

Broad Ripple Conservation/ Preservation Discussion Group

Minutes of meeting on July 16, 2008. 6:30 PM

Location: 6330 N. Park Avenue (Chris Carlson's house)

Present: Cindy Cunningham, Chris Carlson, Lynn Levy, Chad Lethig, Jan Guttery

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 Guttery	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. Confirmation of mission statement/statement of purpose
2. Decision on committee name
3. Report on 6471 Central—Chris C.
4. Proposal to BRVA for acceptance as an official committee—Sharon F.
5. Resources available to help us carry out our purpose and mission
6. Identifying historic properties (tips, process, info needed) – Sue Z., Chad L.?
7. Assignments
8. Next meeting date and location

1. Confirmation of mission

A mission statement for the group began to take shape at the July 2nd meeting and a preliminary statement was distributed with the minutes from July 2. There were no suggestions for changes, additions, deletions etc. On July 16, the committee voted unanimously to approve the following mission statement along with suggested actions which will help us reach our goals:

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.

We propose to accomplish this 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

2. Decision on Committee name

The group brainstormed at the beginning and end of the meeting but put forth no final suggestion.

Brainstorming buzz words:

Maintain	Unique	Historic/History
Preserve	Significant	Architecture

The words “conserve” and “preserve” were felt to have negative connotations due to the failed Conservation District effort of several years ago and the reaction which many homeowners have: that we would tell them what they could and could not do to their homes – that they would have to get permission to use a certain color of paint, for instance.

Three possibilities are:

Committee for Maintaining Unique Broad Ripple

Committee for Historic Broad Ripple

Preserving our Unique Character and Environment (from July 2nd)

It is our hope that an appropriate name will “emerge” as we move ahead.

3. Report on 6471 Central—Chris C

Chris reported that she spoke with CJ Roberts, who owns 6471 Central, and that he was disappointed that no one wanted to purchase the property. He wasn't going to “give it away,” so he has decided to fix it up and live there himself. The group agreed that we might keep 6471 on our radar, keeping in mind the possibility of finding someone interested in purchasing it sometime in the future due to the uniqueness and charm of the property.

4. Proposal to BRVA for acceptance as an official committee

Chris reported for Sharon Freeland who was unable to attend. There are at least four good reasons for our group to become a committee of the BRVA, and Sharon would advocate on our behalf. Being a BRVA committee:

- Allows us to go to work immediately, without having to go through the time and process of organizing a separate entity.
- Gives us some instant “standing” with the neighborhood, the city and adjacent neighborhood associations.
- Provides us some of the tools necessary to enlist volunteers such as a mailing address and a phone number, a office with machines and supplies, a web site, an email service a newsletter, a bulk mail permit, etc.
- Provides us with an already existing treasury to which donors may make contributions and from which any expenses associated with the effort can be paid.

The proposal to join BRVA will be made at their August 5th meeting at Old National Bank. Chris will attend to represent the group; others are also welcome.

5. Resources available to help us carry out our purpose and mission

Chad Lethig will email a check list for conducting historic property research (Chris will forward this information to the group as soon as it is received), and he himself is an excellent resource and advisor. Also, Sue Zilisch is very knowledgeable, has lots and lots of information and willing to share and help. Sharon Freeland is also very knowledgeable on Broad Ripple history and knows where to go quickly to get information. It was agreed that she is a “whiz on the Net” ☺. Alan Hague was also mentioned as a source of historic Broad Ripple information

Chad suggested the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps as an excellent source of historic information on structures. He will forward information. He also mentioned city directories. There are other resources on his list. It was suggested that Alan Hague be asked to join our committee; Lynn Levy will ask him.

6. Identifying historic properties; collecting information

Methods of identifying structures worthy of research could include:

- something just catches your eye as you bike, walk, drive, read;
- we divide up the area block by block and look at everything that is, or used to be, there.

How to handle the information we gather would best be decided on a case by case basis. Chad cautioned us about approaching owners who might misunderstand our purposes. People do not want to feel like their privacy is being invaded, nor do we want to do anything which will upset people or lead them to believe that.

Chad will send information about the process of identifying structures. Committee members are asked to digest this info so that at our next meeting we can discuss an appropriate process for our work.

After we are more established, we could put out a general request for information which residents and business owners may have about any historic stuff; inquire about others' interest in Village history and perhaps ask about their own buildings. Maybe Alan Hague could help with this. Information could also be requested and shared at general BRVA meetings.

It was agreed that there are numerous sources for information and potentially a lot of info and photos which could be obtained. Perhaps the BRVA office would be a good place to store the information we collect.

7. Uses for the information we collect

- a. A database could be set up for cataloging and retrieving information.
- b. Findings on a specific structure or property could be shared with the owner and with Historic Landmarks. Information could be used to promote the history of the Village itself (Broad Ripple is a very historic area dating back to the early 1800s. The Polis Center website contains some very cool Broad Ripple history: <http://www.polis.iupui.edu/RUC/Neighborhoods/BroadRipple/BRNarrative.htm>)
- c. Our group could also work with the Historic Home Tour committee, sharing information and promoting each other's efforts. It was suggested that we could possibly put a blurb in the upcoming tour program about gathering information on historic Broad Ripple structures.
- d. A book could be created promoting the Village and its history from the early 1880s to today.
- e. Maybe help HLF update their Interim Report of Properties.

8. Assignments

Chad will send a research check-list, information on identifying structures and suggestions on the process. Lynn will talk to Alan Hague. Everyone will be on the look-out for cool places to discuss. Get addresses! Some possibilities from this meeting: Old Legion at 64th & College; house on E. side of College which appears in old photos; canal; Jazz Kitchen; Chelsea's; Kassebaum building; former Trophy center building.

9. Next Meeting

The committee agreed that we do not need to meet as often as we have been. Once a month would be fine – more often if needed.

August 13, 6:30 PM

Location TBA

Agenda for August 13th could include:

HLF Interim Report of Properties (designation, date, research, history) – Chad L.

Discussion of resources & processes

Decision on name

Cool structures identified by the committee

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.

If you wish, please bring refreshments to share. (thanks to Cindy, Jan and Lynn who pitched in on the 16th)