

Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting – September 8, 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, August 11, 2011. President Judy Goldstein called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum.

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 three 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. Officer Terry reported that a man with a history of scams was back in the neighborhood. The MKNA executive director had previously circulated information about this person to Board members. Officer Terry reported that break-ins are down in the neighborhood. Officer Terry also reported that IMPD was saturating the neighborhood with officers recently, including on the Monon Trail and on the Southeast corner of the neighborhood.

B. Mark Warner

Mr. Warner discussed RebuildIndy projects and future projects. Mr. Warner reported that the Mayor's Action Center (327-4MAC) is still number to call about water/sewage issues, even though the City's water deal has been completed. Mr. Warner also reported that the City is working on a list of abandoned houses that are to be demolished. He reported that the list will be finished in the next 2-3 days. An estimated 2,200 homes are to be demolished in Marion County out of a total estimated 13,000 abandoned homes in city. Mr. Warner reported that the City has obtained court orders on some demolitions, and approximately 25% are city-owned. If a resident wishes to report an abandoned home, please call 327-4MAC to report the home. Mr. Warner also reported that there is an effort to rehabilitate some of the homes. Mr. Warner did not know how many homes to be demolished are in MKNA, but he believes the list is available on the www.indy.gov website. Mr. Warner stated that he would send the list of homes to be demolished to MKNA leadership.

C. Jeff Schulz

Mr. Schulz is a representative of Faris Printing, the printer of the MKNA newsletter. There was a discussion of new mailing protocols and the recent booklet mailing. Mr. Schulz reported that the USPS mailed the most recent newsletter very quickly. There was also a discussion of updated mailing lists and efforts fix newsletter delivery problems.

III. Consent Agenda

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the (1) minutes of the August 11, 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 MKNA Board treasurer was unable to attend the Board meeting, so no Treasurer's Report was made.

V. Land Use Committee Report

There were no new land use topics to address, so no Land Use Committee report was made.

VI. Committee Reports & Action Items

Marketing Committee/Zone Delgates: The Board discussed the "Sign on to the Neighborhood" initiative, the purpose of which is to solicit input from MKNA residents regarding the City's new zoning plan and the form-based code. Efforts to reach out to the neighborhood include publishing an article in the newsletter, emailing all available email lists, creating a new MKNA telephone number where people without email addresses can leave information, and handing out flyer door-to-door.

Legislative Committee: The Board discussed the upcoming mayoral debate sponsored by MKNA. The debate will be on October 5 at Clowes Hall on the campus of Butler University. The Debate starts at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Various aspects of the debate and the debate rules were discussed.

Business Committee – The Board discussed the MKNA business social and think tank dates. The Board recognized the efforts of the Business Committee for increasing business membership during this difficult economic period.

Home Tour Committee – The board discussed the MKNA 2012 home tour efforts. The Home Tour Committee held its opening meeting on September 21 and is actively seeking homes for the 2012 home tour.

VII. New Business

The Board discussed potential nominees for the Sid Maurer Award, named after the former Atlas Grocery store owner. George Faerber was nominated and selected by unanimous vote.

The Board discussed MKNA's new intern, Rachel Gold, and how her services can be utilized to improve the neighborhood.

The Board discussed the escalating costs of the MKNA newsletter and the declining Church membership.

VIII. 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 October 13, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 526 E. 52nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.