks. It might help give comfort that going under conservation status is a truly positive thing. Jeff will follow-up with Joe to see if he would be willing to lead the effort this time around.

HLFI Walkaround: It was suggested we work with HLF to have a history tour of the neighborhood, similar to what the IHPC did in the year of our sesquicentennial. Also, the Renovation Workshop HLF provides was mentioned as being very helpful and well worth attending.

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	bllovejoy123@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	Jeff Small	327-5595	jsmall@indygov.org
Community Outreach	Nicole Wilttrout	327-6397	nwilttrout@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