



MILLERSVILLE at FALL CREEK VALLEY, INC.

Annual Meeting

Minutes

February 15, 2018

Fatima Retreat House

Board Present: Catharine (Cac) Diehr, President; Diane Gardner, Vice President; Melinda Hall, Secretary/Treasurer; Directors: Matt Benson; Tom Eggers; Sallie Rowland

Committee Chairs: Anti-litter & Beautification: Matt Benson and Diane Gardner; Planning: Sallie Rowland

Guest Speakers: City of Indianapolis: Dept. of Public Works: Mark Zwoyer, Engineering Design Admin.; Todd Wilson, Project Mgr. SustainIndy: Katie Robinson, Director Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates: Joel Smith, Dist. 1; Gregory Garrett, Dist. 7
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful: Cheria Caldwell, Community Engagement Coordinator
Walmart's Fall Creek Neighborhood Market: Major Sutton, Operations Mgr.
Government: Councillor Christine Scales, Dist. 3; Lawrence Twp. Trustee Steve Talley; State Representative: Matt Cain, Legislative Asst. to Carey Hamilton, H87; State Senator: Jean Breaux, S34

Called to Order: At 7:05 p.m. by President Diehr, who welcomed all, recognized special guests including Millersville's former Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, Noelle Malatestinic, and noted the 2017 Year-End Financial Statements and Annual Meeting Minutes available.

DPW: Connectivity, Repairs & Traffic-Calming in 2018 / Guests: Mr. Wilson and Mr. Zwoyer

Mrs. Diehr and the community thanked DPW for resurfacing Emerson Way north of 56th St, Fall Creek Rd from Kessler Blvd to Shadeland Ave, and 56th St from Emerson Way to Old Colony Rd, as well as for the addition of bike lanes on that section of 56th St.

- **Emerson Way traffic-calming/bike lanes:** The lines will be resurfaced from 46th to 56th Street.
- **Drainage/Storm Water Projects**
 - A project scope and report is underway for Brendonridge. Construction will be late 2019 or early 2020. The project is the direct result of the City's new storm water fees.
 - Repair of Brendon Forest Dr erosion issues
 - Report storm water problems to Citizens Energy Group: (317)924-3311
- **Trail Projects**
 - Fall Creek Trail improvements from 56th St. to Keystone Ave. are 80-90% designed, and will bid in June or July 2018. The trail will be relocated from several areas that flood.
 - Connections will be made to the Fall Creek trail from Emerson Way and from 46th St.
- **Road Repair Projects**
 - Staughton Dr to Eastbourne
 - Kenyan Dr in Brendon Park
- **E. 56th St Pathway Project, Ph-III:** An application for federal funding through the Transportation Alternative Programs for multi-modal projects was made in late 2017, for 2023. 13 cities applied. Noblesville and Greenfield were selected; Indy was #3. DPW will submit again next year.
- **Binford Blvd / Fall Creek Pkwy Corridor Safety Improvements: Bids Oct. 2018 / Construction throughout 2019**
A DPW-INDOT project will provide repaving from Fall Creek Pkwy to I-465, pedestrian crossings at 62nd and 75th Sts., and bike lane crossings at 46th St. Delmar and Rucker Rd access will become "right in/right out" only.
- **"Dream" Connectivity Safety Project: A sidewalk on E. 56th St over the I-465 bridge**
INDOT has been open to such ideas. A preliminary review shows there is space for a center walkway with protective railing. It is not engineered or funded, but the need is recognized. Cost is estimated at \$1 million, due in part to the extensive railing required.
- **Infrastructure projects:** Warranties are for three years. Inform DPW of deterioration observed on newly resurfaced roadways.

Anti-litter Campaign / Mr. Benson

- Handouts described the Anti-litter Campaign and its goals. In addition to keeping Millersville beautiful, it is focused on obtaining City and corporate assistance to regularly clean thoroughfares like Binford Blvd and Shadeland Av, and to developing City-wide educational programs and deterrents to change poor habits and promote pride in a clean community. Joining the effort are Village businesses; BRAG members; DPW/Parks; SustainIndy Director Katie Robinson; KIB's Matt Wakefield and Allie Kast; State Representative Carey Hamilton; Councillor Christine Scales; and Mayor's Advocates Greg Garrett and Joel Smith.
- To help: Join the Great Indy Cleanup in Millersville April 14th, 9am-Noon; pick up litter on regular walks; discard illegal advertising signs in the rights-of-way; report illegal dumping to the MAC line; adopt and maintain a block as a KIB Adopt-A-Block captain.

Beautification / Mr. Benson and Mrs. Gardner

- Preserve & Pkwy: Fall Creek is now visible from the trail between the 56th St. and Emerson Way bridges, after invasives were cleared by volunteer groups and professional chemical treatments applied regularly to control further growth.
- KIB's \$1,000 Neighborhood Advancement Award: Funds provided materials & supplies for the anti-litter program and for maintenance of the Gateway medians (Fall Creek Pkwy & Emerson Way and 56th & Kessler Blvd) and the Preserve.
- Donations and grants are needed to defray costly greenspace stewardship, including plants to renew spaces and weed control.
- Volunteer: Help plan projects; plant the Gateway medians May 5th; and/or assist with weeding & watering, May through October.

SustainIndy / Guest: Ms. Robinson

The "It's My City" initiative to "Clean, Green & Beautify" Indianapolis is in its second year, with 2018 details to be announced in March. In 2017, Business & Neighborhood Services picked up 187 tons of trash, and KIB picked up 1.8 million pounds of trash.

- The Millersville & BRAG Anti-litter Campaign helped launch "It's My City". Director Robinson shared that she and Deputy Mayor Bennett discussed this joint NE corridor project, and that its example led to the "It's My City" initiative.
- Horizon Christian students "Meet the Mayor" March 9th to present anti-litter letters written him in October at Millersville's *Preserve*.
- Indianapolis is hosting its first Sustainability Summit on March 28, 2018 at IUPUI. For details on available neighborhood scholarships, contact the Mayor's Advocates.
- Indianapolis Sustainability Resilience Action Plan: This "first ever" Plan will include evaluating existing City services, measuring air quality, and developing strategies for what investments and budget are needed to meet "green goals."

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful / Guest: Ms. Caldwell

- April 14th Great Indy Cleanup participation is encouraged. KIB will provide the trash bags, gloves and dumpsters.
- Adopt-A-Block captains are needed to lead neighbors in keeping their blocks clean. As a "thank you" from KIB, after one year captains are eligible to receive native plants and trees for their areas, are invited to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - March 21st this year - and may request a free AAB sign for their block. Captains may pick up supplies at KIB on March 23 & 24.
- New AAB programs for schools and businesses increase awareness of litter and recycling. Business sponsorships cost \$250.

I-465 & E. 56th Street Gateway Project / Mrs. Rowland

The formal concept designs for quality artwork and signage at this presently non-descript and trashy Gateway were displayed and discussed. They will reflect a sense of pride, so travelers recognize having arrived at a place of substance where the community cares. The five artwork sections will have cut-leaf patterns reflecting nature's art-in-design, made of Corten steel, which does not rust, and set on concrete bases, providing for minimal maintenance. LED lighting will be utilized. Way-finding signage at this Gateway will also employ the artwork's patterns and Corten steel. INDOT, the Cities of Indianapolis and Lawrence, and other entities have expressed favor for the project. Obtaining support for maintenance agreements and funding are in progress.

- The Project cost is \$100,000. Artwork sections and signage could be separately sponsored.
- Contacts for interested partners are welcomed.

Business & Committee Reports

Volunteers Needed: New people and dreams are needed for all aspects of M@FCV. Mrs. Diehr noted the cohesive and friendly nature of those involved with the organization, encouraged checking M@FCV's volunteer webpage for details, and actively participating to ensure community goals are fulfilled and new visions implemented.

Schools: New committee chair Dr. Amy Schau Hammes has connected with and provided teacher-appreciation and student activity support at area elementary schools Brook Park, IPS School 106, and St. Matthew's, as well as at Cathedral High School. Brook Park students will be introduced to KIB's outdoor learning program and nature at the *Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve*. Horizon Christian students participated in an anti-litter and IDEM water program at the *Preserve* in October, and anti-litter letters written to the Mayor at that time will be delivered to him in person on March 16th.

Communications & PR: Sign up for e-News, published monthly by Alicia Reuter and Kim Robertson, and send topics to Mrs. Reuter. Access M@FCV's first-class website, created & managed by Mollie Benson, for past, present and future Millersville information.

Village Business: Mrs. Diehr discussed area businesses, and introduced Walmart guest, Major Sutton.

Walmart Neighborhood Market / Mr. Sutton: Walmart is focused on clean, fast and friendly service, and requests community feedback.

- Walmart welcomes participating in the *Great Indy Cleanup* and in Millersville's Anti-litter Campaign.
- Manager Spencer Gibbs can approve the store's participation in KIB's "Adopt-A-Block Business Program".
- Walmart supports community projects and events, and would like to hear of opportunities to become involved.
- Walmart's Community Grants for nonprofits, which awards \$500-2,500 from Feb. 1-Dec. 31, can provide sponsorships for Anti-litter, Beautification, Gateway and other programs. Multiple applications may be made by one organization throughout the period.

Dinius Automotive is selling to Taco Bell. The property is zoned C-3, which allows for this use. Taco Bell's new site plan satisfied City requirements and was approved by Staff. Two exceptions to proposed right-of-ways necessitated variance 2017-DV3-045, heard Jan. 16th, 2018. Taco Bell has agreed to commit to a 6 ft. high ground sign instead of a 20 ft. tall pylon sign; consider limiting hours to no later than those of the adjacent Burger King; and to study changing the pattern of traffic exiting south onto Emerson Way.

Walgreen's property hearing, March 7, 2018: Petition 2017-MOD-024, previously 2017-MOD-005 / Mrs. Rowland

The Walgreen's property, as part of the triangle property, was intended to be a low-intensity commercial use that buffered the surrounding neighborhoods. The more intense Walgreen's zoning was allowed only with the restrictive commitments. The next use at this Gateway site will set the tone for the Village of Millersville. The present owner is not responsive and, by first offering Goodwill and now Dollar Tree as tenants, is unconcerned about the basis of the commitments for this location.

The community's help is needed on March 7th at 1 p.m., when the Metropolitan Development Commission hears this Petition in the 2nd Floor Public Assembly Room of the City-County Bldg. M@FCV will be remonstrating against it, detailing efforts to revitalize the Village core, develop Millersville's Village and Corridor Plan and implement its goals, and show why the Petitioner's proposal is concerning for its negative impact on the surrounding area. M@FCV will be asking that the City deny the Petition and allow M@FCV authority over the next use. A strong community presence in support of this remonstrance is extremely important.

2018 M@FCV Business

Mrs. Diehr announced she will be stepping down as President, but will remain as a Director. She was honored for forming M@FCV in 2009, for the numerous accomplishments in Millersville under her careful, competent and enjoyable leadership, and for setting a stellar example of how a community organization should operate.

2018 Directors

Matt Benson, Catharine Diehr; Tom Eggers; Melinda Hall; Dr. Amy Schau Hammes; Kim Robertson; and Sallie Rowland

Government Reports

Sen. Jean Breaux

- Provided handouts detailing legislative issues before the Senate.
- Offered to assist M@FCV with the connections necessary to implement the Gateway Project.

Councillor Scales

- Advised that DPW pot-hole repair crews are also responsible for snow-removal, and will make more progress as weather warms.
- 2018 is the pilot year for the Indy Neighborhood Infrastructure Project, a creative collaboration with communities to award up to \$4 million in matching funds to implement connectivity. Applications close March 1st, 2018. The program is expected to renew in 2019.

Matt Cain, Legislative Assistant to State Representative Hamilton

- Rep Hamilton will be assisting with M@FCV's Anti-litter Campaign efforts, drawing on her experience on the Board of Directors of Keep America Beautiful, and from leading the Indiana Recycling Coalition.
- Reported on House Bills dealing with property owner immunity for trails access; short-term and predatory loans; and redistricting.
- Rep Hamilton, Rep Delaney & Sen Ruckleshaus will be holding a Town Hall meeting on March 1st
- Recommended contacting legislative aides for assistance with matters pertaining to State or Federal agencies.

Mayor's Advocates Greg Garrett and Joel Smith: Both live in the Millersville area, look forward to hearing from neighbors on issues, and to working together to improve the community.

- IndyMoves: February & March community meetings are opportunities to provide input on which transportation projects are favored.
- Broken guardrail on 56th St near the entrance to Cathedral H.S.: DPW has scheduled an inspection.
- Broken 56th St sidewalk fence near Walmart: DPW has picked up the debris and ordered the materials to make repairs.
- Neighbor Power Indy, March 3rd, 2018: A seminar for the public on community building and accomplishing visions.

Adjournment: There being no further required business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Melinda Hall, Secretary