

Herron-Morton Place Association
General Membership Meeting August 5, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tiffany Benedict Berkson, Becky Ruby, John Mays, Jason Hummel, Tom Stark, Larry Gregerson, Kellie Helfenbien, Scott Pratt

Not Present: Jennifer Jones- excused

- I. Welcome/Introductions- Meeting was called to order by President Berkson at 7 PM.
- II. Approval of the Minutes- June 4, 2007. Motion to approve by Kellie Helfenbien, seconded by Jason Hummel. Motion carried, no abstentions or oppositions.
- III. Reports
 - a. Health and Hospital- Jason Abbitt- written report available on request. Tom Stark noted a property on NJ that has followed mowing orders to front and back, but not side. Jason will follow up. Tom Forman noted that the lawn at 1639 N. Delaware has not been done despite calls to the realtor. Tiffany asked about the status to 1601 N. Delaware. Jason will know more Thursday after hearing. The case will stay open until the project is done.
 - b. IMPD- Officer Chip Youmans attended the meeting to answer resident questions. Doug (2026 N. NJ) asked about any suspects following the Gleanors incident. Officer Youmans noted that there are 5 suspects being identified. Kellie Helfenbien asked about the trend of stealing copper and what neighbors can do. Officer Youmans noted that being aware that it is a growing trend and putting motion alarms or fences have helped. Kellie also asked about the places purchasing the metal, and it was noted that they have been informed, but like pawnshops need to continue to do business. John Mays asked about the number of reported neighborhood incidents where people are being picked up for crime, but then not taken into custody. Officer noted that the procedure is that if they don't have victim, there is no way to process it. Larry Gregerson questioned that if something seems abandoned, suspects are going to be just let go? Officer noted that they have to be able to prosecute to justify it, and there wouldn't be space in jail if we did that. John Mays questioned what happened when we call to report crimes, but then nothing happens to that person? Officer- Response time is based on priority. John Mays noted that it is frustrating to see people break into cars, and then be allowed to walk away. Officer noted that lots of the people are repeat offenders, locked up one day and re-committing crime the next. Becky Ruby asked if there are ways to track names or if we are paying attention when the same person is picked up multiple times in one week. Officer noted that names are taken and neighbors need to get involved. They can help prosecute if needed. John Mays asked, if photos are taken and posted on the listserv, is that illegal? Officer said no, if you watch someone commit a crime and report it, it is not illegal. Scott Pratt noted that the idea that all vacant houses are "abandoned" is not true- just a perception- why are we not trying to track down the owners? Officer noted that if there is something apparent- like a realtor sign out front- they try. Otherwise, they do not. There is no database for this. They cannot devote the time to try to track it down when there are other priorities. Fr. Stevan noted that, in the past, neighbors helped to create a database of offenders in the neighborhood and report on them to police. Rob Helfenbien suggested we find a way to connect police reports to the owners on record. Another neighbor suggested using the Indy Star database of all our property tax records to assist. Officer Youmans noted that this is a short-term solution- long term, get uninvolved neighbors to fix up their properties or sell them to those who will or bulldoze them down. Tiffany Berkson asked how large his police beat is now. With the merger, Officer Youmans notes that his beat is now twice the size and he no longer has the partner he used to have. The 100 new officers will help, but will pretty much just cover attrition. Larry Gregerson noted 72 will retire/leave force this year as already planned. Tom Forman noted that the presence of speed traps last week was excellent and suggested stop sign on Alabama as another good place to get tickets written. Julie Brooks asked about creative solutions that other neighborhoods are doing such as an "I'm a neighbor" car tag, etc to identify cars that are non-hmp cars. Officer Youmans noted that an address/phone book of all neighbors helped. Gloria O'Shell noted that we could use the property assessment for this. Tiffany asked about our former liaison who used to bring a summary of cases. We can now get this by calling 327-6200 and requesting it from Annie Kerns. John Mays asked if he will be attending meetings regularly and thanked him for coming. Jane Root noted that her block has organized their crime watch task force and that other neighbors can do so. Call Mark Swartz if you are interested. Julie Brooks asked if we could brainstorm solutions to problems. Tiffany requested that we shelve brainstorming to another meeting due to length of agenda and suggested the Crime Watch committee as the appropriate place to do so. Tom Stark noted that the block captains do a lot of this also. Julie Brooks noted that they have used Castlewall- new security system- on their property and has been working out even with the demands of construction. Highly recommended it. Tom Forman noted that our former liaison recommended putting alarm system stickers and signs up as well. Julie noted that if there are less opportunities in neighborhood, they will go away. Jonathan Chumley noted that neighbors should watch for lights in alleys and consider adopting one for about \$7 per month extra. IPL will come out and place one for you for free. Scott Pratt noted that there are no other costs aside from the monthly fee. Jane Root noted that police asked to put house numbers on garages to find people/reference points in alleys more easily.
- IV. Committee Reports/ Board Liaisons
 - a. Membership- Yvonne French- 99 members YTD.
 - b. Art Fair- Terry Prentowski- not present, no report
 - c. Publicity- Carole Veatch- not present. Tiffany noted to watch for new neighbor party info.
 - d. Newsletter- deadline is Wednesday for next issue. Need a new editor! John Mays thanked Julie Brooks and Jill Henry for volunteering to deliver.
 - e. Becky Ruby- cleanup and beautification on behalf of Russ Newton- announced possible grant opportunity from KIB. Neighbors who might be interested in trees near their houses or would like to help get trees for the neighborhood should contact Russ or Becky.
 - f. Land Use- Jonathan Chumley

- i. Sherri DeCoursey- 18th & Penn. Sherri is a volunteer representing Little Red Door Cancer Agency and the Indiana Canine Assistance Network. The vacant lot owned by these groups at 18th and Penn would be turned into a green area under this proposal for staff, dogs, and patients receiving services. Several sponsors have agreed to in-kind donations. Looking for others to help build wheelchair ramps, etc. Went through city permit process and working with IHPC. John Mays- sounds good. Will it be surrounded by fence? Sherri- yes, and would like to replace it with a non-chain-link if possible and if someone donates. Also submitting a KIB grant. John Mays- design? Design was circulated. Some things may change depending on who wants to donate what. Jonathan Chumley- is there any way that a gate system or something could be developed so that it is more civic-friendly for more people to use? Sherri- not her call, but she will bring it back to her groups. Jonathan- if there is enough interest from neighbors, might be able to do something. Tiffany- can send out a list of their needs if Sherri gets it to her.
- ii. Other- Jonathan Chumley. Land Use committee has seen plans for 2 new homes on Central. Designs were reviewed and changes made. IHPC will review. ReDev also made a July proposal in the 1600 block of New Jersey that was approved.

Parking lot: Tiffany spoke to Carlos from the development group- understanding that Land Use hasn't seen plans yet? The contractor plans to have something to show at the Sept 10 general association meeting. Tom Forman asked for clarification of the issue. Tiffany noted that the building has collapsed, had to be demolished. Now proposed to be a parking lot for Walsingham to help them further their development. Important for land use and Association to review. Tom Forman represented the association at IHPC. A Certificate of Authorization (not Appropriateness) was approved for parking lot with stipulation that design has to be approved by neighborhood. Big question was that the parking lot is not adjacent to the building it supports. Jonathan noted that to get a COA (appropriateness) HMPA must indicate support to IHPC. Also, note that the financial decision to sell the lot has implications for the Foundation- other 2 bldgs need to be saved. Tiffany summarized that the Board submitted a letter supporting the Land Use being able to review. Come to the next general meeting to comment on the design. John Mays asked how parking lot inhibits other buildings. Jonathan Chumley noted that when MDG purchases land from fdn (to build lot), the money they'll get will help match a challenge grant to fix other properties. John asked if approval was needed to be allowed to sell the lot, which it is not. The plot of land will remain under covenant. Work really should start on the buildings by winter to be able to save them. Tom Forman asked if moving up the neighbor approval would help get funding faster. Jonathan Chumley noted that the purchase agreement has the clause that the COA (authorization) must be approved. The contractor could not be here today but if the association can send back to land use, will help. Tom Forman moved that the discussion be moved to the land use committee who will bring recommendations to the Sept 10 meeting. Jason Hummel seconded. Motion carried, no abstentions, no opposition.

- g. Treasurer- Kellie Helfenbien presented a total profit and loss detail sheet, available on request. She showed 105 paid members and will work with Yvonne to compare their sheets. Gloria O' Shell and a couple others noted that their names were not on the sheet correctly. Please let Kellie know if yours was not correct. The next fiscal year starts in September. Kellie share the 06-07 budget and actual numbers as well as the 07-08 proposed budget and took comments. Jonathan asked if contingency fund was used this year- no. Gloria asked if the property tax increase was reflected in the HMP lots tax budget. Kellie checked the bill as we need to anticipate considerable increase. After checking, the amount was upped to reflect possible increases. Jason Hummel moved to approve as presented. Larry Gregerson seconded. Motion carried, no abstentions or oppositions.

V. Other Organizations

- a. Footlite Musicans- Ben Fronczek. Tiffany noted that this is a wonderful neighborhood offering. Ben shared a powerpoint presentation that included some of the history as well as planned repairs and upgrades, which may include residential units at some point. Noted that they are thinking about doing a musical movie series, possibly collaborating with neighborhood to do outside. They are also seeking members who help dictate the shows, etc. and invited all neighbors to consider becoming members at \$25. Tom Forman moved that the neighborhood association become a member. Larry Gregerson seconded. Motion carried, no opposition, no abstention.
- b. Herron-Morton Place Foundation- Jonathan Chumley- plan to finish the park but it has been a tough year for new plants. More planting to be done in fall is in the works, as well as a plan to fill in the holes with some kind of affixed stone until plaques can be done. Working also on recognizing contributors including board, volunteers, etc and thanked all those who gave time and effort to neighborhood. In particular, thanked Dan Wheeler for 5 years of service as treasurer and Jane Root for writing articles. Noted that HUNI held a Property Tax 101 presentation awhile ago that was very good, may consider getting speaker.

VI. New Business

- a. Julie Brooks moved to raise dues to \$10. John Mays seconded. Gloria O'Shell noted that per by laws all people must be dues-paying members to vote and also to vote on the raise, which would have to take place after the next financial year starts in order to give enough notice time. Tiffany will put a notice in the Urban Times for a vote in October.
- b. Board nominations- 5 spots will be up for election at the next meeting. Contact Tiffany if you are interested.
- c. National Night Out is scheduled- anyone interested in meeting new neighbors can attend a gathering in Kennedy King Park

Larry Gregerson moved to adjourn. Gloria O'Shell seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.