

Committee for Historic Broad Ripple

Revised Minutes of meeting held August 12, 2009, 6 PM

Location: Old National Bank

Present: Michelle Gammon-Purvis, Chris Carlson, Sharon Freeland, Mike Freeland, Sue Zilisch, John Hague, Alan Hague, Diane Hitchcock, Kevin See

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	Brenda Rising-Moore
Mark Demerly	Tom Healy	Alice Roettger
Tom Evaniew	Diane Hitchcock	Kevin See
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 August 12

- Fire Station update: sign, photos, National Register status, other
- BRAP Fund for BR History
- Report on old Abstracts from Der Glass Werks
- IN Humanities council grant program
- New structures to research
- BR History Saturdays
- Historic Home tour
- Research reports
- Additions to the Committee
- Other business
- Next Meeting

1. Committee

Welcomed Kevin See to the committee; he has recently moved back to Indianapolis from Bloomington where he was involved with restoration & historic preservation.

It was suggested that Tina Jones be invited to join the committee. She is Parks Historian for Indy Greenways, and Sharon will ask if she'd like to join us.

2 Fire Station update

There was no update on the status of the fire station itself.

Regarding our application for National Register status, we still need photos to complete our application; photos are required for NR application. Chris was to have done that but she did not. ☹ She promised to get it done soon. Chris will take inside (including the basement) and outside photos at her earliest convenience. The jail may have been in the basement.

Regarding an informational plaque for the outside, there is a perfect spot at the base of the flagpole, but we will need a rock to put it on; Kevin See will check out a source for some rocks. Chris will prepare some specifications and get at least two competitive estimates from vendors for a cast bronze plaque. It is hoped that BRAP may assist with the expenses.

3. IN Humanities Council Grant

Michelle reported on funding guidelines. The 2009 deadlines were March 2 for a project prospectus and April 17 for the final proposal. The focus in IHC grants is on educational programs related to historic properties in Indiana, and the amount is \$2000. It was determined that our signage for the Fire Station would qualify. We would need a budget and some local cost-sharing for the project. Cost-sharing could come from BRAP, the Fire Department, individual gifts, possible vendor contributions.

For future ideas, it was suggested that grant monies could also be used to help with a brochure and a book about historic Broad Ripple.

Michelle volunteered to spearhead this effort (Yay, Michelle☺) and to obtain the most current guidelines and information for the next granting period and email that to all committee members.

4. Broad Ripple Village 175th Birthday

This will be in two years. The Committee should think about ways to help in the celebration.

5. Special fund within BRAP

Sharon F reported that we could establish a special fund within BRAP for the Historic BR committee. It would be a separate category on Quik-Books. This would allow us to have an appropriate vehicle to receive charitable gifts to support the mission and activities of the Committee. It was suggested that we think about fund raising to support the mission of the committee.

6. Old Abstracts

In talking to owners of Der Glass Werks, Chris learned that they had a chest full of old abstracts in the basement of the building. Chris, Sharon and Alan met Friday July 17 to go through 2 boxes of abstracts, most of which were for properties some distance from Broad Ripple. Those are in a box in Chris' basement. There were, however, a good handful of really pertinent, cool old papers which Alan has been scanning. There is still one at Chris' house for the Kennington Post property and she will get that to Alan for scanning.

Once all the scanning is complete, someone from the committee will take all the abstracts to the Indiana Historical Society. We should make sure that Kerry & MaryAnn Byrne receive an acknowledgment from them.

7. Research Reports

There were no new research reports.

Committee members are reminded to

- a. 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.
- b. 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.

8. The Whistle Stop & the Depot

Kevin See volunteered to take on researching the Depot and the Whistle Stop. The Whistle Stop (which was the "real" depot back in iron horse days) was mostly recently a catering/deli establishment operated by Jim Bradford. The City owns the property and is trying to sell it. The building was added onto without permission and this has caused the sale to be tied up in litigation.

Alan will let Ryan Vaughan know of our concerns about these properties: they are vital, important pieces of Broad Ripple's history, and we cannot let them fall into the hands of someone who will tear them down or otherwise abuse them.

The committee was asked to consider some appropriate uses for these buildings...something which would enhance the nature of the Village and preserve the history of the structures and BRV. Ideas: a museum, a visitors' center; BRVA offices

Helpful information might be obtained from:

The Monon Museum in Monon, Ind.: <http://www.mononconnection.com/> (Road Trip!)

The Indiana Transportation Museum in Noblesville: <http://www.itm.org/>

Diane H will contact the Madison (Ind.) Fire Station to see if they have any information which might be helpful.

9. Union Chapel Cemetery

John Hague mentioned that he is the treasurer for Union Chapel Cemetery, which “contains” a great deal of Broad Ripple history in that many of the people instrumental in the early development of the Village are buried there. The UCC should be included in any history publications pertaining to the Village.

~~The Union Chapel Cemetery was established by Alan & John Hague’s family, and Alan has all the records which may prove to be helpful in our research activities.~~

8-17-09--John Hague has provided this correction. The Cemetery website is also included in the research check list distributed some time ago:

While many generations of our family are buried in Union Chapel Cemetery, our family was not involved in the establishment of the Cemetery back in 1823. So, in the minutes, the family was given credit for something that it didn't do! Best that statement be corrected. It was Jacob Whiting who gave the ground to the community in 1823 and there is a memorial on the cemetery grounds at his gravesite that recognizes his gift.

You are correct about many Broad Ripple residents being buried in Union Chapel Cemetery. Just a walk through the Cemetery reminds one of that.

The Cemetery has an informational website at <http://www.unionchapelcemetery.com>. if you would like additional information.

10. Historic Home Tour

Sue Z is busy with Historic Home Tour stuff; the tour is next month: September 26. Sue mentioned that in doing some research, she discovered some documentation on the “Town of Wellington” which existed, in rivalry, alongside Broad Ripple for many years before the two merged. The Town of Wellington was basically the block now occupied in part by Brothers Bar and Grill. The IN Historical Society has all the old abstracts including the one pertaining to Wellington. The abstracts date from 1822 to 1977 (the last year that abstracts were prepared).

11. More structures to put on our research list

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

12. Historic Photos

Alan made copies of his 1929 aerial photo of Broad Ripple for everyone; they are \$1.00 each (please pay Alan), and there are still a few left. Chris will bring the extras to the next meeting.

13. Broad Ripple History Saturdays

It was decided that BR History Saturday members would probably not be the kind of worker-bees which we need for this committee. Alan will stay in touch with them and distill any pertinent information and historical tidbits which may be of interest to the committee and supportive of our goals.

14. Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 6:00 PM
Old National Bank Community Room
6135 N. College Avenue

Preliminary Agenda:

Fire Station photos & sign – Chris
IN Humanities council Grant – Michelle
BRV 175th birthday in 2011

Research reports
Whistle Stop & Depot

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.