

Committee for Historic Broad Ripple
 Minutes of meeting held January 12, 2011, 6 PM

REVISED

Location: Offices of the BRVA

Present: Karen Brogan, Chris Carlson, Sue Zilisch, Sharon Freeland, David Baker, Mark Dollase

Committee members:

Kathleen Blackham	Sharon Freeland	Chad Lethig
Karen Brogan	Margaret Gross	Lynn Levy
Molly Butters	Alan Hague	Elizabeth Marshall
Chris Carlson	John Hague	James Michelson
Bridget Carson	Tom Healy	Brenda Rising-Moore
Mark Demerly	Diane Hitchcock	Alice Roettger
Mark Dollase	Emily Johnston	Kevin See
Tom Evaniew	Diane Lihota	J.R. Walsh
John Fager	Maggie McCullough	Sue Zilisch
Mark Wolf	Catherine Moore	

Accuracy of these minutes

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

Committee Roster

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this committee, please contact Chris Carlson at cc5kitts@sbcglobal.net

- Special Guest from Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission** – David Baker of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission was the Committee’s special guest. He shared that the IHPC was formed in 1967 and has been serving historic preservation in Indianapolis for 44 years. The Commission meets once a month. It was noted that the Meridian Street Preservation Commission is a separate entity.

Regarding city-owned property being considered for National Register nomination, David said the law states that the government cannot object to one of their properties being nominated. Government properties are owned by the citizens.

<u>National Register</u>	<u>IHPC</u>
Honorific. Private individuals can do whatever they want if they use their own money. Grant money is available for historic preservation, but if accepted, the owner must follow certain federal guidelines. There is a historic tax credit for restoration.	Enforcement of guidelines has “teeth.”

- There are 16 Historic Districts in the city; most of these districts are on the National Register of Historic Places. IHPC can designate entire neighborhoods or individual structures or properties; that designation is recorded in the recorder’s office. IHPC reviews and approves (or not) owner’s plans for architectural changes. There is also some enforcement of efforts to protect historic properties. IHPC is trying to enlist the assistance of MIBOR so that when properties are bought and sold everyone understands that there is historical significance attached.

Indianapolis’ Historic Districts include (there are 9 others):

- New Augusta
- Cumberland
- Lockerbie Square
- Irvington
- Old Northside
- Woodruff Place
- Herron Morton Place

- The designation of Conservation District was begun in 1990. Conservation Districts are also Historic Preservation Areas under the law. The IHPC specifies ahead of time the details which will be reviewed under a

Conservation District designation; they review fewer things than under a Historic District and the guidelines are more flexible. The overall character of a district is important; the intrinsic value is in the specific details.

There were two early efforts to designate Broad Ripple as a Conservation District, but the bottom line problem was, for the most part, that people were more concerned about non-preservation issues such as land-use, parking, zoning. They were not interested in controlling design efforts and activities; they wanted to control land use. The misperceptions may have arisen from a flawed presentation of the facts. Mr. Baker commented that a Conservation District designation was/is wrong for Broad Ripple anyway. The best designation for BRV would be as a Design District.

c. Design District

IHPC can designate individual properties for a Design District. David's suggestions:

- Get the public to be aware of Broad Ripple as an old area
- Increase interest on the part of residents and business owners in the historical aspect of BRV
- Encourage businesses and other property owners to be proud of (and take good care of) their buildings.

For the local designation of a building, it should be reasonably intact and have the owner's consent. (some of this discussion centered around Peggy Taylor's, a late-1800s building for sale on the southwest corner of 64th and Guilford). The owner could do a façade easement, giving the outside of the building to an organization such as Indiana Landmarks. The covenant between private individuals would stipulate that the exterior would be maintained.

The CHBR will get more information.

d. Whistle Stop/brics

It was asked if the State Historic Preservation folks have looked at the former Whistle Stop, and it was mentioned that the City did consult with IHPC before brics renovated the building.

The Whistle Stop location has considerable historic import for Broad Ripple Village in that it was our train station before the Village was annexed to Indianapolis. While the interior of the building has been altered considerably, rendering it inappropriate for National Register consideration, IHPC could designate it as a "historic property" which would provide long-term protection from alterations or demolition. Requested structural changes would be reviewed; mostly it is no problem.

David suggested that we have a conversation with Paul Smith, real estate guy for the City, and Councilor Ryan Vaughn.

2. Fire House

- **Nomination for National Register**—Nothing new to report on the nomination.
- **Brochure** – Kathleen & Chris are working on it.
- **Firehouse celebration** in 2011 –no report.
- **Firehouse sign and boulder** – Mark Wolf, new BRVA president, offered that he might be able to get us a free boulder.

3. Kassebaum Nomination

The Committee raised \$900 for the work to begin, but we need to raise another \$900 quickly to pay the second half of our fee to Connie Zeigler for the nomination. Mark D suggested that after March 1st we could apply for another IN Landmarks grant. We could request \$900 plus funds for another structure nomination such as the post office (See # 7 below).

4. Fund Raising

Our Dec 2010 eblast to raise the second \$900 for the Kassebaum nomination resulted in only \$25. We will reword the first message and do another eblast. It was suggested that we personally appeal to all the Kassebaum tenants via USPS. Chris will contact Jeannette Kassebaum who said she would support this effort. She will ask if there are other family members who might contribute. We would get her permission to send a request to them.

5. Village Gristmill

We still need to corroborate Morris Conley's story.

6. BRVA 175th Birthday

Phil Lavoie of the BRVA Board is chairing the Association's committee to plan a 175th celebration. Karen Brogan from the CHBR had previously volunteered to be our committee's liaison to the BRVA, and she will contact Phil to help get the ball rolling. Karen has a copy of the brochure from our 150th.

7. Post Office

The Interim Report for Washington Township listed only two "Outstanding" structures in Broad Ripple: The Firehouse and the Kassebaum Building, both of which are being nominated for NR status. Mark suggested that the BR Post office would be a good choice for our next NR nomination since it is in danger of being closed. It is a huge identity landmark for the Village and the establishment of a post office figured prominently in the early history of the Village. Chris will contact Connie Z, and Karen B will talk to the branch post office person to suggest our intentions and get their support.

8. Guilford Bridge

Mark mentioned that an engineering firm is going to rehab the Guilford Bridge over the canal and someone has asked IN Landmarks for comment. The City of Indianapolis will be paying for the rehab. Mark will forward additional information along with the Broad Ripple Historic District map. He also suggested that Broad Ripple may want to have a meeting about the bridge.

9. National Preservation Conference

There will be a National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Indianapolis October 29 – November 2, 2013.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday,
February 9, 2011
6:00 PM
Broad Ripple Village Association Offices
6311 Westfield Blvd.
Corner of Westfield and Winthrop...directly north across the street from Brugge.