

## **Agenda and Notes**

### **Attendees and Introductions**

**Executive Committee members present:** Tracy Bee (President), Terry Usrey (Vice-President), Tom Doaks (Treasurer), Sarah Alexander (Secretary)

**Other neighbors present:** Danny Weddle, Kate, Jane, Mia

**Guests:** Andy Ruff

We are joined by a researcher from the Observing Civic Engagement Lab: Michele.

Tonight's meeting is solely focused on the Historic District Guidelines. But first!

### **Pink Poodle Update**

Before the meeting began, we received a visit from city councilman Andy Ruff to speak briefly on the future of the Pink Poodle.

- Enforcement of city code will be "Complaints Based," meaning that if the neighbors don't complain, then the city will take no action on the Pink Poodle's activities.
  - Danny is encouraged to tell neighbors to bring complaints directly to himself or to the Neighborhood Association in the hopes that they can be privately handled.
  - If the *city* receives the complaint first, they will shut him down immediately without opportunity for negotiation.
- Eventually, it is possible the city councilors might make a change in the code, but he doesn't know how the mayor's administration feels.
- This issue was agitated by this year's Little 5 parties thrown by fraternities in rented houses. How should the city differentiate between that kind of thing and the Pink Poodle?

### **Historic District Guidelines**

**Background:** The historic district committee recently revised the historic district guidelines. Feedback was sought until February 28th from residences in the district (not everyone in the neighborhood is in the district). After the deadline passed, at least one resident complained that they had not received notification of any kind and so the HD committee agreed to begin using the neighborhood Facebook and listserv to communicate HD business in addition to other traditional methods (i.e. mail).

At Bloomington's Historic Preservation Commission meeting there was pushback from neighbors who wanted more input because the deadline took people by surprise. The idea to start the process again, with some sort of community meeting involved. Meeting was "really useful" because people got to see how the commission thought about it.

From the Historic District Guidelines:

For properties in the district, a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Historic Preservation Commission is required for any new construction or exterior renovation, including changes to the size, shape, or placement of the existing or new structure or to the exterior building materials that can be publicly viewed within the neighborhood (except for colors or plantings).

Salient points/concerns from last meeting:

- HPC is following federal guidelines. The committee spent several years off and on working on the guidelines. Mission was to soften some very strict guidelines.
- Challenge: how do we protect ourselves against developers while not constraining neighbors?
- Concern: Language HPC uses is about defending “owner’s rights” to the character of the neighborhood. Owners aren’t always residents, and people in the neighborhood aren’t all in the district.
- The levels of review chart in the guidelines covers what’s required for different types of changes to a house in the historic district.

**Contacts for Historic District:**

- [mapleheightshistoricdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:mapleheightshistoricdistrict@gmail.com) or you can email Tom directly at [tdoak@iu.edu](mailto:tdoak@iu.edu)
- <https://www.mapleheightsbloomington.org/historic-district>

**Suggestion for tonight’s meeting:**

- Not enough time for line by line. Could we entertain questions and concerns rather than trying to address this very robust document in its entirety??

**Tonight’s Discussion:**

- Jane suggests Mia or Annie join the group as a fourth.
- “Flexible:
  - On page 6: BHPC asked for a definition
  - Word was removed because while the committee wants residents to be able to be flexible, we did not want the BHPC to be the ultimate arbiter of what “flexible” means. Sentence now prioritizes resident feedback.
- 120 sq ft v 80 ft.
  - It was conclusively agreed that all the 80s would be changed to 120s in order to be in alignment with city code.
- “Public Way” alley issue.
  - The guidelines affect things visible from the “Public Way,” but this is a legal term that includes alleys in its definition. If left as is, then people who live on alleys would need BHPC clearance for their back yards as well as their fronts.
  - Danny says Noah says two neighborhoods are using a definition that excludes alleys

- There was robust debate on whether alleys should be included and how to come to consensus.
- It was decided to take a vote:
  - Vote: Include alleys 1: Do not include alleys: 5
- Alleys are to be excluded from our definition of “Public Way.”
- ADUs: Seems fine, since the 80s will be changed to 120s (see above). Other than that, no further changes.
- Mature Trees: After discussion, it was decided to leave as is.
- Adding Sidewalks: Change to “no review”
- Brick sidewalks: Remove
- Removable Structure: Change to “no review”
- Fencing: More research is needed.
- Siding:
  - Vertical siding: Yes or no. The issue was left unresolved.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

After the meeting, Tom sent the following update:

- Checking account: 362.04
- Savings Account: \$35

### **Upcoming meetings**

Meetings are held during 4th week of the month at 7:15

- Odd months: Meetings on Mondays on zoom
- Even months: Meetings on Tuesdays, typically at the Overlook (Zoom is an option)

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 7:15 pm

- CANCELLED: \*Tuesday, June 24, 7:15 pm, Overlook
- \*Monday, July 28, 7:15 pm, online
- Tuesday, August 26, 7:15 pm, Overlook

\*to be discussed/confirmed

- Issues for next meeting? You can email the neighborhood at [mapleheights4neighbors@gmail.com](mailto:mapleheights4neighbors@gmail.com) or Tracy: [iamtracyb@gmail.com](mailto:iamtracyb@gmail.com), suggestions also taken from posts to our group Facebook.
- LIST address: [mapleheightsneighborhood@googlegroups.com](mailto:mapleheightsneighborhood@googlegroups.com) (this goes to everyone; if you aren’t on it, email Tracy)
- Website: <https://www.mapleheightsbloomington.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MapleHeightsNeighborhood/>