

URBAN DESIGN IN INDIANAPOLIS
Stable and Historic Areas Sub-Committee
Wednesday, September 14, 9:00 a.m.
Ball State College of Architecture and Planning
Indianapolis Center

Present: James Kienle, Co-chair, John Watson, Co-chair, David Baker, Jenelle Collins, Leslie Glantz.

Staff: Bob Wilch, Scott Truex, John Byrnes.

Discussion

1. **“Thoughts on Guiding Principles for Urban Design”:** The co-chairs identified this paper prepared by Jim Kienle for the Urban Design Oversight Committee as a possible baseline for the discussion of possible design guidelines for areas outside of the IHPC local historic areas as well as additional topics to add. For example, building repairs and alterations were mentioned as additional topics including what period a building should be repaired to and what level of repairs should be recommended. It was noted that when such questions are presented to IHPC in the local historic areas that the integrity of the building should be considered as well as the context provided by nearby buildings. It was felt that the design guidelines are working in the local historic areas. Landscaping, however, was mentioned as an area where additional guidelines are needed both in historic areas and throughout the entire Regional Center.

It was stated that, in general, repairs and updates are to be encouraged. It also was stated that buildings 50 years or older should be renovated or restored to their original character.

It was stated that IHPC’s ordinance allows it to give variance to guidelines if a project is shown to have overwhelming community benefit. This would also potentially allow landmark projects to be developed – those that may not fully meet context type guidelines.

Some see a need to develop guidelines for areas that would have an effect on National Register districts, and structures identified as outstanding or notable in the Center Township historic sites and structures inventory (Historic Landmarks Foundation and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources), but not in local historic areas.

Newer buildings might not be held to the same guidelines. We may not want to have the City legislate what is considered good architecture. It was asked how should projects be reviewed in areas where there is little context.

The need to develop guidelines for details such as security grates, razor wire, and pop machines also were mentioned.

It was stated that it might be helpful to create a listing of architecturally significant buildings.

The final document or ordinance prepared should include graphic illustrations of the guidelines.

- 2. Next Steps:** The Sub-Committee Co-chairs will meet to draft possible guidelines based on the meeting comments. The study of other cities' design review ordinances commissioned by Historic Landmarks Foundation also was mentioned as a possible additional resource tool.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 12, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at the Ball State University, CAP Indianapolis Center at 22 East Washington Street.