

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

Minutes of meeting on July 2, 2008. 6:30 PM

Location: Old caboose at 6535 Cornell (Host: JR Walsh)  
Present: J.R. Walsh, Cindy Cunningham, Sharon Freeland, Sue Zilisch, Chris Carlson, Lynn Levy,  
Karen Brogan, Jan Guttrey

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

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

### **Accuracy of these minutes**

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

### **Agenda for the evening**

1. Focus of work being done by other groups
2. Individual statements about our group's purpose
3. Consensus Statement of purpose
4. Committee name
5. Next meeting date and location

### **1. Other Broad Ripple-related Groups**

- A. HARMONI – is working to “brand” all neighborhoods involved as part of “Midtown” and to improve connectivity and bring about improvements in the neighborhoods which are part of Midtown. They are very interested in the Broad Ripple Canal Project which has been on hold for a while. Phase I for HARMONI is the Meridian/Westfield Blvd. project plus the business node at 38<sup>th</sup> and Illinois. Phase II will be Broad Ripple. Here is a link to an IBJ article: [http://www.ibj.com/html/detail\\_page\\_Full.asp?content=16521](http://www.ibj.com/html/detail_page_Full.asp?content=16521) and here is the HARMONI website: <http://www.indyharmoni.org/>
- B. Visioning Broad Ripple – an initiative headed by Tom Healy, Elizabeth Marshall, Kathy Shorter (of HARMONI) and Brenda Rising-Moore. Visioning Broad Ripple is a series of public fora designed to gather input from Broad Ripple residents and businesses about our vision for the future of the Village. No plans or recommendations will be produced until the 5 or 6 visioning sessions are complete. At the June 26<sup>th</sup> session, attendees discussed the following: Village mixed use designation, Village district designation, development overlays, enforceable design and building standards. Resolution and decisions on these subjects will hopefully follow. Bob Wilch (with the Department of Metropolitan Development) presented encouraging information about ways they can help us preserve our uniqueness while managing growth in the village. No need to attend all sessions; each one is a little different. Contact them at [envision.broad.ripple@gmail.com](mailto:envision.broad.ripple@gmail.com). Everyone on our committee has received notices to attend, and all are encouraged to do so.
- C. Green Broad Ripple -- concerned with green issues in the Village such as recycling and possibly composting and a community garden in Broad Ripple Park. They also address such issues as sustainability, air quality, natural resources, smart transit, alternative energy, energy efficiency.

Here is their website: <http://www.greenbroadripple.org/> . They are a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.

- D. BRVA – is our village association headed by Sharon Freeland. The BRVA supports and encourages a spirit of cooperation among the various groups and interests in the Village, and they are a driving force behind Village projects. They try to carry out whatever the wishes and desires expressed by members and represent the Village to other groups. Some BRVA committees related to what our group has discussed are: Land Use and Development; Beautification; the Broad Ripple Historic Home Tour. Here is their website: <http://www.discoverbroadripplevillage.com/home.cfm>.
- E. BRAP -- The Broad Ripple Alliance for Progress is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization headed by five directors. The organization takes on appropriate projects, such as the canal project (its first project) and can receive charitable gifts to carry out its purposes. Their website is under construction.
- F. GBRCC – Greater Broad Ripple Community Coalition was formed a few years ago in response to some projects undertaken by BRVA to which some members of the Village community took exception. The GBRCC has not disbanded but may take on special projects from time to time.

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

Chad Lethig had called CJ Roberts to inquire about the status of the sale of this home. CJ has not returned Chad's calls, and no one at the meeting had any current information. Chris Carlson will contact CJ.

## **3. Individual statements of purpose for the committee**

The text in the box below reflects comments made at our June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is repeated here because these sentiments were reiterated at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

June 4, 2008 -- 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 to 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

Each person present on July 2<sup>nd</sup> expressed his or her own thoughts about the purpose of the group. The scribe has tried to represent these statements as accurately as possible:

- A. Karen Brogan -- Develop a Village plan, something enforceable, to preserve the history and charm, and to keep developers from tearing up the place and leaving monstrosities.
- B. Cindy Cunningham – supported what Karen just said. Follow through with identifying and preserving important, significant, historic properties; identify them. Be involved in outreach to other like-minded groups.
- C. Sue Zilisch – become the historic preservation arm of the BRVA, Envision Broad Ripple and HARMONI. Catalogue historic residences [and businesses?]. With a documented inventory, we are in a better position to step in and see what we can do to save a property which becomes endangered. We could work with BRVA, Historic Landmarks and other groups to accomplish this. We ARE an historic area and it's time for everyone to realize that and think of ourselves as such.

Broad Ripple has been here since the 1800s and we have already lost too many of the buildings which reflect our history.

- D. Jan Guttrey – Integration of all groups under one umbrella. More interested in good, reasonable development and enforceable development guidelines.
- E. Lynn Levy – had two purposes: 1) follow through on the preservation aspect of the Village; 2) Serve as a clearing-house committee to make sure everyone knows what the other groups are doing; maintain a community calendar. If we were an umbrella group, issues and questions could be directed to the right place.
- F. Sharon Freeland – we need to avoid overlap with other groups. A narrower focus is needed for those interested in whatever the final focus turns out to be. Likes the clearinghouse idea. Feels that this group should be the place for historic property issues, for standing up for historic properties when they are endangered.
- G. JR Walsh – also likes the umbrella group idea too. We need a narrower focus; create a governing body that can enforce future development guidelines and the preservation master plan which resides under a Village designation. This would need to be done in concert with other special interest groups.
- H. Chris Carlson – This group should undertake the preservation of our unique character and charm represented by the vestiges of history which remain in the Village. Do an inventory of historic structures (evidenced by architecture or significant purpose/role in Village history); take action as needed (with assistance of other groups in the Village or the City); record the historic information of the Village in some enduring form...including the cool stuff which has already disappeared.

#### Discussion:

Sharon suggested that the BRVA is the most logical place to serve as a clearinghouse/umbrella group for all Village activities, questions, issues, events. In fact, that is already taking place to a certain extent. The BRVA is already in place and set up to do this kind of thing, has a treasury, email contacts. She suggested that our group could be a committee of the BRVA. This needs to be discussed and approved by the Board of BRVA.

The possibility was brought forward that not everyone who is currently on the committee list would agree with the statement of purpose we come up with...there may be those whose passions lie in a different direction. It was hoped that, if this were to be true, that those individuals would be able to find an activity/committee in the Village which would resonate better with their goals.

In the interests of time, it was agreed that Chris would synthesize the comments above and prepare a statement of mission and purpose which represented the majority expression of the group. That statement follows:

The purpose of the (Name of the group—TBD) is to help record and preserve the unique history, character and charm of Broad Ripple Village as evidenced by residences, businesses and other structures known to have historical and/or architectural significance relating to the history of Broad Ripple Village by:

- Identifying and cataloging structures with historical and/or architectural significance;
- Advocating and acting to prevent the unwarranted destruction of residences, businesses and other structures known to have historical and/or architectural significance;
- Promoting the preservation of such structures for the education and enjoyment of current residents, visitors and future generations;
- Supporting the efforts of other Village groups to develop a sound, enforceable plan for Village development consistent with the goals of this group;
- Cooperating, with, working with and supporting the activities of like-minded organizations in the Village;
- Taking advantage of other resources within the City to accomplish our goals;
- Documenting our findings regarding historic structures/places;

- Promoting Broad Ripple Village as an historic area and heightening public awareness of the Village's rich history

**4. Name:**

Jan suggested the acronym "POUNCE (Preserving our Unique Character and Environment)."

Chris suggested "The Committee for Historic Broad Ripple."

We ran out of time and will address this at the next meeting.

**5. Assignments/goals for next meeting**

- A. 6471 Central – Chris will contact CJ Roberts to determine status
- B. Resources: all committee members were asked to come to the next meeting with ideas of resources to help us carry out our purpose and mission.
- C. Sharon will discuss with BRVA the possibility of adding us as an official committee.

**6. Next Meeting**

JR Walsh again offered to host the next meeting

Wednesday July 16

6:30 PM

6535 Cornell -- the red caboose across from La Piedad

If weather is inclement, we will meet at Chris' house – 6330 N. Park

Agenda for next meeting could include:

Report on 6471 Central

Confirmation of mission statement

Decision on name

Acceptance by BRVA as a committee??

An agenda will be prepared for the meeting to help make the best use of our time and keep us on task. Please forward additional agenda items to Chris Carlson.

Everyone is asked to please bring refreshments to share. (thanks to those who pitched in on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and thanks to our host JR Walsh)