12/2/93

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

News & Views

NOVEMBER 1993 VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

UPDATE ON HISTORIC LIGHTING FOR MERIDIAN STREET

Karen Dorfman, Vice President, MSF

Great News! The purchase order for our new historic replacement lighting was finally issued by IPALCO. Our next task is to collect the money which was pledged last summer. Keep watching your mailbox for a pledge collection letter.

Our journey through the city, IPALCO, and INDOT bureaucracies was possible because of the efforts of the Meridian Street Lighting Committee, Larry Dorfman, Chair; Michael Williams, DOT; Dennis Pappenmeier, DOT; Dave Simpson, Lighting Design Associates; and our 3 Council Representatives: Elwood Black, Stu Rhodes, and Steve West.

Alas, our work is not complete until we deliver the money we pledged to the City of Indianapolis. If you know of anyone (resident of the street, corporation, friend of the neighborhood, etc.) who would like to contribute, NOW IS THE TIME TO APPROACH THEM.

Our shortfall is $15,000. Please feel free to increase the amount of your pledge; or, if you haven't pledged, there is still time to contribute. Send your tax deductible contribution to John Pless, Treasurer, Meridian Street Foundation, 5320 N. Meridian, 46208.

Pledge letters will be mailed before Thanksgiving and MUST be returned by December 31, 1993. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to this project.

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION NEEDS BLOCK CAPTAINS

The Meridian Street Foundation is working to better mobilize its membership and in an effort to do this we are looking for individuals to volunteer to be block captains.

We are requesting that each block have a volunteer who will be responsible for the following:

- Submit names and addresses of the block to the Meridian Street Foundation. (We can help with this, if necessary).

- Update Meridian Street Foundation on neighbors new to the block.

- Periodically attend a Meridian Street Foundation meeting upon request.

- Provide homeowners on the block with a roster of neighbors, telephone numbers, fire, police and emergency numbers.

- Communicate to your block, news you may receive from the Meridian Street Foundation.

- Help institute a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program on your block.

These block captains will go a long way in helping us to increase communication within our neighborhood and make it a better place for us all. If you have an interest in being a block captain, please contact George Dury at 283-6100 for additional information.

CASES BEFORE THE MERIDIAN STREET PRESERVATION COMMISSION

by Stan Markuson

The Meridian Street Preservation Commission was established by state statute, to review and rule on proposed changes to properties or uses of properties within the Historic District of North Meridian Street. The changes can involve certificates of appropriateness, zoning variances, development standards variances, zoning amendments and variances in use of property.

The following cases heard by the Commission this year are examples of requests:

1. Certificate of Appropriateness

Two cases were in this category. One was a fence. The fence was visible from Meridian Street and fell under the guidelines of the Commission. (copies of the guidelines are available from the Commission). One factor in this case, which is not uncommon, was that the fence was erected before the owner was aware that he needed to obtain approval from the Commission. It is important to note that this reversal of procedures could have resulted in the fence being removed or altered to meet the guidelines. The second case was an application for restoration of several parts of the house which had deteriorated or were damaged. Since the owner will restore and replace with matching material, style and color, the request was approved. Any significant changes from the original could have been disapproved.

(See Cases, page 3)

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

Only a brief walk is needed to appreciate our beautiful neighborhood. This is a unique area with distinctive architecture, well kept homes and gardens, as well as a diverse and productive population. We live here because we believe this neighborhood presents the best value for what we want in our lives.

The Meridian Street Foundation is a nonprofit organization, established in 1960, to maintain and improve this neighborhood. This means honoring health, safety, and ecological standards. It also means preserving the architectural, historic, and aesthetic features of residential North Meridian Street and the neighborhood in which it lies. The Foundation tackles a wide range of issues from speeding cars and traffic congestion to tree conservation, proper street lights, as well as stop signs and traffic lights. It is active in writing letters to city, county and state officials, in order to expedite solutions to these concerns. It helped establish The Meridian Street Preservation Commission to preserve the neighborhood within a set of defined guidelines. The Commission reviews requests for property changes in order to avoid overcrowding, noise or inappropriate structural modifications.

You can support the Foundation's work of helping to maintain this historic neighborhood by becoming members today. As a member, you are saying that you care about what happens here! You are investing in your future and supporting a program which keeps this area intact. With your membership dues, you will receive quarterly newsletters to keep you informed of all that is impacting our lives. Your thoughts and concerns will be represented to public officials, government agencies, local merchants as well as potential buyers. We look forward to coordinating our efforts with adjacent neighborhood organizations to realize our mutual goals.

This year **we hope to have 100% membership participation.** We are planning exciting annual events and want to involve many, many more of our neighbors, who would like to make a difference. We will devise a walking map of the area which will reach a wide audience. Plans are in the making to develop a "benefits of Living in the Meridian Street Neighborhood" brochure for realtors. When other issues in our city are being discussed, we will create opportunities for the Meridian Street area to be included and recognized. This will insure that many more people will see and understand the value of our neighborhood.

But to do any of this we need your support...with time and money. Join us today in making a difference.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Marcus

Rebecca K. Marcus
President

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS . . .

THE MERIDIAN STREET PRESERVATION COMMISSION is a state body composed of commissioners appointed by the Governor and the Mayor. Its function is to approve alterations to properties and to consider zoning issues. It is not connected to any other neighborhood group in anyway, although several commissioners are actively involved in the other groups as individuals.

THE MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION is a neighborhood association that includes properties on Meridian, the east side of Illinois, the west side of Pennsylvania, and the side streets in between. It acts much like any other neighborhood association as it seeks to protect and improve the area. It currently is raising funds for "historic" street lights for Meridian.

BUTLER-TARKINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION is the large neighborhood association that serves all properties from the west side of Meridian to the canal and from 38th Street to Westfield Boulevard. One of the oldest such groups in the country, it has extensive experience in zoning issues. It has spearheaded the recent effort to add traffic lights in the area.

MERIDIAN-KESSLER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION is the other large neighborhood association that serves all properties from the east side of Meridian to approximately Winthrop Avenue and from 38th Street to Kessler Boulevard. Each year it sponsors the popular Meridian-Kessler Twilight Tour. Additionally, it finds itself concerned with zoning and rehabilitation issues.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Penny Stillwell met with Motorcycle Officer Bob Hanna of the Traffic Division of the Indianapolis Police Department. After reviewing the areas of concern with him, he agreed that there were many commuting speeders using Meridian Street particularly during the rush hours. At this time, however, he is clocking speeders at somewhat lower speeds on average as opposed to 50mph plus that he was encountering before the latest enforcement push.

Officer Hanna stated that traffic lights are an important part of speed control. If the speed limit reductions and necessary traffic lights are not forthcoming from the city and state departments of transportation, then the Meridian Street Foundation will be forced to take legal action to obtain relief from the dangerous conditions that threaten our federally protected historic neighborhood.

Officer Hanna gave out 18 tickets to overweight limit trucks in the last week of October. Moreover, in one enforcement period, he and his partner ticketed over 250 speeders with a minimal ticket of $85.00. He is also investigating the resolution of a hit and run property damage accident that occurred earlier in the year.

Officer Hanna is doing the best he can to stem the flow of speeders and truckers that threaten the lives of drivers, passengers and pedestrians in Meridian Street Historic District. Regrettably, we have had three fatalities. He has asked for our help. If all residents of the area maintain the posted speed limit 35 mph or lower, consistently on Meridian Street, we will slow down at least some potential speed limit violators, those who are following us.

(Cases, continued from page 1)

2. Variance of Use

The owner was renting his property to seven unrelated persons. The City Zoning Code allows only four unrelated persons in a residence. The owner was notified by the city that he was violating the Code and would have to come into compliance. He had also requested approval from the Commission but withdrew his request when the city cited him for the violation. The Commission would have rejected his request because the rules of the Meridian Street Historic District would have permitted only two unrelated persons plus the family to live in one house.

3. Variance of Development Standards

Owner requested approval for building a garage which would exceed the percentage of covered land allowed on a lot. The city requirement is that 65% of the lot shall not be covered by building, including house, garage, swimming pools and other structures. The Preservation Commission rule for the Historic District is 75% minimum open area. Because of the size of lots common to the District, this rule will seldom be a factor. This case is still pending.

The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the North United Methodist Church (38th and Meridian) at 4:00 p.m. It is a public meeting. For additional information, call Dave Kingen, Chairman at 327-4139.

Editor's Note: The Preservation Commission has designated two districts that fall under its guidelines.

District I runs north on Meridian Street from 40th Street to Westfield Boulevard. It includes all properties that touch Meridian Street or touched in 1972. Any outside work done in this primary area must be approved by the Commission.

District II covers as far as Washington Boulevard on the east and Capitol on the west, north to 58th Street and south to 39th Street. In this area, the Commission is notified when a variance is requested from the city.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Gene A. Scott
Membership Chair

The following list of 93 members contains those who have either joined the Foundation as a new member or renewed since October 1, 1992 and are currently considered in good standing.

With only 93 or 594 households contributing, we urge all who have not done so to renew their support for the 1993 year now.

We thank all who have contributed to help make our unique neighborhood a better place to live.

Susan R.	Allen	35 E. 56th St
Wilbur & Jeanne	Appel	5656 N. Penn St.
B.L. Brougher &	Wm. J. Atkins	4555 N. Mer. St.
Ellen	Aufderheide	4450 N. Mer. St.
Dr. & Mrs. John W.	Bailey	5556 N. Mer. St.
Cyrus & Helga	Behroozi	4290 N. Mer. St.
David & Alice	Berger	4833 N. Mer. St.
John W & Laurie	Boyd	5401 N. Mer. St.
Richard L.	Brown	5660 N. Mer. St.
Scott C.	Bruins	4747 N. Mer. St.
Dr. R.	Burciaga	4366 N. Mer. St.
Marcus & Marie	Chandler	4285 N. Mer. St.
Jack & Janice	Coleman	4310 N. Mer. St.
Susie	Dawson	38 East 55th St.
Mrs. E. Maxine	Dean	5510 N. Penn St.
George S.	Dury	28 W. Hampton
Dorothy J.	Dye	4375 N. Mer. St.
Mr & Mrs John R.	Fenstermaker	5241 N. Mer.St.
Jim & Nita	Floyd	15 W. Hampton Dr.
Philip C.	Genetos	5272 N. Mer. St.
Bradford & Patricia	Grow	4146 N. Mer. St.
Jack & Barbara	Hahn	4000 N. Mer. St 2EF
Virginia	Handley	17 West Hampton Dr
Mrs. August M.	Hardee	5545 N. Mer. St.
Dr. Laura	Hare	87 West 43rd St.
Dr. & Mrs Robert	Harger	46 West 52nd St.
Kristen J.	Hein	50 W. Hampton Dr.
Gail L.	Ingersoll	41 East 54th St.
Mr & Mrs Robert C.	Johnstone,II	5141 N. Mer. St.
Mr. & Mrs. Wm.	Kennedy Jr.	5425 N. Mer. St.
Dr. John C.	Klein	4343 N. Mer. St.
Shawna Frazer+Tibor	Klopfer	5206 N. Penn St.
Alyssa	Kneisley	4534 N. Penn St.
Miss Marjorie	Kroeger	5211 N. Mer. St.
Ben & Abby	Kuzma	5639 N. Mer. St.
Julia & Andre	Lacy	5686 N. Penn. St.
Roberta M.	Lamberson	5548 N. Mer. St.
G.B.	Landrigan	34 W. 49th St.
Cecelia A.	Litel	4521 N. Ill St.
George H.	Maley	4531 N. Mer. St.
Morton & Rebecca	Marcus	5321 N. Ill. St.
Stan	Markuson	4621 N. Mer. St.
Anita	Martin	32 East 52nd St.
William J.	McLane	4400 N. Mer. St.
W.L.	McNiece	5250 N. Penn St.
Scott B.	Mexic	5555 N. Mer. St.
Thor & Melissa	Miller	4334 N. Penn St.
Paul W.	Mobley	4425 N. Mer. St.
Timothy S.	Needler	5440 N. Mer. St.
Elliott & Estelle	Nelson	5630 N. Mer. St.
Martha A.	Nester	5324 N. Penn St.
Alan T.& Jane R	Nolan	4118 N. Penn. St.
Dr.& Mrs James	Norton	4138 N. Penn. St.
M. Dave	O'Guinn	5230 N. Mer. St.
Robert W.	Otto	4048 N. Penn St.
Frank N.	Owings	4909 N. Mer. St.
Mr & Mrs Robert	Pinkley	4525 N. Mer. St.
John	Pless	5320 N.Meridian
Bruce & Anne	Ploshay	4118 N. Mer. St.
Margaret C.	Pratt	5050 N. Mer. St.
William T.	Rees	5330 N. Mer St.
Marjorie A.	Reinhart	37 West 52nd St.
Stuart & Karen	Rhodes	5690 N. Mer. St.
M/M L. T.	Rice	4532 N. Penn. St.
Richard B.	Rich, M.D.	5220 N. Mer. St.
Alice	Ross	4611 N. Mer. St.
Tom & Jodie	Roush	5650 N. Mer. St
Dr.& Mrs. James	Sabens	5354 N. Mer. St.
Mr.& Mrs.Carl M.	Sauer	5540 N. Mer. St.
Mr & Mrs Sam	Schahet	4000 N. Mer. St.
Fred E.	Schlegel	5273 N. Ill St.
Gene A.	Scott	4030 N.Penn. St.
Amy MacDonell &	Randall Shepard	4057 N. Mer. St.
John K.	Sheridan	5243 N. Mer. St.
Malcolm W.	Smith	49 West 42nd St.
Genevera B.	Sparrow	4830 N. Mer. St.
Dr John & Sandra	Stevens	5125 N. Mer. St.
Penelope K.	Stillwell	4519 N. Mer. St.
Dr. Charles E.	Test	4430 N. Mer. St.
Stephen & Wendy	Thomas	4515 N Mer. St.
Gordon M.	Trout	37 Meridian Ln.
Louis & Ruth	Vignati	5617 N. Mer. St.
John & Bobbie	Walsh	4475 N. Mer. St.
Lloyd	Wampler	4000 N.Meridian
Hugh & Jane	Watson	4925 N. Mer. St.
Steven L.	Weinstein	22 W. 56th St.
Stephen R.	West	4120 N. Ill. St.
J.B.	Wilson	5360 N. Mer. St.
Evans	Woolen	47 S.Pennsylvania
Greg & Betty	Wright	4205 N. Ill. St.
Timothy T.	Wright	4950 N. Mer. St.
Charles A.	Wulf	4000 N. Mer. St.
Mr/Mrs Terry L.	Young	5151 N. Mer. St.
Mildred	Young	5331 N. Ill St.

REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

By G. B. Landrigan, Realtor

Following a two-year hiatus, your favorite facts-and-figures column returns.

As many neighbors have already noted, it is taking longer to sell homes in the $300,000 and above market. We should be reassured, however, that this is not isolated in our neighborhood only, but is also being experienced in other places notably the Geist and Carmel areas. Happily, with interest rates at their lowest in twenty-odd years, the situation should right itself in the near future.

An unfounded concern regarding the number of homes available on North Meridian (14) is one easily dispensed with. The majority of properties have been placed on the market by families who are being transferred out of the city, have recently lost a spouse, or are simply moving to smaller quarters in order to enjoy their "Golden Years". In other words, we are not "losing out" to other neighborhoods. Yet, we should not be smug as it is necessary to vigilant in our efforts to keep the area a safe and attractive one.

Listed below are the statistics of the Board of Directors for our area since January 1993. Due to homes sold by owner and confidential sales, the statistics may not be exactly true.

	Meridian	Pennsylvania	Illinois	Side Streets
ACTIVE	14	5	5	2
avg. price	481,457	246,720	216,840	139,800
PENDING	0	1	1	3
CLOSED	4	15	7	9
avg. price	291,875	199,733	141,757	132,706

It should be noted that the closed sales on Meridian were for homes that were generally much smaller than those sold in previous years.

FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal _____ New _____

Patron Member - $100+
Sustaining Member - $50
Contributing Member - $25
Family Membership - $15
Single Membership - $10

All contributions are appreciated. All members will be acknowledged in the News & Views. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Children and ages: _____

Occupation: _____

Would you care to participate on a committee?

If so, what area? _____

Please return to Gene Scott, with check payable to the Meridian Street Foundation, 4030 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46205

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News & Views
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