

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: Janelle C., Hugh & Mia, Jane G., Gabriel P., Sam S., Caelan T., Daniel W., Liz & Shayli & Shiloh, Katerina K.

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

Except where quoted, all comments are paraphrased to the best of her understanding by Sarah Alexander.

I. Committee and Project Reports

- **Traffic/Pedestrian Safety**
 - **Speed bumps:** Neighborhood interest?
 - Caelan posted on Facebook: W. 15th St.
 1. Coming off Madison, as soon as they turn onto 15th, they go as fast as they can. Are they coming from 17th going to Jackson and using 15th as a cut through?
 2. Not many speed limit signs.
 3. Suggests placement on 15th, between Madison and Jackson.
 - Tracy: W. 16th St. (would need to talk to neighbors to get some buy-in)
 - **College/Walnut Corridor Project— March: No updates** from last month when Ryan Robling (Bloomington Planning) told Tracy there would be something ready for the public in a few weeks.
 - **N. Madison St. Pedestrian crossing - Tracy - No updates**

Background: We've been talking about pedestrian safety in crossing N. Madison as a group since spring 2023 (there is no crossing between 11th and 17th; heavy traffic/high speeds. Neighbors met with Andrew Cibor, city engineer, on site June 2, 2023. An updated traffic study (speed/traffic count) was done in fall 2023. The Traffic Commission heard the neighborhood's petition for a pedestrian crosswalk on N. Madison on June 26, 2024 with Terry Usrey, Thomas Doak and Tracy Bee speaking in support. As of January 2025, the city plans to conduct a smaller-scale (smaller than College/Walnut) study to identify solutions for the Kinser Pike/Madison/Rogers corridor. [These streets were identified as "highest priority" corridors in the SS4A Safety Action Plan \(pdf page 57\).](#)

 - **From February meeting: Cici:** Attended a meeting of the **plat committee** because in the Woodburn area of the neighborhood, a developer has

been buying up single lots and dividing them up to build duplexes. She thought it was *interesting* that the plat committee recognized the growth in traffic this would cause and wished there was something anyone could do about it.

- **NatureScape – Tom and Terry**

- Last workday/weed wrangle was Nov. 4. Timeline for spring?
 - On one of the last two weeks in April, Terry suggests a weed wrangle, probably a Saturday. He will make appropriate inquiries.

Background: Terry is working with Gillian of Parks and Rec on a management plan – planting and invasive removal. She is available to help and posts on her website for volunteers, but it's up to us to take initiative to manage it.

- **Trash pickup day - Terry Usrey**

- **Last pick-up day: March 8**
 - A good day! 10 full bags of trash, 11 people participated.
- **Remaining dates:**
 - Summer: June 7
 - Fall: Sept. 13
 - Winter: Dec. 13
- **At our last meeting** Richard reported a lot of extra trash on 15th because the dumpster trucks drop things. They leave a trail behind them when they leave. Any updates or photos so the NA can write an evidence-supported letter of complaint.
 - **March:** No updates
- **Advertising Signage:**
 - [Small and simple grant](#) to fund Signs?
 - **March:** Terry is waiting on a few needed documents and will be ready to submit the proposal soon.
 - Maximum \$500. Rolling deadline: "Applications will be accepted between **January 1 through September 1, 2025**, or until all grant funds have been awarded. If the application process must be closed prior to September 1, 2025, an announcement will be posted in [The HAND Update](#) and on [HAND Facebook](#) and [web pages](#)."
 - **Tom reports:** \$125 / 25 signs (we already have the stakes)

- **Historic District committee - Kate, Thomas, Jane**

Concerns/questions:

- Can this committee start posting on Facebook or using the neighborhood listserv to communicate about its business?

- Concern: There was at least one household in the district that did not receive a mailed notification of the Feb. 28 deadline for comment on the new guidelines.
- Can the committee provide updates/announcements to the neighborhood re: Historic Preservation Commission meetings that involve the MP Historic district?
- General agreement that these are good ideas.

Background: With the elevation of the conservation district to a historic district, the time has come to rewrite the guidelines which are entering the final stages of approval. Feedback was sought until February 28th from residences in the district.

- Contacts for Historic District
 - mapleheightshistoricdistrict@gmail.com or you can email Tom directly at tdoak@iu.edu
 - <https://www.mapleheightsbloomington.org/historic-district>

- **Treasurer's Report - Thomas**

- **February:** Approximately \$320 (no change this month)

- **Pink Poodle**

- Current situation - Daniel
 - Danny: Prepared statement: The Pink Poodle isn't a bar even though it has been classified that way because the shows are public. But they are more in the tradition of old-time music gatherings that historically have taken place in private home. The idea is to continue the musical traditions and also to create community gatherings in non-commercial contexts.
 - **Questions:** Tracy: Were you going to wait for the UDO changes?
 - Danny: Several paths:
 - We start with a series of variances, which is unlikely to happen
 - OR designation in UDO allowing shows in home as separate from bars.
 - OR work at neighborhood level to come up with procedures that work
 - Tracy: Timeline?
 - Danny: Slowed it down because you had the flu and we weren't sure what to do anyway. So I didn't and I don't think it's worth rushing, especially since the canvassing you were going to do was an imposition on you.
 - Tracy: Canvassing: Fairview, and those on Maple behind you.
 - Danny: Maple: One unoccupied (she died) and one vacant. One corner neighbor (a Greg).
 - Jane: Indoor v outdoor shows?
 - Danny: We're working on starting to plan after seeing how the neighbors feel.
 - **Comments:** Tom: I'm cool with it now.

- Hugh: Conservation District: The Pink Poodle is the working-class eclecticism described in the district guidelines.
- Jane: I support the tradition of house parties but the Facebook event posts make me nervous (about parking, noise).
- Katarina: On Maple, not too far. Bloomington is full of music. Calling this a bar is really out of context. 13th and Fairview, guy in a pickup truck yelled mean (vulgar) names at me. I feel like that kind of exclusivity, judging people on cars, music, dogs, is why I want to support the Pink Poodle.
- Janelle: Same guy yelled at my teenager. I'm the nearest neighbor and I love the Pink Poodle. My parking gets blocked, but I just plan ahead. I think the Bender Parking Lot is a good idea.
- Tom: That guy yelled at me, too.
- Gabriel: I moved into the neighborhood recently and the Pink Poodle was a draw.
- Shalyli: My son and I were taken in after a bad divorce and the music and the community have really helped us to heal. The baby still sleeps!
- Surveying neighbors
 - Questions to ask

Background: Earlier this year, Daniel Weddle of the Pink Poodle received a notice that city planning considers the place to be an illegal bar/dance club. Last month, Daniel asked for the neighborhood association's support in his appeal. There was a robust discussion and a decision of support was tabled as there was some disagreement and further investigation of the views of immediate neighbors was deemed necessary. Tracy and Sarah both offered to go with Danny should he pursue this option. [Note: This has been put on temporary hold as it was no longer pressing given new updates from Daniel.] See last month's minutes for detailed discussion of Pink Poodle.

- **Neighborhood sign repair update - Terry**

- **Terry:** Vendor has been selected, Angela from HAND chose Fast Signs. I told them to get going, and I have been assured that the project is underway. Something to review within a week.

Background: Someone took the words from the south side of the sign. Terry reached out to Angela Roy to see if HAND can help. See options in messages from Angela. The NA agreed to pursue repair rather than replacement. At the last meeting we discussed bids from Everywhere Signs and Fast Signs. As there were no strong feelings against either company Terry suggested we tell Angela that we are content for her to choose.

II. Old Business

- **Gmail address access/officer transition - On hold**

- Tracy and Sarah met. Sarah now has delegate access. **Tracy is the primary contact** replacing Lucy Schaich.

- **Note:** Tracy will revisit in April.. Google is putting in place additional security measures in May that might make multiple folks accessing the account more complicated.
- **Duke Mural Project - On hold**
 - **Background and previous discussion:** When Duke built a transfer station at 11th and Madison/Rogers, beautification was part of the deal. They elected to do murals on the “brick” walls enclosing the electrical facility. The first of these murals involved mooshing together four different artists. After a rocky first draft, the mural was completed in November of 2024 with the help of a community paint day. More murals are planned, but no more community paint days. In February, Janelle reported that they’ve put an **anti-graffiti coat** on and that they plan to do one mural a year. The coating means that they can powerwash away any vandalism. **Tom:** Would like the city to **contact the neighborhood association** more explicitly and more often. For example, there was a reception he didn’t know about. Tracy agrees that the city could have reached out to the neighborhood association more than they did.

III. New Business

- Aggressive Development - duplexes in the Woodburn area
 - Casey, Cici & Bill aren’t here, so we’ll talk more next time.
 - Jane: Pay attention to upcoming UDO changes.
 - **Related note from last meeting:** Cici B. attended a meeting of the **plat committee** because in the Woodburn area of the neighborhood, a developer has been buying up single lots and dividing them up to build duplexes. She thought it was *interesting* that the plat committee recognized the growth in traffic this would cause and wished there was something anyone could do about it.
- Announcement: Hugh: [Neighborhood Planting Project](#) pickup is this weekend, March 29: The reservation sheet had to be closed due to demand, but if you show up at 3:45 you could scoop up extras and leftovers.
- Announcement: 1st Friday @ [Backspace Gallery](#), Matt Hicks and macrophotography (little things photographed very large!) Not for insectophobes, though.

Next meeting

- **Date:** Tuesday, April 22, 7:15 pm, Overlook, 611 W 12th St.
- **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)

Future meetings:

■ Monday, May 26, 7:15 pm, online

- Issues for next meeting? You can email the neighborhood at mapleheights4neighbors@gmail.com or Tracy: iamtracyb@gmail.com, suggestions also taken from posts to our group Facebook.
- LIST address: 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/>