

Summary from IHLNA Board Meeting, April 3, 2025, Prepared by John Tomasino

Board members present:

Katie Clark, Melissa Farley, Marie-Claire Leman, Gordon Magill, Ceci Michelotti, Ana Orosco, Edward Reid, and John Tomasino

Board members absent:

Ashley Arrington, Jason Hohensee, Eli Wilkins-Malloy, and KC Smith

Others in attendance:

Betsy Tabac, Genevieve Carroll, Joyce Gardner, Sidney Usatine, Kristin Power-Blaiklock

1. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda:

The folks in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Updates and neighbor concerns

-Magnolia Project Update

We recently requested that the construction team/county close off Diamond as with Toochin now closed that small residential street is experiencing increased traffic. It is a narrow street with no sidewalk. We are still waiting to hear if they will agree to do that. Katie did mention she has also experienced increased traffic on Circle Dr. The project started in mid May, 2024, and it appears to be ahead of schedule.

-Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan Update

The group discussed the city and county's proposed updated Comprehensive Plan, with a focus on potential zoning and development impacts on the neighborhood. There was a mention that, as currently written, the plan does not prevent certain types of development adjacent to residential neighborhoods, like gas stations, that some

residents may find concerning. That is true with the current comprehensive plan and would be true with the proposed updated plan.

Ceci brought up the ATN Comprehensive Plan Committee, prompting some reflection on whether the neighborhood association should share information about ATN's positions. The conversation then shifted toward a specific draft letter from ATN with recommendations related to the Comp Plan. Ceci clarified that she would be comfortable sharing the letter with neighbors—not as an official board position, but simply as information and guidance on how to express one's position on the plan.

Marie-Claire suggested adding an introductory sentence or two to make it clear that the board isn't endorsing the content but simply distributing it for awareness. Everyone agreed that sharing the information via email only (rather than posting on social media) was the best route, in order to avoid public comment threads or confusion about the board's stance.

-Request for barrier along Orange Ave retention pond

John clarified that Sue Anstead is requesting a continuation of the wooden fence that the county installed along the back of the houses along Orange Ave. Marie-Claire questioned why she would prefer the fence at the south side of the retention pond instead of the north side, along Nancy Dr. John said he would check to make sure we were requesting it in the desired location. Also, it was suggested that Sue contact a few of her nearby neighbors to garner more support. John said he would make that request to Sue.

-New items brought by neighbors, if any

None.

3. Board issues

-Recap on Spring Yard sale and Membership drive

Marie-Claire began the discussion by noting that the yard sale was very well attended, with enthusiastic participation from both sellers and shoppers. She emphasized that the event felt larger and more vibrant than previous years, likely due to more effort by the board and neighbors in getting the word out.

Melissa reported detailed figures:

- \$1,280.48 was collected in neighborhood dues
 - \$2,681.32 was received in extra donations
 - Of those donations, \$325 was earmarked for Nene Fest, and \$125 for the 5K
- Melissa also noted she had received additional payments through PayPal the night before the meeting.

The board viewed this as a successful turnout and a strong showing for the membership drive, and they noted a reminder is in the newsletter to keep the momentum going and encourage more neighbors to join or renew.

-Update from Ana

1. Upcoming Workshop on Housing Resilience (April 10, 3–4 PM)

Ana is organizing a roundtable discussion on housing resilience that will feature experts on urban planning and building standards, followed by a community-focused segment. She will be presenting in the final session, with the goal of bridging the technical material with neighborhood experiences.

She invited neighbors to attend and participate by sharing their personal experiences of living in Indianhead, especially in relation to climate challenges and natural hazards like flooding or storm damage. She emphasized that she values neighbor feedback more than academic input and wants the session to be conversational, not lecture-style.

Board members expressed support, and a few volunteered to attend. Ceci encouraged Ana to re-send the event details by email, and Gordon said he would try to go.

2. Archiving Neighborhood Newsletters and Climate Resilience Research

Ana has been working on converting the neighborhood's historical newsletters (174 pages total) into searchable text. As part of her research, she's analyzing trends like flooding reports, building dates, and materials used in homes (especially in the Lehigh area) to better understand vulnerabilities.

She's especially interested in how older construction patterns and floodplain data intersect, and how that might affect the neighborhood's ability to respond to future events. She also previewed a small survey she plans to distribute to collect resident input and refine her project.

Ana wrapped up by saying she's having fun with the project and hopes it will provide practical value to the neighborhood.

-Update on Bat houses

Kenny Welsh with the city reached out to the local Audubon Society and they got him in touch with a local expert named Vanessa Crisler. John and Vanessa met and walked the entire trail, from Koucky Park, up along the trail, to around the beaver pond. John and Vanessa pinpointed 4 really good spots. The first two would be around the beaver pond. Number 3 would be on Joyce Gardner's lot, in the very back off the trail. Joyce enthusiastically supports placing one there. John has asked the city if the one house purchased with the Board's matching grant can be sited there and he's waiting to hear back. The fourth would be located in the southeast corner of Koucky Park. John still

needs to collect signatures from property owners near the locations. Betsy and Joyce both offered to help get those signatures.

-Discuss Photo Albums

Edward Reid shared that he has access to a remarkable collection of about 90 large-format (8x10) photographs from the 1950s depicting homes throughout the neighborhood. Many of the photos include both a larger print and a smaller trial print, possibly used by the photographer to determine cropping.

Edward recognized several houses—including his own—based on distinctive architectural features like rooflines and wraparound windows. He also shared a photo featuring George Koucky and friends, noting that some of the photographs include handwritten identifications, though most remain unlabeled.

4. Upcoming Events

-Nene Fest and Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run

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Planning for Nene Fest and the associated 5K/Fun Run is actively underway. Melissa reported that \$325 in donations have been designated specifically for Nene Fest, and \$125 is earmarked for the 5K.

Marie-Claire mentioned that the event is now three weeks away, and organization efforts are ramping up. There are two main sign-up forms being used:

1. One for volunteering with the Nene Fest 5K:

<https://forms.gle/PXP7VBMhDA4LWPcW7>

2. One for helping with the main Nene Fest event, including various stations and activities: <https://forms.gle/7GtHaGTrghuh32CX8>

-4th of July

Marie-Claire will reach out to Kristin Power-Blaiklock to confirm she is willing to organize this year's bike parade and other festivities.

5. Other issues

None.