



MILLERSVILLE at FALL CREEK VALLEY, INC.

Annual Meeting

Minutes

April 22, 2024

Cathedral High School – Shiel Student Life Center

Board Present: Catharine (Cac) Diehr, Interim President; Melinda Hall, Secretary; Brad Schrader, Treasurer
Directors: Matt Benson; Tom Eggers; Tom Graham; Sheila Roumpf

Board Absent: Sallie Rowland

Committee Leads: Anti-litter and Beautification: Matt Benson; Quick-Hitter Litter Cleanups: Phyllis Starks; Village Business: Tom Eggers;
Communications managers: Email: Amy Schau Hammes; Website: Mollie Benson; Social Media: Amy & Mollie

Guest Speakers: Indianapolis City-County Councilors: Dist. 3: Dan Boots; Dist. 8: Ron Gibson; Dist. 9: Keith Graves
MFCV - Communications: Dr. Amy Schau Hammes, Email and Social Media Mgr.
Brendonwood Common.: Susan Haber, Pres.
City of Lawrence, Office of Mayor Whitfield: LeAndre Level, Deputy Chief of Staff

Guests: Binford Redevelopment & Growth: Kevin Senninger, Pres.; Nancy Whitmore, Friends of Skiles Test
Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center: Terry Brooks Allen, Training Mgr.; Danae Freeman, Engagement Mgr.
Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District: John Hazlett, District Mgr.
Reconnecting to Our Waterways: Simona Riesing, Exec. Director
Government: City of Indianapolis, Office of Mayor Hogsett: Judith Thomas, Deputy Mayor of Neighborhood Engagement
IMPD-East District Crime Watch Specialist and Lawrence Twp. Trustee: Steve Talley
IMPD-North District: Capt. Kimberly Young
Mayor’s Neighborhood Advocate: Carrington Sanders, Dist.7
Office of U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, Dist.7: Andrew Bochnicka, Field Representative

Called to Order: At 7:00 p.m. by President Diehr, who welcomed all and noted an injury has prevented Cathedral H.S. COO Rolly Landeros from his planned participation in this evening’s meeting.

MFCV handouts and postings: 4//22/24 Agenda; Anti-litter Campaign; Awards/Grants/Honors; Comment Cards; Contributors, 2023-24; 56th St Biking & Walking Trail – Letter of Support; Volunteer Needs and Sign-up; Volunteer Thank-you; Website guide

Other handouts: IMPD East and North Districts; Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District

Council District 8: Ron Gibson

- Focus: Improving neighborhood streets, and eliminating vacancies.
- Gateway to Life initiative at 38th & Emerson: \$48M project will provide 250 apt units and rehabilitate 12 vacant buildings.
- Habitat for Humanity at 46th & Millersville Rd: Brick will now be added to the facades of the proposed 10-unit development.

Council District 3: Dan Boots

- The Nickel Plate Trail: Advancing with \$12M in Next Level Trails and bridge construction funding through INDOT and Federal grants.
- Trail-Oriented Development: Approved by the Council; focuses on denser, mixed-use nodes and walkability near trails and bus lines.
- Litter abatement pause: KIB is using MAC reports to assign Keys2Work to major thoroughfare cleanups, but Binford is not on their list.
- Stay informed: Sign up for his e-newsletter and follow on social media, rather than emailing directly.

Council District 9: Keith Graves

- 38th & Arlington: The area is strengthening with investments from Cook Medical, Eskenazi Health, and Indy Fresh Market.
- Arlington Middle School: Now open as an IPS STEM program facility for grades 6-8, with state-of-the-art modifications ongoing.
- 46th & Arlington: A promising new project is in development, but details are not yet available to the public.

MFCV’s eNewsletter and Social Media: Amy Hammes

Thanked MFCV’s many volunteers, and provided tips for connecting and sharing information on MFCV’s social media and enews.

Millersville Connectivity Planning and the Missing 56th Street Links: Susy Haber

The history of and needs for completion of the engineered third phase of the 2013 protected bike/walk trail project on 56th St between the light at Cathedral High School and Old Colony Rd (I-465) were reviewed, as well as a protected path over I-465 to connect MFCV with Lawrence.

Steps outlined to advance these goals:

- Partner with non-profits to raise funds to make it happen.
- Engage in a broad letter-writing campaign that includes individual voices, not just those of neighborhood association presidents.
- Recognize that implementation may have to be achieved in sections, though the ultimate goal is to complete it as one.
- Do not be discouraged. Persist if denied, and keep trying.

Dan Boots’ comments

- The City does not have enough money in the budget to consider this; it will have to be accomplished with matching funds.
- It will take time. Funding for the Nickel Plate Trail through NLT took six (6) years.
- Demonstrate why the 56th Street Project needs to be funded, and how volunteers support the area through their regular trash pick-ups.

Beautification: Matt Benson

Special thanks!

- To MFCV's volunteers, who work year-round to create and sustain significant beautification projects that enhance and identify Millersville.
 - **Volunteers are needed and requested to sign up to assist with beautification projects. The city does not provide help.**
- To MFCV's city and county supporters:
 - John Hazlett, Director of the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District, for his partnership on invasives removals and native plantings along the Fall Creek greenway, and for obtaining CISMA and SICIM support.
 - Indy Land Stewardship Mgr Don Miller, for his continuing support of MFCV's Fall Creek greenway projects and visions.
- To MFCV's donors, with particular recognition to the grantors and personal supporters whose funding makes MFCV's projects possible:
 - A generous MFCV Board member, along with ROW and the Herbert Simon Family Foundation, for their support of the Overlook.
 - The Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center, for MFCV's 2023 and 2024 Neighborhood Grants.
 - The MCSWCD and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, for their fiscal support of MFCV's greenspaces work.

Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center's new 2024 \$10,000 "Neighborhood Grant" to MFCV will provide funds to:

- Remove 60 dead & dying bushes from 3 Fall Creek trail parking area planting beds NE of Kessler Blvd and replant with professionally recommended new species on October 16, with the assistance of MFCV volunteers and Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy cadets.
- Emerson Way Bridge / Fall Creek Greenway rehabilitation: Continue development of a native prairie where previously invasives overrun. Professionally control re-growth of invasives, and continue reseeding with prairie grasses and flowers.
- Fall Creek Overlook and Preserve Sculpture Garden: Replace native grasses, flowers and mulch lost to winter attrition and flooding.
- Gateway Medians: Revitalize by renewing perennials and replenishing gravel and river rock. Professionally weed control all planted beds.

Special events for volunteers

- May 3, 9am-Noon: Cleanup of storm drains on Fall Creek Pkwy east of Kessler Blvd, sponsored by the WRA, KIB and MCSWCD.
- May 4, 9:30am-Noon: Stream Steward Workshop meeting at the Millersville Preserve, sponsored by FOWR and MCSWCD.
- **Great Millersville Cleanup with "Trashure Hunt" prizes: May 18th, 10am-Noon. Meet in the Lincoln Square parking lot.**

Keep Millersville Beautiful - Quick-hitter litter cleanups: Phyllis Starks

Volunteers were thanked for their positive community impact through litter cleanups of the Village, trail and roadways in all types of weather.

- Excess litter or trash: Report to Request Indy or the MAC line.
- Quick-hitters: Meet at Lincoln Square Pancake House at 10:30 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of the month; 9:30am in warm summer months. Monthly reminders are emailed. Volunteers come whenever time allows, working for 30 minutes or as long as desired.

Special Appreciations

- Matt presented Phyllis with flowers and a vase etched with thanks for her years of leadership devoted to keeping Millersville beautiful.
- Cac presented Matt the copy for a plaque to be installed at the Overlook, in thanks to him and Sallie for creating the peaceful space for all.

City of Lawrence: LeAndre Level

The new Administration met with MFCV's Board in February to discuss a pedestrian sidewalk over I-465 to connect the Lawrence and Millersville communities, linking to existing sidewalks in Lawrence and providing Lawrence Twp students on the west side of I-465 safe access to schools, work and trails, as well as healthy opportunities for families in both communities.

- American Structurepoint is updating Lawrence's pedestrian plan, which will include an opportunity for public input.
- Lawrence secured a \$5M Next Level Trails grant to fund a Fall Creek Trail extension from Ft. Harrison State Park to the Geist loop trail.

Millersville Village: Tom Eggers

The transformation from a fading business center in 2009, when Cac Diehr organized MFCV to revitalize the Village after O'Malia's departure, to the current growth of 75 leased Village spaces and a variety of businesses was highlighted.

- Village Directory on MFCV's website: Lists shops, services and leasable space with contact information.
- Village Directory Assistance: Business Property Owner Matt Voynovich was introduced, and will assist with Directory updates.

Millersville at Fall Creek Valley's Website: Mollie Benson

Meeting handouts were used to illustrate the trove of available material on the website, from history and stories to donors and volunteers.

Additional Notes from Government Officials

- Deputy Mayor Thomas: Advised attendees to report concerns to the MAC or Request Indy.
- IMPD North District Captain Young: Provided comparative period crime statistics for both East and North Districts.

Introduction of the Board: Cac Diehr

Directors: Matt Benson; Cac Diehr; Tom Eggers; Tom Graham; Melinda Hall; Sheila Roumpf; Brad Schrader; and absent Sallie Rowland.

Appreciation; MFCV Behind-the-Scenes; and Transitions: Cac Diehr

- Homage was paid to Millersville resident, strong supporter and Senate D-34 representative Jean Breaux, who passed away in March.
- MFCV's donors, sponsors and incredible volunteers were recognized for their tremendous support of the community.
- Why MFCV? Glimpses were provided of the work behind-the-scenes to deter and eradicate detrimental and criminal businesses.
- This is Cac's last year as President. Attendees were urged to become involved with the organization's essential work in the community.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Melinda Hall, Secretary