



MILLERSVILLE at FALL CREEK VALLEY, INC.

Fall "Visioning" Meeting

Minutes

October 18, 2018

Millersville Masonic Lodge

Board Present:	Amy Schau Hammes, President; Melinda Hall, Secretary/Treasurer Directors: Matt Benson; Catharine (Cac) Diehr, Past President; Tom Eggers; Sallie Rowland
Committee Chairs:	Anti-litter: Matt Benson; Beautification: Diane & Keith Gardner; Business: Tom Eggers; Events: Cac Diehr; Planning: Sallie Rowland; Schools: Amy Schau Hammes
Guests:	Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates: Greg Garrett and Mo McReynolds
Called to Order:	At 7:05 p.m. by Director Diehr.

Introduction / Cac Diehr

Welcomed all and thanked members of the Lodge for their hospitality and the historic tour, noting this had been the site of the first Millersville visioning meeting in October of 2009, that this organization of 30 neighborhoods and 50 institutions & Village businesses has together accomplished many goals defined in its 2012 Village and Corridor Plan, and this evening is a first step in exploring new ideas and visions to continue enhancing and strengthening the community. All were also encouraged to complete the Comment Cards.

Recognitions / Cac Diehr

- Former Board members were acknowledged for extending their time and talents in support of the organization.
 - Diane & Keith Gardner: For their years of dedication in bringing beauty to Millersville as Beautification Committee co-chairs. A plaque in recognition will be placed at the *Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve*, opposite Cac Diehr's, and will read:
All who enjoy this Village
are grateful to
DIANE & KEITH GARDNER
for their vision and commitment to
creating beauty throughout Millersville.
 - Alicia Reuter: For her zeal and creativity in facilitating MFCV communications through engaging monthly e-newsletters.
- The Anti-litter Campaign team was acknowledged for their tireless efforts to Keep Millersville Beautiful, with special thanks to:
 - Matt Benson: For hours of coordination and planning with neighbors, City personnel and local organizations.
 - Amy Schau Hammes: For organizing weekly deliveries of food & drinks for the Duvall Center workers cleaning Binford Blvd.
- The Communications team was acknowledged for their stellar contributions in keeping MFCV connected.
 - Mollie Benson: For building MFCV's outstanding website and continuously updating its trove of details, historic to present.
 - Tom Carey: For taking on the e-news editor position and deftly producing captivating articles.
 - Kim Robertson: For her years of managing, cleverly framing, and timely publishing MFCV's e-mail communications.
- 2018 Donors and Program Sponsors were acknowledged for their generous support of MFCV:
 - Associations: Brendonridge HOA; Kesslerwood East Lake Assoc; Windridge COA
 - Individuals: Mrs. Benedict; Mrs. Diehr; Mrs. Gardner
 - Program Sponsors: Councilor Scales for the Anti-litter Campaign; Mrs. Robertson for the e-communications service

Transitions / Cac Diehr

After nine years leading MFCV, Mrs. Diehr formally passed the presidential gavel to newly-elected Dr. Amy Schau Hammes, an MFCV Director who chairs and actively manages the Schools Committee, as well as coordinating a major Anti-litter Committee project.

Focus Groups: Reports / Goals / Amy Schau Hammes

Six groups and leaders were introduced. Attendees joined one or more to share ideas, and then leaders provided the following reports.

Event Planning / Cac Diehr

The group proposed hosting an MFCV fundraising dinner and story-telling event at historic Laurel Hall, with good food and drinks, tours of Laurel Hall, and story-tellers - perhaps in costume - providing various historical or fictional tales about Millersville. Also discussed was a community festival at the *Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve*, bringing in canoes, kayaks, bicycles, ice cream, balloons and games, and closing the road for the event. A local event planner will be consulted to explore costs and feasibility.

Gateway Project at I-465 & E. 56th St / Sallie Rowland

Attendees were very much in favor of this place-making design project to benefit the Millersville and Lawrence communities by improving the currently trashy gateway interchange with quality art and way-finding signage that will reflect a sense of pride, so travelers recognize they have arrived at a place of substance, where the community cares. The cost estimate to implement current concept designs is \$200,000 plus maintenance. INDOT and the cities of Indianapolis and Lawrence favor the project. Partnerships and sponsors are being developed, and contacts for interested parties are welcomed.

Schools / Amy Schau Hammes

The group's relevant experiences working in schools were discussed, as well as areas to pursue, such as tutoring and program development that could include anti-litter education, and interest in helping to establish/maintain relationships with the schools.

Beautification / Diane & Keith Gardner

Maintenance of existing Millersville greenspaces – Gateway medians, Millersville at Fall Creek Preserve, and removal of invasives so Fall Creek can be viewed from the trail between the 56th St and Emerson Way bridges – was discussed, including the need for grants to fund this on-going work, and to engage more volunteers from area neighborhoods, businesses, schools and the Boy Scouts. Ideas for exploration include creating a simple overlook of Fall Creek from benches adjacent to the trail, perhaps in conjunction with the City's 2019/20 Fall Creek trail improvement project; a fishing/viewing platform or dock at the pond; and designing a Fit Trail app for the Preserve using the existing environment, to be posted on the new trail improvement signage.

Village Business / Tom Eggers

A program to support Village businesses and their services has been developed, including full listings on MFCV's website; featured business spotlights in MFCV e-news; and a concept design for Village of Millersville signage at three main gateways. Discussion was predominantly focused on the future of the Walgreen's building. The following suggestions were made regarding that user search:

- Celebrate the outdoors here. Utilize the trail & creek strengths to pursue desired users like Rusted Moon and Matthews Bike Shop.
- Consider multiple, complementary users in the one building, i.e. a taproom, ice cream or yogurt shop, and bike shop.
 - Set up a search committee for the Walgreen's property.

Anti-litter / Matt Benson

- Continue the Duvall Center alliance to assist with Binford Blvd and other problem roadway cleanups, and search for new partners.
- Increase the number of structured clean-ups each year.
- Increase communication about clean-ups. Utilize NextDoor and contact association presidents to better distribute messages.
- Arrange more anti-litter programs with local schools and the Boy Scouts to educate children and their parents about not littering.
- Identify opportunities to change peoples' mindsets about littering.
- Engage Millersville businesses in becoming more involved with litter prevention and clean-up.
- Address Windridge Center owners to resolve problem dumping by the DAV containers and increase clean-ups on their properties.
- Discuss with Fishers and/or Carmel officials how their cities are kept clean.
- Create anti-litter "Burma Shave"-style signs for use along heavily littered roadways.
- Convince the City of Indianapolis of the deterrent benefit of placing anti-litter ordinance signs along heavily-littered thoroughfares.

Closing / Amy Schau Hammes

Thanks were again given to attendees, donors and Lodge hosts, and all were reminded to fill out the Comment Cards and sign-in sheets, sign up for e-news, visit MFCV's website often for updates, and volunteer whenever possible.

Next Meeting: TBA

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Melinda Hall, Secretary