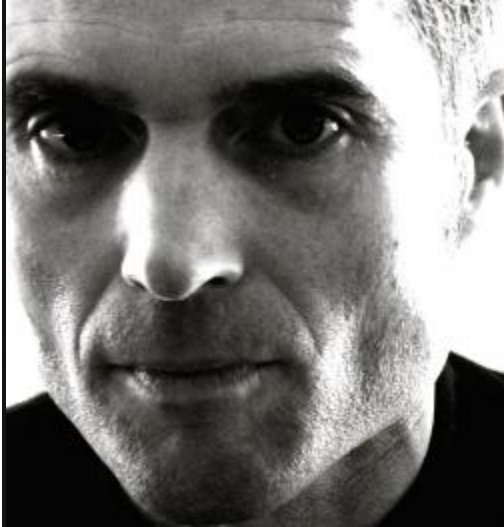




Good green news



Kevin McKinney, NUVO publisher and McKinney Family Foundation spokesperson -

Posted on January 21, 2009 by Laura McPhee

Sustainability efforts continue to grow

The Indianapolis Office of Sustainability made several key announcements this past weekend regarding SustainIndy. City leaders hope this initiative aimed at greening Indianapolis and delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, while improving quality of life and enhancing environmental and public health, will make Indianapolis one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.

In addition to launching a new Web site, www.SustainIndy.org, the city announced a private grant that will move many sustainability projects forwarded in Indianapolis.

"We are committed to making Indianapolis one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest," said Mayor Greg Ballard about the SustainIndy announcements. "Developing a one-stop shop site for information about sustainability initiatives in our city is key to educating our residents and corporate citizens about how they can help make our city a better place to live."

According to the Office of Sustainability, SustainIndy.org contains information ranging from green infrastructure guidelines to tips for increasing energy efficiency and also information about the city's Green Commission.

It will also serve as a place where the city will highlight different sustainability projects throughout the city and show how the private sector is doing its part to help improve the quality of life for residents. The site also includes a mechanism for businesses and residents to tell the city what they are doing to help make Indianapolis one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.

"Since day one, the office of sustainability has fielded requests from businesses and individuals seeking ways to connect with sustainability projects, to volunteer, to donate resources, or to learn more about how to help green Indianapolis. SustainIndy.org provides an answer for anyone asking how to get more involved in making our city sustainable," said Kären Haley, director of the Office of Sustainability.

The Office of Sustainability also announced over the weekend that the McKinney family, longtime leaders in the Indianapolis business and environmental communities, including ownership of NUVO, has established the McKinney Family Green Initiatives Fund to support the city's SustainIndy initiative and to help drive local sustainability projects.

"We have been impressed by and appreciative of Mayor Ballard's leadership in creating the Office of Sustainability and making green initiatives a priority of his administration," said Kevin McKinney, NUVO publisher and spokesperson for the McKinney Family Foundation. "We are pleased to be able to support the city's efforts and look forward to working together to make Indianapolis a greener, more sustainable community."

"The McKinney Family Green Initiatives Fund will move Indianapolis a significant step forward toward our goal of becoming one of the Midwest's most sustainable cities," Mayor Greg Ballard said in a statement on Saturday. "Partnerships are the key to achieving this goal, and I am truly grateful to the McKinney family for their commitment to our city." The charitable fund, established through the Central Indiana Community Foundation, initially will be designated to support Office of Sustainability staff salaries, developing the first LEED-certified city-owned building in Indianapolis, and creating bicycle lanes on city streets.

Greening the College Avenue Corridor

The College Avenue Neighborhood Development Organization (CAN DO!) has teamed up with Carreau Design to redevelop 49th and College with an amazing Brown to Green mixed use project: the Uptown-Midtown to Downtown.

They've had an amazing response to their online petition asking the city to support their efforts, including hundreds of signatures of support from people who have expressed their desire to see positive change in urban Indy. But they are still needing more voices to help make their request heard.

Here's the text of the petition:

College Avenue Neighborhood Development Organization:

local non-for profit organization) supports the Smart Growth, Mix Use, Live / Work / Walk / Bike / Play / Shop redevelopment planned for 49th and College.

We believe that there is an environmental decay in this crucial block that has limited further development, has contributed to the erosion of the area, and has hampered further connectivity back to downtown.

As a neighborhood association we have requested the City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana to help our community transform itself from Brown to Green with Economic Redevelopment a priority.

The City of Indianapolis has been supportive and attracted private dollars to invest into the proposed comprehensive plan to assist in leveraging the needed public/private partnership, and we urge the City and State to work with the existing Programs to begin this long-awaited Regional Transportation Oriented Redevelopment, that will create numerous positive opportunities for us all.

The rebuilding of this historic center of our community, the walkable design, commercial district development, and corridor revitalization has the support not only from CAN DO! but also from the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association, Harmoni, BRVA, and 12 other neighborhood organizations closer to downtown who affirm their support of these needed public/private partnership investments, helping our city and community grow.

The Uptown Project at 49th and College addresses a wide range of community benefits.

- clean up toxic commercial site
- create affordable housing, jobs, and economic development
- invest in urban infrastructure
- attract services and create jobs
- obtain LEED certification
- develop sustainable models in economics and energy
- reset the declining demographics of the City of Indianapolis

Smart Growth gives opportunities back to our community and school systems, fights crime, and creates economic development while keeping property taxes lower.

By working with the neighborhood, city planners, state programs, and following the national proven success model for community redevelopment, the strategic assemblage of this important opportunity and location is now awaiting a decision on the completed City application for the needed funds to begin this project.

Our goal is to provide energy and assist in organizing the community to also produce Infrastructure enhancements, green bio-swells, bicycle lanes, pedestrian ways, and landscaping for the area. Please sign our petition now and be a part of positive change for College Avenue and the City of Indianapolis.

If you want to help CAN DO! achieve its goals, take a few seconds to sign their online petition at www.thepetitionsite.com/1/49th-and-college-revitalization-of-the-uptown.

For more info on CAN DO! and the College Avenue project, contact PJ Christie at 49thandcollege@gmail.com.