

## **Broad Ripple Conservation/ Preservation Discussion Group**

Minutes of meeting on June 4, 2008. 6:30 PM

Location: Old caboose at 6535 Cornell (Host: JR Walsh)  
Present: J.R. Walsh, Mark Demerly, Carol Isaacson, Cindy Cunningham, Sharon Freeland, Sue Zilisch, Chris Carlson, Jim Michelson, Barb Siegal, Paige Horrigan

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

Karen Brogan	Diane Hitchcock
Chris Carlson	Maggie McCullough
Bridget Carson	Carol Isaacson
Cindy Cunningham	Chad Lethig
Mark Demerly	Lynn Levy
Tom Evaniew	Elizabeth Marshall
John Fager	James Michelson
Bill Ferguson	Brenda Rising-Moore
Rhonda Finney	Linda Shikany
Sharon Freeland	J.R. Walsh
Jan Guttrey	Sue Zilisch
Tom Healy	

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.

### **Guests**

Barb Siegal from California, (going to open a yogurt & hot dog shop in the new building next to Monon Coffee) and Paige Horrigan (her husband is director of the chef school downtown and they are Ripple lovers). They asked to be added to the emailing list.

### **Agenda for the evening**

The group established four main topics for discussion:

1. Gathering of information
2. Update on 6471 Central
3. Definition of group focus
4. Cooperation with other groups

#### **1. Gathering information**

Mark Demerly reported that he had met previously with Tom Healy, Elizabeth Marshall, Sharon Freeland and Kathleen Blackham regarding combining forces to gather information. He brought with him a questionnaire that Marshall had put together.

Jim Michelson will take it and “make it nice,” perhaps including the logos of all organizations involved in information gathering (BRVA, BRAG, HARMONI, GBR, BRAP, “Our little Group”). It was agreed to go with Marshall’s questions, but add to them.

It was suggested that first, we must come together on answers to the following;

- What are we trying to do?
- Who is going to do it?
- What do we want to find out?
- How will the questionnaires get distributed?
- What will be the cost?
- How do you get people to respond?

Jim was asked to have a proposed plan by the next meeting with the answers to most of the questions above.

Questionnaires could be distributed through the Gazette or Nuvo

Michelson was advised that, if we want info which will be accepted by the City, we must have name, address, phone, email if possible, signature and witness for everyone who responds. It was agreed that we need to have a unified voice when Broad Ripple communicates with the City.

Creating a blog was discussed, but who would monitor it?

How else could we collect information?

We need to involve key individuals with clout, people who carry some weight in the Village, to put their name(s) on this to hopefully boost response.

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

This topic was not discussed due to no one knowing anything concrete. It appears that the “for sale” sign is down, and there have been workmen on the property. Sue Zilisch will check around and see what she can find out.

## **3. Definition of group focus**

Much discussion; no resolution. The scribe suggests referring to last meeting’s minutes and to the “survey” which Elizabeth Marshall conducted at that time.

After the meeting adjourned several members hung around to talk more about this. There was a consensus that a focus for our efforts is crucial; without it, we have no reason to continue meeting.

It was agreed by this group of about 5 or 6 that we need to focus on the preservation and history aspects of our concerns – this was the initial reason for our coming together and it continues to drive our discussions. Here are the results of the after-hours talk:

- To focus, we must leave other items to the other BR groups with which we have aligned ourselves.
- We would be in a good position the support related efforts if we are not spinning our wheels
- For a name, it was suggested that we call ourselves “Historic Broad Ripple” or something like that
- We need to agree on a focus, identify specific actions and move ahead.
- We could have specific properties be inspected and assessed by Historic Landmarks
- Individual properties could be on the Register without the whole Village being declared a District
- Sue Zilisch said she would check out what was involved.
- Our group could produce a book on historic BR and include past (demolished ☺)and remaining properties

## **4. Other items:**

### **Village District**

Questions came up about having Broad Ripple declared a “Village District.” This was discussed at previous meetings; please refer to minutes from April 16, 2008 and April 30, 2008. One excerpt follows:

#### **From 4-16-08 minutes: 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.

### **Visioning Session, May 29**

The activity and outcome of this gathering was reported. Members of this group were urged to attend remaining visioning sessions.

The groups present at this meeting are the same groups with which we are aligned. Our collective voice is important and needs to be heard. The leaders of the Visioning session are doing a good job of focusing the ideas of Village residents and businesses.

### **Next Meeting**

JR Walsh again offered to host the next meeting (thanks, JR!)  
Wednesday June 18  
6:30 PM  
6535 Cornell -- the red caboose across from La Piedad

Everyone is asked to please bring refreshments to share. (thanks to those who pitched in on the 4<sup>th</sup>: Cindy Cunningham, Carol Isaacson, JR Walsh, Chris Carlson)

Agenda for next meeting could include:

- More info regarding 6471 Central
- Report on questionnaire project
- Continued refinement of our focus and direction
- Action plans and assignments

An agenda will be prepared for the meeting to help keep us on task. Please forward additional agenda items to Chris Carlson.

### **Accuracy of these minutes**

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

### **Unfinished business**

1. A leader for the Conservation district effort if we go that direction
2. Discuss with city and HLFII leaders about our plans & approach to develop a proposed strategy which has the highest likelihood of success
3. Update on 6471 Central
4. Jim Michelson has some ideas for a possible funding source to help with supporting our efforts. He promised more information later. As a 501(c)(3), BRAP would be able to accept charitable donations on our behalf