

**Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association**  
Board of Directors Meeting – October 13, 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, October 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. Officer Steve Griffith

Officer Griffith appeared and offered to answer questions. Officer Griffith brought updated crime statistics for the area since September 2011.

B. Mark Warner, Mayor's Liaison

Mr. Warner provided an update on RebuildIndy projects, with statistics regarding re-paving, sidewalks, traffic signals, etc. Mr. Warner stated that construction-related projects are expected to be finished by November 1, 2011. There is an educational pamphlet out regarding bike lane safety, which will be sent to board leadership. Safety education for both cyclists and drivers is important. DPW is also sending out leaf-disposal rules, information about which will also be circulated. Leaf pick-up begins Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and runs through Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (40 bag max/per week).

Questions were raised regarding alley construction projects, and requests were made to do more than simply fill in potholes. Mr. Warner stated that alleys are not "on the tax rolls" so they are not priority projects (part of "phase 2"). Issues were also raised regarding sewage and run-off from alleys, including a discussion of the type of material used to repave the alleyways.

The board also discussed the demolition of abandoned buildings in MKNA. Mr. Warner stated that 8 homes in MKNA were targeted for demolition. Mr. Warner stated that no demolition of any home in MKNA would occur without first consulting the neighborhood.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the (1) minutes of the September 8, 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. Treasurer's Report**

The board discussed MKNA's current accounting and bill-payment system. The board discussed Quickbooks and transitioning accounting and bill-payment onto that platform. Quickbooks would provide increased reporting functionality and allow greater transparency into the association's finances. The costs associated with this platform will be covered by the MKNA office budget, and office staff hours will be re-devoted to other neighborhood responsibilities. A motion was made and seconded to approve implementation of Quickbooks as MKNA's accounting system (for less than \$1,000/year -- \$50/month, plus approximately \$200-\$300 initial set-up). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **V. Committee Reports & Action Items**

All-Neighborhood Meeting Committee: The December 1, 2011 all-neighborhood meeting will be held at Developer Town (53<sup>rd</sup> & Winthrop) to discuss the new Meridian-Kessler neighborhood plan. MKNA's current neighborhood plan is 30 years old and out of date. A planning committee has met preliminarily to discuss ideas for the new plan. Development of the new neighborhood plan will likely be a 2-year process, with the culmination being a plan the board considers and approves and which will be approved by the City-Council. 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.

Marketing Committee: The board discussed at length the neighborhood's current membership database and means of communication with neighbors. The board discussed a proposed new, cloud-based platform for managing neighborhood data, reporting, and list generation (as proposed in the MKNA Database Presentation circulated to board members). A detailed discussion followed about the pro's and con's of the project, including cost, time and devotion of resources. Following an exhaustive discussion by the board, the board recommended that the Marketing Committee go forward with developing system requirements, exploring funding sources and devising next steps. The various MKNA committees are to meet and create a list of specific requirements needed in this database, and report those needs to the Marketing Committee.

Zone Delegate Committee: A board discussion occurred regarding a clipboard campaign to go door-to-door around the neighborhood seeking neighbors to "Sign on to the Neighborhood." A board discussion followed, wherein it was agreed that the board members and volunteers conducting the clipboard campaign should only seek name and email information, and not directly solicit for MKNA membership or renewal. Trial runs in certain portions of the neighborhood will be conducted to determine time commitments and results.

## **VI. New Business**

Safe route to school: The board discussed an organization seeking to promote, design and encourage safe walking and biking routes for neighborhood children going to and returning from schools, including projects seeking to improve safety at busy intersections like 49<sup>th</sup>/Pennsylvania in the neighborhood. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved its support for this organization.

Resignations: Board members Sarah Larkin, Ed Potts, and Joyce Moore submitted their resignation letters due to family issues and other time constraints. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved their resignations.

Agenda & Minutes: The board discussed publishing the Board's agenda, meeting minutes and reports online. A motion was made to publish the Board's agenda (prior to meetings) and minutes (after approval by board) to the [www.mkna.org](http://www.mkna.org) website. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the motion.

Economic Development District: The board discussed giving its approval to the City's proposed Economic Development district for the North Midtown area. A detailed discussion followed regarding the details of the plan and anticipated next steps by the City, including what input the neighborhood would have on future plans. A motion was made to approve North Midtown Economic Development district plan, with the caveat that MKNA expects to have input and to be able to give its feedback in the future as further details about the district are devised. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the motion.

Board members and MKNA residents are encouraged to attend the November 9, 2011 City-Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in room 260 of City-County building. The City-Council will again consider the proposed Economic Development district at that time. It is important for MKNA to have a presence at this meeting and to make the neighborhood's voices heard.

## **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 November 10, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.