

Indiana Women's Prison Site Reuse Committee

<https://www.facebook.com/iwpreuse>

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 meeting minutes

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 700p @ Woodruff Place Baptist Church (1739 East Michigan Street)

|    |              | Organization/Neighborhood              | Attendee                 | Notes                                 |
|----|--------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Attended     | <b>John H. Boner Community Center</b>  | <b>Melissa Benton</b>    | <b>mbenton@jbncenters.org</b>         |
| 2  | Attended     | <b>Rivoli Park / NESCO</b>             | <b>Jim Bowden</b>        | <b>jbowden@iu.edu</b>                 |
| 3  | Prior attend | Englewood Community Development        | Joe Bowling              | joe@englewoodcdc.com                  |
| 4  | Will invite  | IND Councilor District 13              | Jesse Brown              | jesse@jesseforindy.com                |
| 5  | Prior attend | Soma Downtown Church                   | Satchel Burton           | satchel@somadowntown.church           |
| 6  | Attended     | <b>Carpenter / Windsor Park</b>        | <b>Rich Costello</b>     | <b>richandmaggie@calcarpenter.com</b> |
| 7  | Will invite  | Indiana Landmarks                      | Mark Dollase             | mdollase@indianalandmarks.org         |
| 8  | Attended     | <b>Woodruff Place</b>                  | <b>Brandon Fishburn</b>  | <b>brandonfishburn@gmail.com</b>      |
| 9  | Will invite  | Holy Cross                             | Jen Higginbotham         | info@indyholycross.org                |
| 10 | Will invite  | St. Clair Place                        | John Hay                 | indybikehiker@gmail.com               |
| 11 | Prior attend | IND Dept. Metropolitan Devel.          | Matt Hostetler           | matthew.hostetler@indy.gov            |
| 12 | Prior attend | IN Senator District 46                 | Andrea Hunley            | s46@iga.in.gov                        |
| 13 | Will invite  | IN Rep. District 100                   | Blake Johnson            | h100@iga.in.gov                       |
| 14 | Prior attend | IND Dept. Metropolitan Devel.          | Piers Kirby              | piers.kirby@indy.gov                  |
| 15 | Will invite  | Westminster St. Philip Neri            | Shirley Larner           | larner00@gmail.com                    |
| 16 | Attended     | <b>Windsor Park</b>                    | <b>Mark Latta</b>        | <b>m.nlatta@gmail.com</b>             |
| 17 | Prior attend | Willard Park                           | Joey Newsome             | joey.woodruffplace@gmail.com          |
| 18 | Attended     | <b>Willard Park</b>                    | <b>Melissa/Jon Peter</b> | <b>pandemom1@gmail.com</b>            |
| 19 | Will invite  | St. Clair Place                        | Hilary Powers            | teamstclairplace@gmail.com            |
| 20 | Attended     | <b>Woodruff Place</b>                  | <b>Will Pritchard</b>    | <b>twp2@hotmail.com</b>               |
| 21 | Prior attend | IND Dept. Metropolitan Devel.          | Heather Reid             | heather.reid@indy.gov                 |
| 22 | Prior attend | NEAR                                   | Emily Scott              | emily@nearindy.org                    |
| 23 | Prior attend | IND Dept. Metropolitan Devel.          | Eddie Shei               | eddie.shei@indy.gov                   |
| 24 | Attended     | <b>NEAR</b>                            | <b>Joe Smoker</b>        | <b>joe@nearindy.org</b>               |
| 25 | Prior attend | Rivoli Park / NESCO                    | Chris Staab              | nescopresident@gmail.com              |
| 26 | Will invite  | IND Neighborhood Advocate              | Rosie Stockdale          | rosie.stockdale@indy.gov              |
| 27 | Attended     | <b>Rabble Coffee / St. Clair Place</b> | <b>Jessica Tellstrom</b> | <b>jessicatellstrom@gmail.com</b>     |
| 28 | Will invite  | Woodruff Place                         | Randy Veach              | president@woodruffplace.org           |
| 29 | Prior attend | IND Dept. Metropolitan Devel.          | Alex Will                | alex.will@indy.gov                    |

Updates / Overview for those not attended prior meetings:

- DMD Women's Prison information website: <https://www.indy.gov/activity/indiana-womens-prison>  
Map, history, four historical photos, seven photos of existing buildings, news articles
- Transfer from State of Indiana to City of Indianapolis was completed at end of 2024.
- Future meetings schedule: Change to quarterly?
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) Indiana ( <https://indiana.uli.org/homepage/about/leaders/> ) hired by City of Indianapolis to conduct Technical Assistance Panels (TAPs): completed interviews late April 2025. When will report to completed?
- [nescocommunity.org/projects](https://nescocommunity.org/projects) will be used for repository of any archival information available. NESCO needs to add link

- Prior meetings summary (detailed notes will be on website archives):
  - March 20, 2025: Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) provided updates and heard concerns regarding conditions of site since State of Indiana transfer completed: security company visits daily, environmental phase 1 completed, tunnels exist, will need environmental phase 2, mowing, fencing. Discuss: KIB/ Keys2Work / RecycleForce cleanups. Andrea Hunley previously met with Dan Parker (Chief of Staff) and Megan Vukusich (DMD) regarding need to engage community. ULI study could be presented at future Near Eastside Summit. HOTIF.
  - February 19, 2025: Discuss questions that neighbors will bring up to DMD. HOTIF funds for study? Can another cleanup be conducted along with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful? Will Pritchard is admin for: [facebook.com/iwpreuse](https://www.facebook.com/iwpreuse). Remaining buildings onsite are historical. Fence stored with State of Indiana. Open the property and artwork, etc.
- Mark Latta Indiana Humanities grant project: March 21, 2025 blog: <https://www.cityrising.org/building-the-otherwise/blog-post-title-two-cake8> “... this initiative brings together formerly incarcerated women, community members, and scholars to explore the site’s past, reclaim its stories, and shape public conversations about its future.” March 2025 – March 2026. Will conduct interviews of formerly incarcerated.
- Ball State / IUPUI Spring 2025 class project: Melissa Benton provided overview of completed class project to study the site. See attached: 04302025-university-projects-ball-state-indiana-university-spring-2025-indiana-womens-prison-site-reuse.pdf
- Miscellaneous items:
  - Saturday, October 4, 2025 KIB cleanup: Willard Park is a focus neighborhood - 200 volunteers attending for cleanup?
  - Discussions amongst attendees: demolish all building but keep chapel and limestone, historic versus historical (i.e. dorms versus administration), State Archives originally proposed for site reuse and then relocated to downtown Canal.
  - Sherman Park / RCA site visioning project: EPA grant (\$200,000.00) awarded to NEAR in 2017. Discuss difficulty of small neighborhood organizations conducting a visioning plan without funding. Prior surveys already conducted where has that data gone and is it worthwhile to organize another survey?
  - Any funds available from HOTIF or Indiana Landmarks for visioning project? 2019 - 2024 Black Mountain visioning project <https://www.indy.gov/activity/brownfields-environmental-justice>
  - Think in the long term for reuse of site and discussions included time it took for P.R. Mallory site, Black Mountain site, Sherman Park / RCA site, Central State Hospital site, Westside Indy Gate project, etc.
- Media:
  - March 21, 2025: Beyond These Gates: Remembering, Reclaiming, and Reimagining the Indiana Women’s Prison. <https://www.cityrising.org/building-the-otherwise/blog-post-title-two-cake8>
  - September 19, 2024: States Agrees to Sign Over Former Indiana Women’s Prison Property to City of Indianapolis <https://www.wthr.com>
  - City of Indianapolis Acquires Historic State Women’s Prison in Deal with State. 2:12 minutes. Posted: September 19, 2024. 680 views: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eilvbykh4QA>
  - Demolition Begins as Former Women’s Prison on Indy’s Near East Side. 1:56 minutes. Posted: June 22, 2022. 631 views: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQLVM1JkzF0>
  - Who Would Believe a Prisoner. Indiana Women’s Carceral Institutions, 1848 – 1920. <https://www.whowouldbelieve.com/>
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# Indiana Women's Prison

401 N Randolph St.



## BUILDINGS

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Admin. Building   | 6. Cottage No. 1       |
| 2. Visitor Center    | 7. Chapel Building     |
| 3. Hospital Building | 8. Boiler Building     |
| 4. Cottage No. 3     | 9. Guardhouse Building |
| 5. Cottage No. 2     |                        |

## FEATURES

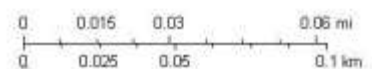
- A. Labyrinth
- B. Water Feature
- C. Service Gates
- D. Quadrangle
- E. Recreational Area
- F. Parking Lot
- G. Main Gate

## BOUNDARIES

- Property Line
- Security Fence
- Building Footprint



1:1,500



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community