

Committee for Historic Broad Ripple
Minutes of meeting held July 8, 2009, 6 PM
Location: Old National Bank

Present: Michelle Gammon-Purvis, Chris Carlson, Sharon Freeland, Sue Zilisch, Alice Roettger, Alan Hague

Committee members:

Karen Brogan	Sharon Freeland	Chad Lethig
Molly Butters	Michelle Gammon-Purvis	Lynn Levy
Chris Carlson	Margaret Gross	Elizabeth Marshall
Bridget Carson	Alan Hague	James Michelson
	John Hague	
Mark Demerly	Tom Healy	Brenda Rising-Moore
Tom Evaniew	Diane Hitchcock	Alice Roettger
John Fager	Diane Lihota	J.R. Walsh
Rhonda Finney	Maggie McCullough	Sue Zilisch

Accuracy of these minutes

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

Agenda for July 8

- Fire Station
 - Status update/news conference – Sharon Freeland
 - Natl. Register application status – Sue Zilisch
 - Plaque for Fire Station – Sue Zilisch
- BRAP Fund for BR History—Sharon Freeland
- Abstract & title research – Chris Carlson
- Research reports
- Reassignment of Marianne Beck’s projects
- New structures to research
- Committee Growth
- Other business
- Next Meeting – August 12

1. Committee

Welcomed Michelle Gammon-Purvis to the committee; she is with Weintraut & Associates, a Public History Consulting Firm. John Hague, Alan’s father, is also interested in joining the Committee.

It was suggested that Tina Jones be invited to join the committee. Who was going to invite her?

2 Fire Station update

Sharon reported on the press conference last week: the Fire Station is not closing. Per Ryan Vaughan this is due to the considerable grass-roots efforts and many people speaking out on the subject. Nothing is confirmed about what will be at the Station, but there is talk about the possibility of a small scale engine.

Regarding our application for National Register status, Sue Z will talk with Jim Holland about concerns over photographing the inside without permission. Photos are required for NR application. It is OK to photograph the outside. But the question was raised that, since the building is a public building and people go inside, what is the problem with taking pictures? Chris will take inside (including the basement) and outside photos at her earliest convenience. The jail may have been in the basement.

Regarding asking the BRVA board for funds for an informational plaque outside the station, Sue has not yet done so. She will ask BRAP since the BRVA funds are low. Chris has spoken to Tom Bardach about doing the plaque and Bardach will provide a discount as a contribution. Chris will also speak to Alan’s father who can get us a deal on plaques. We will also need a rock to put it on.

3. Special fund within BRAP

Sharon F will check with BRAP to see if they would establish a special fund within their accounts for the Historic BR committee. This way, we would have an appropriate vehicle to receive charitable gifts to support the mission and activities of the Committee.

4. IN Humanities Council

The IN Humanities Council has grant programs for historic preservation and education. Michelle will get more information for the next Committee meeting.

5. Research tools

Chris Carlson asked Judy Weerts-Hall about old document research: titles, abstracts, all that chain of information. How can we access this information economically for our Broad Ripple history research purposes, not for title searches? Judy said that we could go to the recorder's office and physically do the research ourselves (7th floor, City County Bldg). They charge for copies but looking is free. They also have all the deeds for a specific property, no abstracts.

Judy said we could join Civic Net; there is a fee but we wouldn't have to go downtown, although the 7th floor would probably have more information. She said you can get abstracts from a title company, or go to the Washington Township assessor's office at 54th & Keystone—they have "buff cards" which list the chain of owners for a specific address.

This information pretty much verified what we already know and have already discussed in earlier committee meetings; we had hoped for some economical "tips" or secret codes or magic wands or something.

Sue Z and Alice R have access to First American Title from which we can get some of this information, including transfer of title books which are basically condensed abstracts – a records of the property changing hands.

The Indiana Historical Society has old abstracts which sometimes list family/purchaser/buyer conflicts, disputes and other odd stuff.

6. Research Reports

- a. Der Glass Werks – 61st & College, southeast corner: Chris spoke with Alan's dad who lived nearby when the building was a grocery store. It was owned by Harry Claffey who was Sharon's cousin. Chris' written report is attached to these minutes so that Alan can add to the website.

Chris also talked to the current owners, Kerry and Maryann Byrne and discovered that they have a chest full of old abstracts in the basement of the building. Chris and Alan have an appointment for Friday July 17 to investigate, inventory and photograph the abstracts. A special report will be sent to the committee.

The Byrneses are willing to donate the abstracts to the best place where they can be de-mustified and preserved.

- b. Alan has been contacted for information about Turner's Inn in Ravenswood.
- c. Alice is looking for a map of Meridian Street before the White River bridge was built and 64th Street bridge was demolished. (Alan subsequently located a map and will try to get a good image for the Committee)

Committee members are reminded to put their research findings into word documents and email them to Alan Hague (alan@broadripplegazette.com) so that the information can be gathered into one central repository for future reference. Photos and other visual information should be emailed to him as a pdf or in jpeg format.

7. Resources and other info for the website

Chris will attach the resource check-list as well as helpful info from Chad Lethig so that Alan can add to the BR history website where all committee members can access this information when needed.

Email Sharon F to get the legal description of a property which you are researching. The legal description never changes and is a vitally important piece of information in putting all your research together. Legal descriptions are

also supposedly available from Civicnet.org, but they charge \$2.04 each, or you can subscribe to CivicNet for \$50/year. You can also get from them a list of all property owners back to 1970.

Alan volunteered to locate an historic aerial photo website and share with the Committee. (He subsequently did so, and that link is now on the research resource check list which will be on the BR history website: <http://www.broadripplehistory.com/>)

It was suggested that we Google IHAPI (Indiana Historic Aerial Photo something-or-other) for scans of historic aerial photos.

8. Historic Home Tour

Sue and Alice promised to be more help after the Historic BR Home Tour in September. This is serious ramp-up time for them. It was suggested that pdfs from all the Home Tour booklets will be forwarded to Alan so they can be put on the BR Historic website. They contain lots of historic information about the homes which have been featured over the years. Sue and Alan need to talk

9. More structures to put on our research list

Committee members were asked to continue to be on the look-out for additional properties to add to our radar screen.

10. Historic Photos

Alan brought copies of his 1929 aerial photo of Broad Ripple for everyone. Chris will bring the extras to the next meeting for those who were not in attendance on July 8th. The photo is cool! Thanks to Alan.

11. Broad Ripple History Saturdays

Regarding Alan H's "History Saturdays," the group has not met in recent months. Alan will ask those individuals if they are interested in being on this Committee. They may also have a significant number of historic photos that could be shared. It was suggested that members of this committee also attend the "History Saturday" gatherings should they resume meeting.

7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 6:00 PM
Old National Bank Community Room
6135 N. College Avenue

Preliminary Agenda:

- Fire Station update: sign, photos, National Register status, other
- BRAP Fund for BR History?
- Report on old Abstracts from Der Glass Werks
- New structures to research
- Research reports
- Other business

A final agenda will be prepared for the meeting to help make the best use of our time and keep us on task. Please forward agenda items to Chris Carlson. If you wish, please bring food or drink to share.