

Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association

Minutes for September 8, 2022

New Circle Church

- 6:35 P.M. Meeting called to order by Travis Tatlock, President
- 6:36 P.M. Review of minutes from August and approval of the minutes
- 6:37 P.M. Treasurer's Report
- Chase Account - \$2980.67
 - Prudential Account - \$7924.50
 - Final reminder that the end of September is the deadline for becoming a member in 2022 for eligibility to vote in the December 2022 election
- 6:38 P.M. 3730 Washington Blvd Variance Request - John Moore, Betsy Greene, Fred Schultz
- Betsy introduced herself along with John Moore (representation for hearing) and Fred Schultz
 - Betsy and Fred are the principal lawyers of their law firm Greene & Schultz
 - They are under contract to purchase the property on Washington Blvd
 - 1996 - building was allowed a variance of use for a real estate office
 - Paved parking area in the backyard
 - To operate as a law firm, the city requires a new variance of use that allows for this type of work, specifically office businesses
 - Betsy grew up on the northside and briefly attended Short Ridge High School
 - She has practiced law for 40 years and the law firm was established in 2005
 - The law firm sponsors a variety of community events and initiatives in the Bloomington area
 - Key sponsor for half marathon
 - Community center support
 - Legal aid and some pro bono initiatives
 - YMCA, Boys and Girls Club
 - Homeless shelter
 - Local arts
 - Goal to mainly have 1 lawyer in this new office with some support staff
 - Some plans to grow but only could support 3 lawyers and up to 5 administrative staff at this location
 - Plan to upgrade the rear entrance to be ADA compliant
 - the ramp would be located in connection to the parking lot
 - Some pictures were shown and handed out showing the property
 - The existing layout has 3 office spaces on the 1st floor and 3 offices on the second floor. A simple kitchen is also located upstairs
 - Plan to upgrade some of the offices with renovations to fit the need of the staff
 - Question asked: Do you complete pro bono work frequently?
 - Support legal aid initiatives, but do not actively accept walk-in clients for this type of services
 - Question asked: Do you plan to decorate for the holidays?
 - Not as typical for their other location, but something they would consider

- Up to this point, board has been working with Betsy and her representation to discuss some initial commitments
- The board has also engaged neighbors along Washington Blvd and surrounding blocks to understand their concerns
- Neighbor concerns continue to reflect that businesses can be absent owners and limit the opportunity to preserve some of the historic homes as residential along this block
- Most neighbors in the area have invested a significant amount to get their home back to residential, but would rather an active business than a vacant home in general
- The board will supply a letter, but will close out the request for commitments with the petitioner and the city
 - Building will not be demolished
 - Rear entrance will be made ADA compliant
 - Existing fencing and landscaping will be reasonably maintained
- The hearing for this variance will be September 13, 2022

6:52 P.M. 2803 N New Jersey St Variance Request - Center Township

- Larry Eakle, Acey Byrd, and Center Township Trustee Eugene Akers
- Acey Byrd started the presentation
- Trustee's Office has been in the process of moving their facilities from Mass Ave to the Julia Carson Government Center
- Part of this move was some of the townships vehicles which prompted the need for a garage at the government Center
- They started planning the garage earlier this year and finally got through some of the process with the city and surveying
- To build the garage, a variance of use to match with the zoning of the existing parking lot is needed
- They did talk to a neighbor about the project when some of the surveying was being completed, and they have made all the required legal notices for the BZA hearing
- The garage would be located within the parking lot
- The outside appearance would match the surrounding buildings/homes
- No bathrooms would be located on the premises
- Security/alarm systems to monitor the facility from the government center will be installed
- Storage would generally be for 1 truck and 1 jeep
 - no maintenance completed on site
- Board worked with the city staff to discuss changes needed
- Question asked: Have you considered the city staff's recommendation to move the garage location to some of the other parking lots?
 - This was not considered due to the constraints associated with security and possible requirements if the structure is further from the government center
- Question asked: Does the security system have to be wired in or can it be placed remotely further away (other parking lots)?
 - Visibility from the offices is part of the security system housed at the government center. The New Jersey St location is the most ideal for these purposes.

- Board will eventually provide a letter, but we intend to follow up with the city staff to understand possible changes and follow up with neighbors
- The next hearing for this variance request will be October 4, 2022

7:10 P.M. Cyndi Carrasco - Republican Candidate for Marion County Prosecutor

- She was planning to attend, but she was not feeling well today
- Possibly have her present at the October meeting prior to the election in November

7:11 P.M. IMPD - Officer Harrison

- This evening was the North District Task Force Meeting
- Presenter shared about arson investigations and how they use trained dogs to detect accelerants at the scene
- Next Task Force Meeting to be scheduled in the future
- Bike patrol was out from 30th to 38th Street throughout the neighborhood
 - 2 bike patrols in the last month
- Guns being left in vehicles are leading to many break-ins
 - Over 200 hand guns stolen in recent months
 - Suggest that guns be properly stored in the trunk, out of sight
- Traffic continues to be a city wide complaint
 - Recent traffic enforcement has been at 38th St, 34th and Meridian, and 34th and Penn
- Limited staffing, so follow up can be delayed or limited
 - Officers may not be able to make all community meetings
- September 22 - Active Shooter Presentation at Raphael Health Center
 - 1:00 PM, in partnership with other districts that have already shared this training presentation
- 200 cameras have been placed throughout the city
 - used for license plate reading and tracking
 - tracking is used for evidence in cases
 - data is not readily available, so must be sought for specific cases
- Some crime stats down for North District
 - burglary down
 - aggressive assaults down
 - homicides down
 - non fatal shootings down
 - robberies of delivery services is up by 18%
 - property crimes up
- IMPD is hiring
 - Need 1800 officers, but have 100s of openings
- Question asked - 33rd St and Central, heavy police presence just a weekend or so ago in the afternoon with some street closure
 - Not sure what the police response there was, but will try to follow up
- Question asked - 33rd and College, home shot up in the evening
 - Detective is assigned
 - gun shell casings collected
 - no persons injured
- Best way to report gunshots - Call 911
 - Old apps no longer active for reporting

- Shooting a gun in city limits is considered criminal recklessness if not justified by self defense under certain conditions
- 7:25 P.M. Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate
 - Running late this evening, but hope to introduce him at an upcoming meeting
- 7:26 P.M. MFCDC - In the process of strategic planning, so updates to follow
- 7:27 P.M. Friends of 38th Street and National
 - Cars and Gravy, Saturday, September 17 - 9AM to Noon
 - Authors Fair happened this evening
- 7:28 P.M. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis - Angelina Moore
 - Emmett Till & Mamie Till: Let the World See
 - Opens September 17, recommended ages 10 and up
 - Covers his personal story and legacy
 - The effect his murder had on the Civil Rights movement
 - have one of the vandalized signs (bullet holes) on display
 - Hiring many positions at the Museum
 - Reciprocal offers with your free membership
 - Fort Wayne Zoo - Ticket discount
 - Jurassic World Live at Gainbridge in December
 - Disney on Ice in January
 - Monster Jam in February
 - Mid North Promise Program - Continues to provide neighborhood specific scholarships and education support to be used at local colleges
- 7:31 P.M. Freewheelin' Bikes
 - Shop will remain open through the winter
 - Question asked - Do you need Teens to fill positions/volunteer?
 - Yes, happy to help get teens involved in the programming
 - September 17 - Donation Day for donating bikes
 - Fall B.R.A.K.E.S. Camp - October, ages 8 - 18, \$50
 - Green Apron Class opening in October also
- 7:32 P.M. MCPHD - Andy Whitley
 - filling in for Rheilyn who has moved to another position
 - hope to hire a new team leader to cover and be more permanent
 - usual report is available by census tracts
- 7:35 P.M. Marion County Prosecutor's Office - Karla Owens-Lopez
 - Community Justice Academy
 - 4 evenings in October
 - Goal to engage and educate community members
 - Topics include: Crime prevention, public safety, etc.
 - Free to join, space is limited
 - virtual and in person
 - T-shirts and certificates of completion
 - Speakers talk about various topics and their expertise

- 7:40 P.M. Other updates from the floor/Open Discussion
- StorageSpace - Art Exhibit - September 16, Friday 6 PM - 10 PM
 - 29th and Broadway Park Clean Up - scheduled for Tuesday October 11 in partnership with the Parks Department
 - Neighbor Happy Hours - Wednesdays - 6-7:30 PM, Penway St and Delaware St
 - Last day to register to vote is October 11
 - Election Day is November 8
 - Halloween - Monday, 10/31
 - Monumental Marathon - November 5
 - Prepare for street closures and traveling on that date
 - A big thanks to the lawyers and neighbors who helped spread the new mulch at Al Polin Park
 - Also a big thanks to Indy Parks for helping us coordinate and advocate for our parks
- 7:43 P.M. Call for motion to adjourn and socialize with neighbors