Hello Watson Park Neighbors!

                What an interesting last couple months it has been 😊.  We hope you all are staying safe and healthy as we look towards businesses reopening in the not so distance future.  During this time, your Watson Park Neighborhood Association Board has continued working to find ways to improve our wonderful neighborhood.  ***We will not be hosting an in-person meeting on May 20th*** and will use this email as way to update our community on what the WPNA Board has been working on.  Please review the below information and let us know if you have any questions:

***McCord Park Updates***

Barbara Zech, local artist and Watson Park Neighborhood resident, worked with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) to have mulch and new plants donated.  Vince Burton, Elizabeth Burton, Chris Cooley, and Curt Miller worked together to spread the mulch and plant new plants.  Vince, Chris, and Curt also worked together to clean the park prior to the mulch and plant delivery.  Thank you all so much for your dedication in keeping McCord Park so beautiful!

***KIB Great Indy Cleanup***

The KIB Great Indy Cleanup this Spring was cancelled due to COVID-19.  KIB has not rescheduled the Spring cleanup and we will most likely not have another KIB sponsored cleanup until the Fall.  We will continue to provide updates as they are received from KIB.

***City Organization Updates***

The WPNA has updated our address with the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) to receive communications via our PO Box.  This means that we also now receive communications from local residents and business owners that are requesting a variance on their properties.  The WPNA now has visibility and a voice to review these variance requests and submit our approval or opposition to the DMD.  We look forward to working with the neighborhood on variance request decisions and are excited to have another opportunity to make a real impact on direction our community.

***Pending Variance Requests***

2020-UV1-003 – 3544 Carrollton Ave

The current owner of 3544 Carrollton Ave has submitted a variance request to the Department of Metropolitan Development to allow the apartment complex to operate 10 units.  The unit is currently only zoned for 4 units.  The owner, Darryl Finkton (Circle City Weekly Rentals), has owned the property since 2016 and has been illegally renting out 10 units and sections of some of the units weekly.  Due to Darryl’s lack of management, the building is a constant source of criminal activity.  There have been over 70 police runs to the apartment complex from June 2nd 2019 to April 20th 2020.  The property also has multiple building code violations and is delinquent on its’ property taxes.  The WPNA Board has been working diligently to provide the DMD with enough evidence to prove that Darryl has no investment in our community and should not be granted this variance request.  **The variance hearing is scheduled for June 4th at 1pm EDT in the Beurt SerVass Public Assembly Room on the Second Floor of the City County Building (200 E Washington St)**.  We hope you will consider attending the variance hearing or sending an email to the DMD Senior Planner assigned to the variance request.  Her name is Marleny Iraheta and her email address is Marleny.Iraheta@Indy.Gov.  If you choose to email Marleny, please reference the variance request 2020-UV1-003 in the email subject.  More information regarding the variance request, zoning information, police runs, property tax records, and letters of opposition from the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation, the Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association, and the Watson Park Neighborhood Association can be found at [www.watsonpark.org/pending-variances](http://www.watsonpark.org/pending-variances).  Please feel free to use any of these 3 letters as a template for your email to the DMD.

***The Fight Against Crime in Our Neighborhood***

Local law enforcement has committed to having at least one representative from IMPD present at all WPNA meetings.  They will be providing updates on criminal activity, ongoing prevention efforts, and offer suggestions on actions we can take to help IMPD in their efforts as well as protect our own homes.  IMPD can also provide neighborhood police reports upon request.

***Local Community Organization Updates***

The WPNA is now part of the Children’s Museum’s Neighborhood Development Working Group.  The NDWG is a group that was created to inform the Mid-North neighborhoods of all of the Children’s Museum’s community initiatives and give us a platform to meet with all of the other Mid-North Neighborhood Association leaders.  Crown Hill, Highland Vicinity, Historic Meridian Park, Mapleton-Fall Creek, and Meridian Highland Neighborhood Associations are all members of the NDWG.  It has been beneficial to grow our partnership with our neighboring communities and we are excited to see what we can accomplish together!

***Board Updates***

Karl Duchmann has resigned from the WPNA Board.  We appreciate all of Karl’s efforts on the Board and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.  The Board has voted for Glenn Lewzader to replace Karl as the Board Treasurer and  Jeremy Thompkins to be the Board Secretary.  We look forward to the value both of them will add to their new roles.  Congratulations!

We also wanted to welcome our newest Board Member, Melissa Skoczylas.  Melissa has joined the WPNA Board because of her passion to help improve our neighborhood.  She has experience serving on multiple other neighborhood associations as well as professional experience in healthcare and business development.  Welcome Melissa!

***Membership Updates***

All residents of the Watson Park Neighborhood will be receiving their 2020 WPNA Membership Letters in the mail in the coming weeks.  For those of you that have an active WPNA member status, we appreciate your renewed support.  For those of you thinking about becoming a WPNA member, we hope you will consider supporting our efforts!  All membership dues go directly to the WPNA and are used to fund neighborhood events, park maintenance costs, and mailings.  We also have more Board member seats available, so please let us know if you’re interested!

We look forward to seeing some of you in person for our next Association meeting on July 15th at 6pm at Raphael Health Center!

-Logan

Logan S. Wechter

WPNA President

[www.watsonpark.org](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.watsonpark.org__;!!AqUccmB9Oakh!jhTiyRFKjzREg0cADkhAULk9b3ZptXx0GBBrhCUNivdRnfi-GBMz6hUTTXfzIe7iAYzY0w$)

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