

**Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association**  
Board of Directors Meeting – August 11, 2011  
Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

The Board of Directors of the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association met pursuant to notice at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205, on Thursday, August 11, 2011. President Judy Goldstein called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum.

**Attendance:**

Judy Goldstein	Molly Seidel
Nick Colby	Ed Potts
Mary Owens	Sarah Larkin
Matt Albaugh	Alex Jimenez
Abi Dickerson	Beth Deane
Meghan Martin	Barb Finnegan
Jim Garrettson	Joyce Moore
Jerrey Finnegan	Eric Atlas
Waldine Anderson	Tony Artis
Danielle Esmits	Sarah Barclay
Grant Smith	Marie Arias

**Also present:**

Caroline Farrar, MKNA Executive Director  
Angel Rivera, City-County Council  
Officer Lindsey Terry, IMPD  
Mark Warner, Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison  
Robert Reed, Marion County Prosecutor's Office  
Diana Vanarsdall, Marion County 911

**Board Members absent:**

Frank Alan	Reinhard Pollach (excused)
Jennifer Briggs	Susie Hacker (excused)
Jeff Rodgers (excused)	Sean Stepp
Polly Spiegel (excused)	

**II. Introductory remarks of President and Guest Presentations**

Judy Goldstein welcomed the Directors to today's meeting and noted it was a full agenda. The meeting began with remarks from five guests:

A. Officer Lindsey Terry

Officer Terry gave the Board an overview of recent crime statistics in the neighborhood and detailed some specific crime instances. She also circulated a picture of Lawrence Spearman and asked the Board to keep an eye out for him. Officer Terry encouraged Board member to send her any and all information about crime in the neighborhood.

B. Robert Reel

Mr. Reel provided the Board with details about the Community Justice Academy. Mr. Reel encouraged Board members to email him (robert.reel@indy.gov) if they have interest in attending. Mr. Reel also encouraged Board members to email him with graffiti complaints or complaints about vacant property.

C. Mark Warner

Mr. Warner commented that more construction and projects were on their way. Mr. Warner also provided details about an iPhone application (RequestIndy) that serves as an alternative to the Mayor's Action Center (327-4MAC).

D. Diana Vanarsdall

Ms. Vanarsdall solicited the Board for any questions or complaints about the 911 service. Ms. Vanarsdall encouraged the Board to report any known instances in which children are in trouble.

E. Councilman Rivera

Councilman Rivera discussed the city's Special Events Ordinance and fielded numerous questions from Board members. Discussion was also had regarding the city's banner ordinance and its impact on MKNA and ordinances regarding food trucks and vendors. Councilman Rivera encouraged Board members to call his cell phone (331-5915) if other questions or problems arose.

**III. Consent Agenda**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the July 14, 2011 meeting of the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association Board of Directors were approved as distributed, with the addition of a notation that the Board supported the Land Use Committee's actions regarding 664 East 42nd Street (Petition #2011-UV2-011) – Masonic Lodge Building.

#### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

Susie Hacker was unable to attend the Board meeting, so no Treasurer's Report was made.

#### **V. Land Use Committee Report**

Land Use Committee chair Mary Owens discussed the cases considered by the Committee this month:

##### **653 East 52<sup>nd</sup> St., 5170 N. College Ave. (Petition #2011-DV1-026) – Garuda Restaurant**

Garuda Restaurant LLC filed a variance of development standards to allow for the construction of a 28-seat 288.02 sq. ft. outdoor seating area (not permitted) along 52<sup>nd</sup> St. with a zero-ft. front setback (minimum 10 ft. front setback required) located 7.17 feet within the right-of-way of 52<sup>nd</sup> St. (not permitted), with zero off-street parking places (off-street parking places required) and to legally establish a dumpster enclosure and provide for outdoor seating within the 10 ft. west transitional yard (not permitted) within the clear sight triangle (not permitted).

MKNA filed an automatic continuance to move the case to the September 6 hearing date.

The land use committee recommends approval based on the neighbors' consent and with the following suggestions: (1) Ask the landlord to consider moving the existing dumpster to a different location and consolidate the dumpsters (and trash removal schedule) with Taste and The Red Key. (2) Remove one table and screen the outdoor dining area from the handicap parking space with a wooden fence and plantings. (3) Petition DPW to repave the alley west of College Ave. (north and south of 52<sup>nd</sup> St.) and provide better street lighting to encourage residents to access garages off the alley. This will free up more on-street parking for patrons and improve safety. The residents also suggested we work with DPW to recommend on-street parking on only one side of Broadway. We will schedule a meeting with the residents on Broadway to discuss this possibility.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the Land Use Committee's recommendation.

##### **5344 N. Pennsylvania St. (Petition #2011-DV1-027) - Tom Henry Residence**

Variance of development standards to provide for the construction of a 8x8 foot hot tub with a 3.5 ft. north side setback and a four-foot rear setback (minimum seven-ft. side setback and five-ft. rear setback required), and a 300 sq. ft. stone

deck with a two-ft. north side setback, resulting in a six-ft. aggregate side setback and a zero-ft. rear setback (minimum seven-ft. side setback, 19-ft. side aggregate, five--ft. rear setback required).

The land use committee recommends approval based on the historic development plan established with neighboring garages all established within required setbacks and all neighbors are supportive.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the Land Use Committee's recommendation.

An update and report was also given regarding two other properties:

**664 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (Petition #2011-UV2-011) – Masonic Lodge Building**

The land use committee **recommended approval** of this variance with attached conditions and the MKNA board voted its support at its July board meeting. The Board of Zoning Appeals approved the petition on July 12, 2011.

**3802-3820 N. College Ave., 638 – 650 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St. (Petition #2011-ZON-035)**  
**The Rose Building, Revol, former Hollywood Video**

The land use committee **recommended denial** of this petition to rezone the property without a development plan. The committee stated its desire to continue to work with the owner to discuss compatible uses and future development strategy. The committee would also reconsider this petition if a specific development plan was forthcoming. The MKNA board upheld the land use committee recommendation and this petition was denied before the Hearing Examiner on July 28.

A report and update was also given regarding the current status of Calle 52 (status of variance and liquor license) and The Sinking Ship (liquor license).

**VI. Committee Reports & Action Items**

Zone 2 Board Member Joyce Moore presented an oral report regarding activities, crime and certain property updates for Zone 2.

**VII. New Business**

The Board nominated individuals for the Board's two open Executive Committee positions. Following votes, the Board elected Jim Garrettson and Barb Finnegan to positions on the Executive Committee.

Discussion was had regarding the "Sign On To The Neighborhood" materials prepared by Polly Spiegel. Various Board members provided their input on ways to obtain increased connectivity between MKNA and neighborhood residents. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to table this motion pending further discussion.

Discussion was had regarding a draft letter to the city regarding MKNA's support for a catalyst project at the 49<sup>th</sup> Street/College Avenue intersection. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the letter.

Discussion was had regarding informal requests to Meridian-Kessler Neighbors Helping Neighbors (MKNHN) to change its name due to the actual confusion this entity is causing with neighborhood residents and businesses.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association will be September 8, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.