**INDIANA FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Details**

**Date:** July 6, 2022

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** Virtually via Microsoft Teams and 1610 Reeves Road, Plainfield IN 46168, Classroom

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

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| **Name** | **Present** | | **Means of Participation** |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| Harold Davidson |  |  | In Person |
| Greg Furnish |  |  | Electronic Means (MS Teams) |
| Jim Greeson |  |  | In Person |
| Joe Heinsman |  |  | NA |
| David Henson |  |  | NA |
| Todd Hite |  |  | In Person |
| Wes Jordan |  |  | In Person |
| Jim Murua |  |  | In Person |
| Scott Pannicke |  |  | In Person |
| Michael Popich |  |  | In Person |
| John Watson |  |  | In Person |

1. Review and Action on June 2022 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner recused and left the room.
2. IDHS Reports and Updates
   1. IDHS Variance Determinations Report as required by 675 IAC 12-5-6.2(f) – Denise Fitzpatrick.
3. Rulemaking Update(s)
   1. Indiana Electrical Code Update Committee – Michael Popich, Chairman
4. Variances
   1. Tabled
      1. **22-03-43 Indy Marriott Place 10, Indianapolis** – No proponent.   
           
         Commission **tabled** the variance 9-0.

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| **Name** | **Vote** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| Harold Davidson |  |  |
| Greg Furnish |  |  |
| Jim Greeson |  |  |
| Joe Heinsman |  |  |
| David Henson |  |  |
| Todd Hite |  |  |
| Wes Jordan |  |  |
| Jim Murua |  |  |
| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

* + 1. **22-04-25 Lenox Building, Elkhart** – Gary Frank, Melissa Tupper, RTM – Building did not pass Chapter 34 without sprinklers, even with fire alarm and smoke detection throughout. Requested variances before on buildings that can’t pass Chapter 34. Building is historical in character, in historical district. Owners are looking to convert building, formerly a post office, into a high-end event center. Smoke detection throughout. Fire suppression estimate is currently quoted at $15/sq. ft, $177,000. LFM approved occupancy ratings of the floors after initially opposing. Was within 3 points of passing on Chapter 34. Only negative was sprinklers, no points for compartmentalization due to size, even while within allowable area. Building is currently not in operation, waiting on CDR from state to continue construction and open facility. Commissioner Murua expressed concerns concerning the lack of fire suppression even with the close limit on Chapter 34. Commission **denied** the variance. Commissioner Heinsman joined but abstained due to missing part of the conversation.

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| **Name** | **Vote** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| Harold Davidson |  |  |
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| Joe Heinsman |  |  |
| David Henson |  |  |
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| Jim Murua |  |  |
| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

* + 1. **22-05-49 Place of Grace, Huntington** – Britney Rinkenberger, Executive Director. Women living as a family unit living within a shared home, sharing meals and responsibilities while operating a recovery program. Fire Marshal felt that PoG should be in compliance with the commercial code, which requires a sprinkler system. Initial quote was $500,000. Fire alarms and smoke detectors are located in all areas. All windows are egress-sized with fire ladders. Downstairs doors have illuminated exit signs, floodlights in all stairwells on emergency power. Obtained a second quote for residential sprinkler system, minimum cost $35-$50,000 for installation. The cost involved would likely involve 6+ months of fundraising based on the current operating budget. Commission **approved** the variance with the following conditions: variance approved for December 31st, 2024, must install 13-D sprinkler system.

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| **Name** | **Vote** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
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| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
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* + 1. **22-05-55 Regency Club Apartments, Evansville** –No proponent. Commission **tabled** the variance.

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* + 1. **22-05-59 Body Shop Variance Request, South Bend** – No proponent. Commission **tabled** the variance.

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| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

.232.2222 • dhs.in.gov/3454.htm [buildingcommission@dhs.in.gov](mailto:buildingcommission@dhs.in.gov)

* 1. New
     1. **22-06-22(a)-(g) Electric Works -PH II -BLDG -A, Fort Wayne** – Christina Collester, RTM Consultants. Two hour exterior wall on an apartment building / parking garage. However, there’s no good way to do openings on a back to back two-hour wall without some sort of vestibule. Asking to put a three-hour door in the one firewall that they have. Opening section will have other fire protection. Daycare will be within a three-hour rated podium building, which is allowed by current codes but not within current Indiana Code. Fully sprinklered. Commission **approved** the variance**.**

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
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* + 1. **22-06-23 GHR07, Huntington –** Mike Hough, Chief Compliance Officer. Mr. Hough believed that no variance was needed at the 1605 address without a variance, and so **withdraws** the variance.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
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* + 1. **22-06-24 Electric Works – Building 23-25 Renovation, Fort Wayne** –Two existing buildings, connecting buildings in the middle. Filed a variance for the separation to allow for more feasible construction, enclosed space sprinklers. Commission **approved** variance.

* + 1. **22-06-25 SRE Storage & Maintenance, Evansville 47725** – Ralph Gerdes, Ralph Gerdes Consultants. Requesting a variance due to a structural engineering issue, going from seismic category D to C. Existing building code references ASCE-7 2010 edition of standards, two new standards have come out since then (ASCE7-16) which allows to use C standard due to seismic risk II and soil quality. Commission **approved** the variance with the following **conditions**: must use ASCE7-16 for all seismic calculations and compliance.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
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**BREAK:** 10:25 – 10:40

* + 1. **22-06-26 Barnes & Thornburg Vault Renovation, Indianapolis** – Two single water-closet restrooms, used regular drywall with tile and epoxy paint. State Building Commissioner issued a code interpretation requiring use of green board or purple board. Wet wall is tiled with painted wood on the side. Paint is an epoxy paint listed by USDA for use in food processing facilities, moisture resistant. Building Commissioner did not wish to approve or disapprove any particular paint, Indianapolis inspector cited for being out of compliance. Randy Gulley and Commissioner Pannicke noted that epoxy paint is fairly common, but still require green or purple board behind it. Commission **denied** the variance.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
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* + 1. **22-06-27 725 Parkway, Indianapolis –** No proponent. Commission **tabled.**

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* + 1. **22-06-28(a) Centlivre – Building 2827 Renovation, Fort Wayne –** Ed Rensink, RTM Consultants. Building has been vacant for approximately 20 years, undergoing renovation. Replacement of systems throughout. Putting on a wooden roof. Requesting a 13-R system in a five-story building with additional fire protections. Standpipes, concrete between roof and rest of building, hose outlets in stairways, 20-minute rated doors in existing corridors. Concrete building on concrete block, partitioned. Conditions: Heat detection in the attic.

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| Joe Heinsman |  |  |
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| Michael Popich |  |  |
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* + 1. **22-06-29(b) Northfield Drive Commercial Building, Brownsburg and 22-06-30(b) Northfield Drive Build to Suit, Brownsburg** **–** Staff recommended approval after receiving additional information.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
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* + 1. **22-06-31 Beacon Dunlap Outpatient Center, Goshen –** Ralph Gerdes. Restroom wall issue in a healthcare outpatient center. Wet walls comply with code, green board and tile on wet wall. Side walls have type x chip board and epoxy paint. Commission **approved** the variance.

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* + 1. **22-06-32(b) Zoe Facility Services, Greenwood –** Greg Huffman, Owner. Renovating a 1900’s building in downtown Greenwood. Countertop is not at the correct height in approximately an eight foot section in the kitchen. Counter is approximately 1.5 inches too high. Commissioner Popich indicated that he had spoken to Greenwood Building Commissioner, who was not opposed to the variance. Area is staff only and close to proper height, and directed owner to seek variance from Commission as he could not approve variances on his own authority. Commission **approved**.

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* + 1. **22-06-33 GHR07 Huntington 1625 Building, Huntington –** Mike Hough. Currently used as a warehouse, will be turned into a production area. Chip dryer and aluminum furnace. Asking to remove sprinklers in production area but keep sprinklers in office area. Commission **approved** the motion.

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* + 1. **22-06-34 Northwest Ordinance Distilling, New Albany** – Matrix Technologies. Renovating an area to serve as packaging lines through approximately 1000 feet of piping, exceeding the volume of piping allowed in the space. Facility is using an advanced fire detection system that can sense a fire in any part of the piping, and the fail position automatically sends to predetermined drains with automatic valves and compressed air systems. Line can be purged in 90 seconds. Commission **approved**.

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* + 1. **22-06-35 Butler University ResCo Renovation, Indianapolis** – Ed Rensink. Variance request from 1985 building code. Contractor asked about an opening in the mechanical room to the above ceiling space. Return air path above the ceiling through residential dorm rooms into each of the mechanical rooms. Mr. Rensink proposes that the smoke/fire alarms in the dorm units be set to shut down the HVAC system immediately upon the detection of smoke to the systems. Protected throughout with NFPA 13 sprinklers. Commission **approved.**

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
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| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

* + 1. **22-06-36(a)(b) Salt Creek Brewery Beer Garden Tent Structure, Bedford** – Asking for a two-year extension to a tent structure, and to allow tent structure to be attached to a building. Originally applied for a permanent variance, Commission granted a two year variance to see how tent structure withstood winds. Mainly used on weekends for overflow, no smoking anywhere in the buildings or the tents. Building is just under 2900 square feet. Commission expressed concern about the amount of time the tent has been up. Commission **approved** with the following **conditions**: Expires Dec 31, 2023.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| Harold Davidson |  |  |
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| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

* + 1. **22-06-37 Depot Street Park Catering, Greenfield** – Michael Vachon, General Manager. Asking for a 40x40 tent until end of September during building phase while a Gazebo is established. Violations have been corrected. Exit signs during event. Greenfield Fire Marshal indicated that on his last visit Friday there were still some violations on Friday. Commissioner Pannicke inquired as to whether the LFM was opposed to the tent structure itself or just the violations contained within. LFM indicated that there were repeated violations, and that there were issues with the owners. Commission **denied** the variance on motion to deny.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
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| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

* + 1. **22-06-38(a)(g)(h) Sideline Flats, South Bend –** Melissa Tupper, RTM.   
         
       Enclosed elevator shaft to keep from weathering now counts as a story, requesting variance. Non-combustible podium construction, requesting wood stairs. Stairs are in two-hour shafts as required with a 13-R system. Requesting windows within 4ft of where firewalls end at square wall. Commissioners Heinsman and Pannicke indicated that wood stairs in podium construction are very common. Commissioner Popich votes yes to (a) and (h), no to (g).

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| Harold Davidson |  |  |
| Greg Furnish |  |  |
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**22-06-38(i)**

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| Harold Davidson |  |  |
| Greg Furnish |  |  |
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| David Henson |  |  |
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| Scott Pannicke |  |  |
| Michael Popich |  |  |
| John Watson |  |  |

* + 1. **22-06-39 Apron Tent, Shelbyville –** Kip Adams. 40x40 rated structure. Exit signs, no smoking signs, fire extinguisher. No patio heaters, etc. There are talks about putting up a more permanent structure. Commission Conditions: Remain erected through Nov 31, 2022, Mar 1 – Nov 30 2023.

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| **Name** | **Present** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
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| John Watson |  |  |

* 1. Approval of Local Variances

*No local variance requesting approval at this time.*

1. Report on Administrative Review

*Staff has received no items from OALP to report on at this time.*

1. Commission Review of Local Ordinances

*Ordinances in pre-adoption review will no longer be placed on the agenda.*

*There are no ordinances in post-adoption review at this time.*

1. Final Comments/Closing Remarks – Chairman Greeson
2. Next Meeting – August 2, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time at MADE @ Plainfield Facility.

# A public notice with specific details regarding the format of the meeting will be provided on the [Commission main web page](https://www.in.gov/dhs/boards-and-commissions/fire-prevention-and-building-safety-commission/) in advance of the meeting date.

1. Adjournment