

**Broad Ripple Conservation/ Preservation Discussion Group**

Minutes of meeting on April 16, 2008

Location: 6330 N. Park Avenue (Chris Carlson's home)  
Present: Bill Ferguson, Elizabeth Marshall, Kevin Marshall, Chris Carlson, Sharon Freeland, Lynn Levy, Carol Isaacson, Mark Demerly, James Michelson, Linda Shikany

**Group members:** (if you wish to be removed from the list, please contact Chris Carlson)

Chris Carlson	Ray Irvin
Bridget Carson	Carol Isaacson
Mark Demerly	Chad Lethig
Tom Evaniew	Lynn Levy
John Fager	Elizabeth Marshall
Bill Ferguson	James Michelson
Rhonda Finney	Linda Shikany
Sharon Freeland	Dan Wade
Tom Healy	Sue Zilisch

If there are others not listed above who should be part of this dialogue, please contact Chris Carlson to have those individuals added to the list. Please provide name, phone and email.

Mark Demerly has some possibilities to add. He will check with them and provide info to Chris.

**Discussion of house at 6471 N. Central (for sale by CJ Roberts)**

Chad Lethig, (Indianapolis Preservation Coordinator, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana) was unable to attend, but called ahead with the following report:

1. Chad and Sue Zilisch met with CJ Roberts and viewed the house. CJ is amenable to listing the property on the HLF website to help market to preservation-minded individuals. HLI would waive the usual fee for this. CJ said he thought he had an interested possible buyer who had been out to see the place; CJ will be in touch with Chad if that possibility fell through. He wants to sell the house.
2. Chad mentioned that the house had really undergone a lot of changes from the original, and this fact lessens its appeal to preservationists and lessens the chances of inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. But there is enough left, and there are still some possibilities.

**Broad Ripple as a Conservation District**

This idea was discussed again briefly, but thought to be too cumbersome and time consuming to pull off. It would be more hassle to enforce and might not accomplish our objectives as well as other ideas.

**Comprehensive Plans, Development Overlays & Zoning Districts**

A comprehensive plan is not a law – it is a preference list and as such is difficult to enforce.

Mark Demerly suggested that administering a development overlay is difficult. He thought that creating a zoning district which is a Village would be the way to go. Creating a Village zoning

district would require support of residents and business owners as well as support from the city and perhaps the Indiana Historic Preservation Commission (David Baker) for this idea.

The group consensus was that we pursue whatever avenue offers the most protection and muscle for slowing the destruction of Broad Ripple's architectural charm.

### **Meet with the City**

Mark Demerly will talk to Tom Healy as well as people at Historic Landmarks Foundation and Ball State about our plans and approach. He will also meet with city representatives (Maury Plambeck, Mike Peoni, David Baker), get their recommendations, help us articulate what to do and who to involve so that we can develop a proposed strategy which has the highest likelihood of success.

The group agreed that we need to involve Catherine Moore, our neighborhood liaison from the Mayor's office, as well as our City County Council Rep, Vaughan Ryan.

### **Direct Marketing Piece**

James Michelson and John Fagar offered to donate creative design and production for a piece aimed at educating and garnering support for creating a Village Zoning District (assuming that this is the direction we take). The piece would also enlist increased BRVA membership from residents. Postage is not included in this generous offer. Any survey of ideas and request for approval would specify that, if a homeowner does NOT reply, by default that would indicate his or her support.

### **Open Position on the Zoning Appeals Board, City County Council**

Elizabeth Marshall will put forth the name of John Fagar to fill this seat.

### **Harmoni**

It was agreed that our group should work in cooperation with Harmoni to help present a unified voice to Downtown and the rest of the city. Mark Demerly, Linda Shikany, Sharon Freeland and Tom Healy were suggested as the task force for this.

Sharon Freeland had called Kathy Shorter with Harmoni to request expansion of their boundaries to the north and east to include all of Broad Ripple.

### **What are others doing?**

Carol Isaacson will investigate what other areas such as Carmel are doing with regard to initiatives similar to our efforts. She will talk to some Ball State professors, too.

### **Plan of Action & Assignments**

<b><u>Person</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility</u></b>
Mark Demerly	Possible additions to mailing list
Mark Demerly	Talk to City reps & HLI re: recommendations & strategy
James Michelson and John Fagar	Design & produce education/promotion/survey piece
Elizabeth Marshall	Zoning Appeals Board candidate
Carol Isaacson	What are other groups doing?
Linda Shikany	Meeting Venue

### **Next meeting/future Meetings—“Cat Free”**

The group re-confirmed their desire to meet about every two weeks. Next meeting is Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Linda Shikany is in charge of venue for this and future meetings, which will hopefully not be places where kitty cats live, due to allergies of several group members.

### **Official Beverage**

By unanimous and enthusiastic acclimation, this group declared its official beverage to be red wine! Attendees are encouraged to bring snack and beverage contributions to share with the group at all meetings.

Agenda for next meeting could include:

- Report on assignments outlined above

- Confirmation of sub-committees

- Suggestions for a focus & scope, mission/vision statement

- A name for this group (idea: BR Conservation Committee)

### **Accuracy of these minutes**

If anything is incorrect, please notify Chris who will make corrections.

### **Miscellaneous**

I do not have Ray Irvin's email, nor am I certain that he wants to be included. If anyone knows him, please inquire.