

Maple Heights Neighborhood Association
Tuesday, August 26, 2025

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: Ken, Casey, Hugh, Kate, Janelle Curry, Danny, Kathy Haggerty, Mike, Libby

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

I. Committee and Project Reports

- **Traffic/Pedestrian Safety - Tracy**
 - **Speed bumps:** Neighborhood interest on 15th and 16th Streets between Madison and Jackson? Other streets?
 - W. 16th St. - Cathy, Casey
 - W. 15th St. - Caelan – Tracy needs to check with Caelan
 - W. 16th - No neighbor consensus reached
 - Maple - Mike (new suggestion May meeting)
 - Are speed bumps more expensive than bump-outs?
 1. This PDF from Cleveland Heights says no. \$2k for speed humps v \$5k-\$20k for bump-out. Speed tables for \$5k-\$15k.
 - **College/Walnut Corridor Project - Tracy**
 - No updates
 - **N. Madison St. Pedestrian crossing - Tracy**
 - No update
- 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. The city is working with a consultant to conduct a 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). As of April, Ryan Robling (City of Bloomington) saw a March 2026 study completion date. "Best case scenario for permanent improvements would be 2028.

Although, we're hoping to explore temporary and "quick fix" projects in this study which could be seen sooner."

- **NatureScape – Tom and Terry**

- It's in bloom at the moment. It had a very good summer!
- **Weed Wrangle: September 27th**, hopefully the first of quarterly wrangles.
- Discussion of strategies for more varieties of plants.

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**

- June 7 pickup
 - 6 bags of trash
- **Remaining 2025 dates**
 - Fall: Sept. 13
 - Winter: Dec. 13
- **Signage** - Terry procured a Small and simple grant to fund yard signs.
 - We have the signs! Ask Terry or Tom if you'd like to help distribute them.

- **Historic District committee - Jane (via email), Thomas, Kate**

- **Guidelines:**
 - Our last two neighborhood meetings (May and June) were devoted to revisiting the historic district guidelines. These updated Maple Heights historic district guidelines have been approved by the HPC.
 - At our last meeting, we expressed strong opinions on two subjects, both of which could not be implemented.
 1. Public Way: Due to city guidelines, federal law, state law, etc., there is no getting around review on anything visible from the public way (a legally defined term), which includes alleys.
 2. Structures 120 sq feet and smaller must still be reviewed by the HPC if they have foundations. But, if they don't have foundations (shed, swing-sets, etc.), only staff review is necessary.
 - We discussed both of these at length when we met with the HPC and came up with language that will make these reviews as lenient as possible (see p. 6 and p. 40 of the guidelines).
- **Join the Committee!** The Historic District committee welcomes anyone interested in joining. "If anyone would like to join the review committee charged with reviewing plans that are submitted to the HPC, please let me know. We would love to have you!"
- **Contacts for Historic District:**
 - mapleheightshistoricdistrict@gmail.com or you can email Tom directly at tdoak@iu.edu
 - Guidelines posted on the Maple Heights website

- Guidelines on Bloomington site

- **Treasurer's Report - Thomas**

- June: \$362

- **Neighborhood sign repair - Completed!**

Background: Someone took the words from the south side of the sign (located adjacent to the railroad bridge near the Naturescape. Terry worked with HAND and Fast Signs to get the sign repaired.

- **Pink Poodle - Daniel W.**

Background: The Pink Poodle has closed to public shows because it has been classified by the city as a "bar." Danny sees the shows as part of the tradition of old-time music gatherings that historically have taken place in private homes. His goal has been to continue the musical traditions and also to create community gatherings in non-commercial contexts. In May, 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.
- Danny is working on a variance application in consultation with Bloomington Planning. Filing deadline is September 26, 2025, and BZA hearing date is October 23, 2025.

Variance issues:

- More than one visitor at a time- *You do not need to request a variance from this, this language in the UDO is simply stating that if there are any customers that visit the premises, that it is not an exempted home occupation. Your Plan of Operation should state expected occupancy.*
- More than one visitor's parked car at a time- *This is not a use specific standard, therefore no variance is needed. Your Plan of Operation should state how you plan on addressing parking. The restrictions on driveways and parking does not change with a Home Occupation and you are still limited to one drivecut.*
- More than one employee/Volunteer living at the address- *You do not need a variance from this unless there is more than one employee expected that does not live at this address.*
- Hours extending past 8 PM- *This would require a variance*
- Public-facing outreach- *This does not require a variance, this was one of the characteristics of this use that we cited as one of the items that characterized this as a bar or dance club.*

- Potentially using more than 50% of home floor space- *This would require a variance.*
 - Signage on nights of public shows- *This would require a variance, you will need to state a specific signage allowance*
 - Signage on Door of Home - *See #7*
 - Selling tickets / advertising suggested donations - *This is one of the characteristics we cited as supporting the use of the property as a bar or dance club. This is not a variance.*
 - No part of this use can occur outdoors. The language within the definition of a Home Occupation states that it occurs within a building. The Board can not grant a variance from that aspect. This was recently discussed with another somewhat similar home occupation request and the UDO is clear that all components must occur within the house.
- **Neighborhood-wide yard sale** – Tracy was not able to organize this in the summer. If neighbors are interested, someone needs to help coordinate.

III. New Business

- **Giveaway Stand:** Hugh reports that the lemonade stand at the Overlook looks the way it does because of a confused local person. They are working on ways to mitigate the situation.
- **Insituform Sewer Disruption:**
 - Insituform is working to reinforce the sewers by means of, more or less, gluing a new pipe inside of the old pipe. This way, the street doesn't have to be torn up, but the glues release carcinogenic fumes, including styrene, that can get into homes.
 - Neighbors have reported damaged and destroyed plumbing from sewage splash backs.
 - The City did not give much notice about this work. The best anyone had was a [door hanger](#) the day before.
 - Was this to prevent objections?
 - Annie, says Mike, wrote to the engineers and they told her the work would continue until the end of September.
 - [Reddit Post](#) on the subject.
 - We may want to write a letter to the City about this.
 - Phil Peden: Dir of engineering, CBU
 - City legal
 - Kate Rosenbarger
 - Send your experiences about this to the Maple Heights email (mapleheights4neighbors@gmail.com).
- **North Madison Duplex:** Casey and Kathy shared their experiences as neighbors.
 - **Lights:** Both interior and exterior lights are on all of the time illuminating nothing but the backyards and bedrooms of Casey and Kathy.
 - Since a complaint, the exterior lights are dimmer, but still always on.

- Surely bad for bats?
- They emailed Kate and, there was a bunch of people who looked into it, but it's now considered closed.
- **Glyphosate:** They sprayed glyphosate along the property line and killed all the native plants, many of which were food plants.

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:

- Meeting: Monday, September 22, 7:15 pm, online
- Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 7:15 pm, The Overlook (to be discussed/confirmed)

- 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/>