

Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association

Minutes for August 13, 2015

Approved

6:31 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President, Al Polin

Moment of Silence

Glad to see people here, we're trying to build a strong time. In December there will be a changing of the guard. We're going to work together and get what's right done.

6:34 pm - Minutes from the July 2015 meeting were presented and approved at with no adjustments needed.

6:36 pm - Treasury Report - Gerald Dupree

Chase checking account balance is \$6,141.06 and the Prudential account balance is \$6,371.87, \$200.62 was spent on National Night Out with a balance of \$5,988.44 remaining.

Please pay your dues. If you are 55+ your dues are only \$10.

Ryan Funk - IndyGo Update

There was an article in the IndyStar. It's the first of the line being advanced as a rapid line. Stops all along our neighborhood. The board looked at this at our meeting. We will formulate a plan regarding our feedback to formally present to IndyGo. if you have feedback, please let Ryan know. We will report back at our next monthly meeting with the feedback we have to formally present to IndyGo and we will present that at our next meeting for final feedback.

The plan is to have dedicated lanes in the middle of meridian. Sheltered bus stops would be right in the middle of the street in a median island. The transit network is getting a complete re-work. In general all the lines come from straight downtown. Yes, this would take Meridian down to 1 lane for each direction of traffic. Part of the direction, the buses will be going in the opposite direction of traffic (another reason for the median in the middle). Dedicated Left turn routes will be there which may also help traffic flow.

Central off of 38th - the number 4 will still run but every half hour.

View the plans on IndyGo's website.

VP Edna Kemp's report

- Orphan Train is book of the month, 2pm on 9-5 is the discussion at the library
- 4H program - on 9-24 meeting to sign up for the new year - at the discovery building at the fairgrounds. at 6:30PM, K-2 are Cloverbuds, 3-12 are the older kids
- Walking at 1pm on Fridays, Next Thursday as well.
- 9-19 - miracle on 34th street at Raphael community health - we'll have a table at that event from 10-2pm.
- Senior dinner - in October, 23rd on a Friday. We'll have more info with tickets and flyers to let you know about the Senior Dinner.
- Anyone interested in establishing a block club? The More organized we were the more active we'll be.
- We did pass out the Urban Times a few weeks ago. (Feedback: I really enjoy that - Urban Times, I'd like that to continue.)
 - Definitely need volunteers for deliveries, feel free to sign up at the sign-up sheet on the table.

Al - I'm hoping we can establish block clubs. We need to start getting a list of what block clubs we do have so we can start seeing who's who and what's what. Helps get people involved.

VP Chuck Madden's report.

- 314 E. 33rd St. - owned by Creative capital funding: Not sure if it's being rented or renovated. We've just been hearing that neighbors aren't sure what is going on. We asked the CDC about the property since they sold it.
- Variance request for 3236 Central: Owned by someone outside the area, but they constructed a 6' fence right against the road which is against code. We've let them know it's against code as well as why we would like for it to be taken down. He has a hearing 9-8. We are planning on opposing the variance request. The lot is what is surrounded by the fence, the 8' one in back is also in violation. "He wanted to keep trash out of his yard." Hasn't been the most cooperative.
 - Has he been fined by DCE? - yes, cited in May, June, and so on.
- James Rice - through Renew Indianapolis, 3118, 3121 homes being purchased. Taking possession in September. He will take care of those properties.
- Rain Garden by double 8 - 2 volunteers from our NA that came to clean up the rain garden with KIB. It looks much more organized now. I'd like to thank Christian Cruz and S. D. for weeding around the sign at Delaware. We plan to get mums and additional mulch to fill in that area
- 3220 Park - purchased by House of Ruth and House of Naomi for troubled women: Been vacant for a long while. They are having a set of volunteers out to clean up the property and then they plan on starting construction in September.
- Fall Creek - between Meridian and Central, road work starting next week. They will be repaving that area. Expect that to be a delay. They should have it be completed quickly.
- From Prosecutor's office - burglar Tyrell Wilson was sentenced to corrections, served, then re-arrested. His community correction sentence was revoked and he is now in jail for 5 years.
- Pending cases - murder on 3700 block in January - Romaine Durrett has been charged with the murder. His trial is October 21st. Pending case for battery with a deadly weapon. Shooting incident, pretrial conference 9-23rd. Posted on website.
- Upcoming trial for drug dealing at 30th and Wash Blvd. Cory Smith for dealing. Pretrial conference is 9-23.
- Update from Justice Academy - 9-28, four week program. You attend meetings and at the end they teach you about different types of crimes, domestic violence, how to locate people who are in trouble. Being able to recognize things and to look out for things. It's good to attend if you're interested. The first session is on mental illness how to recognize and how to help get assistance.
- The prosecutor's office and others have thanked us for having a very successful NNO.

AI - We need neighborhood support to stand up and say "no" at some of those hearing, and at some of the property owners that aren't doing things to improve the neighborhood. Just to put up that kind of fence due to trash--they can still throw up.

Q: If we don't show up to oppose is there things he can do to keep it?

A: No. Other than keeping paying the fines, but he'd go broke.

We've let him know he's not done himself any favors by being so belligerent. I did ask him if he is a registered landlord and from what I can gather he is not.

You can start a petition and get signatures, you can present that on MFCNA letterhead.

Address - 3236, you can't miss it if you drive down Central.

So far the filling station is on hold at 32nd and Central. The NA and CDC worked together and so far it seems like it's not going to happen. We need to continue to stop people from disrespecting their neighbors.

We'll pass around a paper to sign against the fence and attach it to a letter.

Chuck is working on abandoning housing and things of that nature. IF you have a block club, they can identify the abandoned houses in your area and we can build consistency against the bad that is happening in our community.

Q: If you have a vacant property on the block, what's the best thing we can do to get everyone to work together?

A: It depends on the status and who owns it.

This property is 41 E. 37th street and has been vacant over 1 year. A realtor in Carmel owns it but hasn't done anything with it. We tried connecting it. - We'll have chuck help. The person that owns it says they were going to try to renovate and flip it. They still haven't done so. They probably don't have real intent to do so unless they find cash. When we offered to buy it. They said it was for 100k+ for a piece of crap.

The neighbor has been cutting the grass. We've told him to stop so we can have them cited.

A property owner that maintains an empty property they have no reason to move it along. If they continuously get motivated by being fined for grass and property issues (break-ins and squatters).

It's boarded up. It's an eyesore.

That's a DCD problem.

If they're keeping the grass cut and keeping it boarded and taking care of it - there is little that can be done. Don't let the neighbor cut the grass, make it costly. It becomes an incentive.

If there are problems, we can send a letterhead letter to the owner.

Guest Updates

IMPD/Block Clubs - Stats for last month, 77 incidents. Good with burglaries, very low. Only 7. 4 robberies (with a weapon) 12 battery incidents reported. Continue to report, that is what helps us solve the problems.

We hear so much information each week. We go to so many meetings. They just exchange information. The level of info being reported is here and things are being done. Involvement has a lot to do with the success of a community. We are all invested in our communities, whatever we do directly affects us. Don't let the same people do all the work all the time. We should care a little more about our communities. It's in the best interest of the community - help your neighbor.

AI - We need to zone off some areas from these incidents and focus in some block clubs in those areas.

We definitely need to show the kids we care. The trouble kids feel like they don't belong. We need them to see this as their community.

CDC - Facade grants on 38th and Illinois, should be complete in 2-3 weeks. Housing, the house on 3305 Ruckle, 611 E 30th and 3020 Ruckle are on the market. Monon bridge over 38th street and access trails the city has agreed to take those on and get those done. Events - Celebration Fall Creek Oct. 23

Streamlines Project - The base is poured it will have a mirror that will radiate out. It should be there for a couple years. Educational art. I plan on being out there on a regular basis to help show people how it is to be used. The next step for me is to develop programs that help improve our outreach for the streamlines project and bring people to the art. We will have Q & A's about how art and science teach us about the world. We had a couple test conversations. It

was very interesting. The next one at College Ave. may not be until June. But we will 14, 15 Dec. in Fountain Square. We're going to try bouncing around to the different branches around the waterways. We're also talking w/ the CM about getting projections of the dances out and bring the performances. I should have more solidified next month. If you have any ideas, I'd love to hear them.

Owner of 3236 Central - in regards to tall fence

Reason I put my fence up was because people were throwing trash in my lot. They would park cars on my lot. When they sold me that lot that house was meant for demolition. I have sunk a lot of money in that property. I want to protect that lot. That is why that fence is that high. The other fence is an architectural fence. That fence has been there since Vietnam - that fence hasn't bothered anyone until now. I didn't want to put up a wooden fence at first, but that was all I could afford at the time. Once the fence went up, the trash stopped.

The Neighborhood Association is more against that wooden fence. The issue is once they call the code people out.

NA: Is there another solution for keeping the trash out.

Owner: I don't see that there is a solution. Even short of putting a camera there.

NA: Nobody wants that problem, I think people would love to help find a solution for you.

O: I don't see the problem with the fence.

NA: I could give examples too, but I'd like to know, the house was supposed to be demolished?

O: No the house has been completely remodeled, it looks like a brand new home. I want to rent it to people who aren't wealthy

NA: An example - when I moved into my home there was a vacant property next to us and it was used as a walkthrough. It was high of weeds. We filled two huge garbage things with trash. People eventually stopped when they realized it wasn't empty.

NA2: I don't know, I've been here for 10 years and I still deal with illegal dumping

NA: It's good that you have repaired the house. The fence is the issue, it's right against the street, you're limited to 42" not a 6' fence.

We should continue to work with homeowner to find a possible solution.

Board Position Open - Nate Rush

If we have a candidate eligible, paid member, living in the neighborhood, then we'll take an application for a board slot. This is one of the few boards I've been on that stays full. We want to keep that going. If you're interested and you live in the neighborhood see me afterwards. We'll take it back to the board meeting and then at the next association meeting we'll have a vote.

7:38 - Adjourn & Fellowship