



## Land Stewards of Indianapolis

Newsletter 01/02/2020

Dear Friends,

I want to thank each of you for your support as we strive to bring about real change in how we care for our neighbors and our ecosystem in Indianapolis.

This being the very first newsletter, I'd like to highlight the vision and mission of the organization:

Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Inc. (LSIndy) is a nonprofit business that is committed to the flourishing of the City of Indianapolis and surrounding communities through the development, redevelopment, and ongoing management of sustainable residential neighborhoods. LSIndy and its functions are rooted in one foundational belief and commitment:

---

*"The health and flourishing of mankind and the natural environment are the responsibility of every person."*

---

If we believe that this statement is true, then it calls us to action. It leads us to take ownership of more than just ourselves. Within the specific mission of LSIndy, we find that it leads us to promote the health and flourishing of our neighborhoods, and the land and ecosystem services they utilize. We commit to love and respect our neighbors and work towards a *shared wellbeing*. And we commit to being good stewards of our natural resources for the *health of our people and planet*.

**This requires significant change in the design and maintenance of residential communities.** LSIndy provides the vision, tools, and resources needed for communities to live out these ideals in a way that is organized, and efficient.

Through the work of LSIndy, we are committed to actively pursue the following: Practice Environmental Conservation in Residential Development; Create, Test, and Measure Sustainable Property Management Best Practices in Neighborhood Communities;

Establish Resilient Neighborhoods through Community Development; and Educate Homeowners regarding Human Health and Wellness and Environmental Stewardship.

As we enter 2020, I'll share a brief update on the startup of Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Inc. We have accomplished quite a bit in the last quarter of 2019!

## 2019

Sept 1st - The first members of the Sustainable Housing Development (SHD) Exploratory Team joined me in developing the core concepts of Land Stewards (see volunteer list under Recognition). These volunteer professionals brought experience in nonprofit and for-profit business management, nonprofit funding, real estate, and landscape design. The team served as an advisory board, and many of them may continue in that role in 2020.

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> - The SHD Exploratory Team welcomed two additional volunteers specializing in inclusive development and architecture.

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - The SHD Exploratory Team published several documents outlining the vision, mission, and basic functions of this new nonprofit business.

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> - The SHD Exploratory Team published a final draft of Ideal Housing Characteristics (IHCs) that would inform the business' key value propositions for future developments. These IHCs were then narrowed down based on ease of implementation, and value as related to the mission and vision.

Throughout November, the members of the SHD Exploratory Team who work in the design industry met to form multiple neighborhood design concepts based on a shortened list of IHCs.

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> - Land Stewards of Indianapolis obtained an EIN from the federal government.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> - Land Stewards of Indianapolis incorporated in the state of Indiana as a nonprofit business entity.

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - The SHD Exploratory Team welcomed an additional volunteer specializing in environmental ecology.

Dec 16 - Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Inc. secured a valuable software donation from Oracle NetSuite for use in accounting and CRM.

Throughout November and December, I have also been working with Sagamore Institute to setup LSIndy with the Commonwealth Fund, partnering with Charitable Allies for development as a 501c3, and establishing an accounting process for LSIndy.

2020

As we move forward in 2020, Kyla McEntire and Phil Kirk will be helping with strategic networking as representatives of Land Stewards. Additionally, David Maurer will be providing leadership in the development of our board.

The first quarter of 2020 will include ramping up the organization for 501c3 status and one or more community projects kicking off this year.

Recognition

I want to personally show my deepest gratitude towards everyone who has volunteered with LSIndy this year. The diverse thought, vibrant brainstorming sessions, and unending passion that I have witnessed from this talented group of people has allowed LSIndy to stand on a firm foundation going into the new year. Thank you: Jim, Brian, Phil, David, Kyla, Stacia, Victoria, Luke, and Ben for donating your valuable time and energy!

**Sustainable Housing Development Exploratory Team (Sept – Dec 2019):**

Jim Blazek	General Manager, D2 Land & Water Resource, Inc.
Brian Burtch	Owner, NEON Architecture
Phil Kirk	Real Estate Broker, Plat Collective
David Maurer	Executive Director, Churches in Mission
Kyla McEntire	Director of Development, Indiana University School of Education - IUPUI
Stacia Murphy	Fellow, Inclusive Growth, Develop Indy
Victoria Veach	Conservation Ecologist, Green 3 LLC
Luke Waltz	Urban Designer, TSW Design Group
Ben Worries	Practice Manager, KSM Consulting

As we look forward to funding our first project, forming a board, and creating meaningful partnerships with other businesses in Indianapolis, we humbly ask for your financial support specifically in the first quarter of 2020. Even though our long-term financial model is not dependent on philanthropic giving, the first-year operating budget and land purchase is completely funded through internal and external donations. Currently the website is the best place to make a donation.

Thank you again, for supporting sustainable neighborhood development through Land Stewards of Indianapolis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Counsell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David W. Counsell, PE, LEED AP BD+C, SITES AP  
Founder, Volunteer  
Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Inc.