

**Irvington Town Hall Meeting
Historic Irvington Discussion
April 21, 2004**

Facilitator: Paul Diebold

Attendance:

Members: Pat Brown, Dale Harkins, Judy Kosegi, Emily Mack, Karen Martin, Ben Younce

Handouts / Visuals at this Meeting:

3/25/04 Historic Irvington Meeting Notes

Neighborhood Survey

Map of National Register Eligible Neighborhoods Surrounding Irvington

Chart summarizing identified goals, objectives, and tasks to date

Discussion:

1. Committee members introduced themselves
2. Paul Diebold reviewed the 3/25/04 meeting minutes and asked for approval.
3. Paul Diebold announced that there would be a Sunday Speakers' Series that would address several broad topics affecting Irvington and its plan development. He noted historic preservation would be the topic of the May 2nd series meeting. David Baker, IHPC, Jim Kienle, IHPC and local architect, Brian Boyd, local resident, will lead the discussion. Other dates/topics need to be confirmed but will likely address transportation, eastside revitalization and the Pennsy Trail concept.
4. Paul Diebold noted that a Ball State University Planning student will be assisting this summer with the neighborhood plan development and may be available to assist with the local historic district designation effort.
5. Amy Bear handed out a neighborhood survey to be completed and returned by June 7th to the library or a steering committee member. Dale Harkins inquired who developed the survey. Bear noted that it was developed by City of Indianapolis Planning staff. Diebold and Harkins noted some concern that perhaps the questions were leading. Diebold stated that he was concerned that the survey is heavily focused on the Washington buildings, which actually only make up about 1/10 of the neighborhood's building stock.
6. Paul Diebold distributed a map of the "National Register Eligible Neighborhoods Surrounding Irvington." He noted the map was developed by city staff at his request and that the areas identified were noted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to be national register eligible at the time the Warren Township Survey was completed. Diebold explained there is a fair amount of time and effort involved in researching and writing a national register nomination and that it would likely take a year or more to complete the nomination process. He noted that it would make the most sense to hire a professional or a graduate student to take on this task. The committee discussed which surrounding neighborhoods would take priority. It was noted that there seems to be general interest in the idea in the A.V. Brown and Irvington Terrace neighborhoods. These neighborhoods already identify themselves as part of Irvington and they would qualify easily for listing.
7. The committee inquired why the SHPO had not included the area west of the A.V. Brown neighborhood to Emerson eligible. Diebold noted that the A.V. Brown neighborhood

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probably had a distinct plat and at the time of survey, the parkway likely seemed like a natural dividing line. He noted the area could be surveyed again and the A.V. Brown neighborhood could possibly be expanded to include this pocket.

8. It was noted that a consultant could be hired to research several of these areas. A committee member inquired about the cost of a consultant. Diebold approximated it would cost \$3,000 per district nomination. He added that the SHPO's office does offer communities matching grants to assist with these type of costs. It was agreed that Diebold would contact Ball State University (regarding potential interns) and the Irvington Historical Society (regarding funding support) about this project.
9. A committee member inquired if the Irvington Council would be willing to financially support a national register nomination project. Dale Harkins stated he thought the council would financially support such an effort.
10. The committee discussed a potential oral histories project. It was noted that the library already has a small collection and that the Irvington Historical Society has also pursued a similar project in the past. The committee discussed ways to better share the oral histories that are collected. Audio kiosks and internet real player feed were discussed as options to broaden the audience who could hear the tapes. It was noted that people to be interviewed are being identified by word of mouth and through newsletter requests. There was discussion of how to more strategically identify older residents and convince them their memories are worthy of being shared. Gathering children's memories was also considered and thought to be a good idea.
11. The committee discussed a historic images compilation project. It was noted this is on-going at the Bona Thompson Center / Irvington Historical Society. The committee discussed implementing a "Bring Your Photos to the Library" day. This would encourage people to share personal images of the community. Interns and scanners could be utilized to capture the images without having to take people's collections for long periods of time.
12. Diebold noted that he would like a goal that addressed remembering and protecting the street name tiles that are present in the sidewalks around Irvington. The committee agreed to look into this further and figure out who might be willing to fund this project.
13. A Building Plaque program was discussed. The committee has particular interest in marking non-extant sites and Kessler Plan sites. It was noted that to date, building marker efforts have been un-coordinated, haphazard and subject to theft problems. It was agreed that efforts need to be made to prioritize sites for marking purposes. It was also noted that the Indiana Historical Bureau has a marker program.
14. The committee discussed creating a "library" as a receptacle for technical preservation information and local history, etc. The committee discussed this being a virtual library with links to National Park Service preservation briefs, etc.
15. Due to the late hour, the committee tabled the remainder of the agenda – discussion of goals and objective relate to "protecting and preserving" and "promoting" historic Irvington to the next meeting. The committee was asked to think about these issues prior to the May 27th meeting. A fourth committee meeting was considered and may be added to agenda.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan, Historic Irvington Committee will be Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 pm at Irvington United Methodist Church.

Notes taken by Amy Bear, Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission

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