

Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting – November 10, 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. 52nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205, on Thursday, November 13, 2011. The president called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum.

II. Introductory remarks and guest presentations

Judy Goldstein welcomed the board to today's meeting. The meeting began with remarks from two guests:

A. Prosecutor Terry Curry

Present with Prosecutor Curry were Annie Kern (community prosecutor unit, outreach coordinator) (annie.kern@indy.gov) (outreach coordinator) and Rob Reel (prosecutor, northside district). Prosecutor Curry indicated that he wants the community prosecutor unit to be more aggressive about reaching out to neighborhood organizations, faith-based organizations and others.

Prosecutor Curry believes strongly in community policing and prosecuting. He is working directly with district police officers to follow cases through from arrest to sentencing. He is seeking to identify unique issues associated with Indianapolis's neighborhoods.

Educational programs – He is seeking "proactive prevention." These program are available to the public, and he encourages everyone's attendance. For instance, he discussed educational programs focused on better use of lighting and landscaping, and children's program that educate children about gun violence. Cyber-safe. Prosecutory Curry addressed cyberbullying and misuse of cyberspace, and he said there is an explosive demand for this program. This program is targeted at 5-8th grades. Those interested should contact the prosecutor's office to schedule the presentation. Prosecutor Curry also discussed CASE – Communities Against Senior Exploitation, which is designed to educated seniors about avoiding financial fraud.

Prosecutory Curry noted that gun/gang violence is a priority in his office. There are now 3 fulltime prosecutors at adult gang level and 1 prosecutor in the juvenile division. His office is pursuing coordination between US Attorney's office and local prosecutor's office.

His office recently charged and arrested an entire 20-person gang, utilizing the criminal racketeering statute. Prosecutor Curry detailed various recent instances involving drug busts and successes. For instances of major landlord violations and issues, Prosecutor Curry stated that MKNA residents should call Charles Wheeler at 327-1406. The best thing we can do to improve safety in neighborhood is to contact Prosecutor's Office.

B. Annie Kern

Annie Kern (contact information above) can direct MKNA residents to the right person in the Prosecutor's Office. Just explain your issue to her and she will put you in touch with correct office or person.

C. Robert Reel (Northside District Prosecutor's Office)

Mr. Reel discussed graffiti and how to rehabilitate. On public property, call the Mayor's Action Center. He also discussed recent crimes, including vehicle larcenies and thefts at Broad Ripple grocery store.

D. Office Terri Lindsey, IMPD

No information yet on Broad Ripple thefts involving violence. There are stepped up patrols in Broad Ripple. Be smart and travel in pairs at night. Officer Lindsey handed out crime prevention bulletin for incidents in neighborhood. Officer Lindsey handed out listing sex offenders within mile radius of neighborhood. She is encouraging neighbors to visit sex-offender website to check on who is in the neighborhood.

E. Kelly Bentley (former IPS board member)

Kelly Bentley is a former MK resident and form IPS School Board member, a position she held for 12 years. As Ms. Bentley discussed, after crime, education is the next biggest issue for the MK neighborhood. Discussed "Stand for Children" – MKNA must think about what it wants and how to go about getting it. Discussion followed of various school options and how best to make neighborhood's feelings/thoughts for change known to IPS.

III. Consent Agenda

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the (1) minutes of the October 13, 2011 meeting of the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, and (2) the reports of the Executive Director, Committee heads and Zone delegates were approved as distributed.

IV. Land Use Report

5610-5614 North Broadway; 56th/Broadway Church – Property owner seeks to maintain sanctuary for training/services and re-zone parsonage from special use to residential in order to sell that portion of the property. The Land Use Committee recommends support for the proposed re-zoning. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the Land Use Committee's recommendation.

4412 Central Ave. (garage) – Property owner seeks to replace existing garage and add on to it to the East, while maintaining the existing setback. All neighbors are supportive of this proposal. The Land Use Committee recommends approval. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the Land Use Committee's recommendation.

V. Committee Reports & Action Items

All-Neighborhood Meeting Committee: The December 1, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., all-neighborhood meeting will be held at Developer Town (53rd & Winthrop) to discuss the new Meridian-Kessler neighborhood plan and new form-based code. Significant feedback from all residents of the neighborhood will be sought. The December 1, 2011 all-neighborhood meeting will be the start of this process. DPW will discuss infrastructure issues and projects.

Zone Delegate Committee: Update on Clipboard Campaign; all board members requested to attend. Script supplied, along with leaflet and background on new zoning plan, the background of which is included in the most recent MKNA newsletter.

VI. New Business

Resignation: Board member Polly Spiegel submitted her resignation letter. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved their resignations.

Nomination: Jerry Finnegan, nominated as Infrastructure Committee chair. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved Jerry Finnegan as Infrastructure Committee Chair.

December meeting: Motion made to cancel December MKNA board meeting and requesting board attendance at all-neighborhood meeting instead. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the cancellation of the MKNA's December Board meeting.

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 January 12, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E. 52nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.