INDIANA FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Details

Date: March 1, 2022 **Time:** 9:00 AM

Location: Virtually via Microsoft Teams – Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-3.7 and E.O. 22-01

Member Attendance

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

Notes

Meeting materials for this meeting can be accessed here: <u>Commission Meeting Materials</u>. Variance applications, attachments, and action letters can be accessed here: <u>Variance Files</u>.

- Call to Order: At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Greeson called the March 1, 2022, Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (Commission) regular monthly meeting to order. Due to the State of Indiana's declaration of a public health disaster emergency under <u>Executive Oder 22-01</u>, the meeting was conducted electronically by videoconference and teleconference call through Microsoft Teams, pursuant to the requirements of <u>Indiana Code</u> § 5-14-1.5-3.7.
- 2. **Roll Call**: A roll call was conducted to determine member attendance. The results are included above.
- 3. **Review and Action on February 2022 Meeting Minutes**: The Commission reviewed the February 1, 2022, Commission Meeting Minutes, as posted in the meeting materials, and requested the following corrections: Christina from RTM was corrected from Christine from RTK. Variance 22-01-12 was corrected to show it expires July 31, 2024 rather than June 30. The Commission **approved** the minutes with corrections, by a vote of 8-0.

Motion: Approve the minutes with corrections.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	×			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua			Abstain	
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson			Abstain	

4. IDHS Reports and Updates

- a. **State Building Commissioner's Report:** Craig Burgess, Indiana State Building Commissioner, provided updates to the Commission on two written interpretations: CEB-2022-02 and CEB-2022-03.
- b. **IDHS Variance Determinations Report**: Denise Fitzpatrick provided the IDHS's report of variance determinations made between January 25, 2022, and February 24, 2022, to the Commission. A copy of the report was included in the meeting materials.

5. Rulemaking Updates

- a. **Indiana Elevator Code Committee:** Justin Guedel, Deputy General Counsel IDHS, informed the Commission that the rulemaking process for the Elevator Code Committee is still underway, and no date for the next meeting has been set. Once a date is identified the next meeting it will be provided on the <u>Committee's web page</u> and notice in accordance with the Open Door Law.
- b. **Update on LSA Doc #21-461 (Expedited Plan Review):** Deputy General Counsel Justin Guedel provided the Commission an update on the expedited plan review process. The rule concerning expedited plan review was approved by the Governor's Office and will go into effect March 11, 2022.
- c. Update on Formation of the Indiana Electrical Code Update Committee: Mr. Guedel informed the Commission that the Indiana Apartment Association wished to change their nominee on the Electrical Code Update Committee from Brian Spaulding to Michael Patarino and recommended the Commission modify the Committee's membership to satisfy this request. At this time, an initial meeting and notices of appointment have not been sent, but will be following this meeting. The Commission approved the motion, by a vote of 10-0. A copy of the updated bylaws and membership is attached.

Motion: Approve Michael Patarino as the new representative for the Indiana Apartment Association on the Electrical Code Update Committee.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	×			
Wes Jordan	×			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	×			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

6. Status Update on Variance Sanction - Variance No. 16-03-61 - Garvin Industrial Park, 1511 Read Street, Evansville, IN 47710: Roger Lehman, representative for the owner, provided the Commission with an update regarding the status of coming into compliance with the previously issued variance. It was provided that all work has been completed and they are ready for final inspection by the chief. Mr. Lehman asked if a letter of compliance from the chief would be enough to remove them from the agenda. Mr. Guedel confirmed that written documentation would be sufficient. Mr. Gordon of the AG's office agreed.

7. Variance

a. Tabled

21-10-27(c) IU Collins Center Renovation, Bloomington: Proponent Carrie Ballinger requested the variance be tabled via e-mail. The Commission **tabled** the variance by a vote of 10-0.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	×			

Jim Murua	×	
Scott Pannicke	X	
Michael Popich	X	
John Watson	\boxtimes	

21-12-24(a) Square Cat Vinyl, Indianapolis: Proponent, Ed Rensink, requested the Commission table the variance via e-mail. The Commission **tabled** the variance by a vote of 10-0

Motion: Table.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-01-14 New Portable Storage Sheds, Edinburgh: Melissa Tupper, RTM Consultants, spoke on behalf of the variance. Commission asked for more testing for soil and anchor specifications, which RTM provided the Commission. Robert Overton spoke on behalf of Edinburgh and indicated that Edinburgh wishes them to be permanent facilities, noting that there was no indication of financial hardship for laying a foundation for permanent structure. Mr. Overton also indicated that temporary strap components would only be addressed by self-assessment in perpetuity. Paul Fleming, engineer, was available to answer questions. Mr. Fleming indicated that they are using corrosion-resistant fasteners that meet industry standards for sheer and pullout forces and are using the anchors on improved earth. The Commission **denied** the variance by a vote of 8-2.

Motion: Deny.

Roll Call Vote				
Name Y N Other				
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			

Jim Greeson	X		
Joe Heinsman		X	
David Henson	X		
Todd Hite		X	
Wes Jordan	X		
Jim Murua	×		
Scott Pannicke	×		
Michael Popich	X		
John Watson	\boxtimes		

b. New

22-02-17, Camp Livingston, Bennington: Architect and owner spoke on behalf of the proponent. Architect noted that the water mains are smaller than usual due to the rural location of the camp. Water runs to a pump room that increases pressure and provides water to the rest of the camp. Proponent indicated that installation of a sprinkler system from the water line would be difficult due to the lack of water pressure and indicated that they desire to use a large capacity tank with backup battery-powered pump. Architect additionally indicated that they could provide rated walls, and every building has a door that exits almost immediately outside, along with smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Commission requested an estimate for a 13-D system be provided. The Commission **tabled** the variance by a vote of 10-0.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-18 1300 N. Lincoln Apartments, Bloomington: Melissa Tupper, RTM consultants, spoke on behalf of the proponent. Proponent indicated that projecting balcony cannot use exception that allows non-rated construction materials on a sprinklered balcony under Indiana Amendments when balcony extends into floor-ceiling construction.

Proponent indicated that balcony cannot be one-hour rated, and materials required are currently unavailable. Manufacturer is unsure of when materials will be available again. There was some discussion between speakers as to whether the sprinkler exception still applies in Indiana. State Building Commissioner Burgess indicated that no interpretation had come before him regarding this matter. The Commission **approved** the variance by a vote of 9-0.

Motion: Approve.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman			Recused	
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-19 and 22-02-21 Point Biopharma, Indianapolis: No speaker present. A second chance to speak was given again at the end of the meeting, with no new speakers identifying themselves. The Commission indicated that proponent should be contacted to speak on behalf of variance. The Commission **tabled** the variance by a vote of 10-0.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	×			
Todd Hite	×			
Wes Jordan	\boxtimes			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-20 Walmart Distribution Center, McCordsville: Ralph Gerdes spoke on behalf of proponent. Variance concerns robotic storage and automatic retrieval system. Walmart is requesting to install a sprinkler system in accordance with a UL test report they had completed that complies with the model code version of NFPA 13, but Indiana deleted section 1.6 which permits the alternative means of compliance. Proponent indicated that the local building official supports the variance, which was confirmed by Shelly Wakefield. Commissioners expressed concern that they were unable to see the study Walmart conducted based on claims of proprietary information and cannot confirm that they meet standards. Commission indicated they could approve on the understanding that the local building official would be able to review for the UL report for compliance. The Commission approved the variance with conditions by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve with condition that the system is installed in accordance with UL Project 4789932863-NC27954, which shall meet the requirements of NFPA 13 Section 1.6 as unamended, subject to the authority having jurisdiction.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	×			
Wes Jordan	☒			
Jim Murua	×			
Scott Pannicke	×			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-22 Trinitas West 17th **Street, Bloomington:** Ed Rensink spoke on behalf of proponent and indicated that buildings were filed as V-Aconstruction, but were constructed in accordance with V-A. Under 5-A, materials are required to be rated, and proponent is requesting variance to allow for non-rated floor-ceiling assemblies within townhome (multi-story class 1) units. Proponent indicated that a NFPA 13-R sprinkler system is installed, and that the buildings could be refiled as V-B to get relief from requirements, but re-filing would be cost prohibitive, and construction in accordance with V-A would create technical difficulties. The Commission **approved** the variance by a vote of 7-2.

Motion: Approve.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	

Harold Davidson			Absent
Greg Furnish	X		
Jim Greeson	X		
Joe Heinsman			Recuse
David Henson	X		
Todd Hite	X		
Wes Jordan	X		
Jim Murua		\boxtimes	
Scott Pannicke	X		
Michael Popich		\boxtimes	
John Watson	X		

Breaking & Reconvening: The Commission took a short break, beginning at 10:34 a.m. EST. The meeting was called back to order at 10:44 a.m. EST.

22-02-23(a)(b) 46 Monon, Indianapolis:

(a) Ed Rensink, RTM consultants, spoke on behalf of proponent. Property is indicated as a B occupancy. Proponent indicated that there is a travel distance issue. Maximum travel distance is listed as 75 feet, and the travel distance considered is 122 feet. Proponent indicated that smoke alarms would be installed as well as an NFPA 13 sprinkler system, which is not considered in the travel distance table. Proponent indicates there are also additional means of egress, and that no variance would be required if it were a dwelling unit. The Commission approved variance (a) with conditions by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variance (a) on the condition that space used as B occupancy only.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	×			
Wes Jordan	\boxtimes			
Jim Murua	×			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

Proponent indicates that they are requesting that second floor roof deck have an occupant load of 49. The Commission **approved** variance (b) by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variance (b).

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-24(a)(b)(c) North Central High School Phase 2, Indianapolis:

(a) and (c) Ed Rensink, RTM consultants, spoke on behalf of proponent. Proponent indicates construction of approximately 91,000 square feet used for various purposes (classroom, field room, mechanical space, second-floor connector). Proponent indicates that construction has been ongoing for some time. Prior code allowed for unlimited area for schools, and when project is completed it will be a sprinklered, unlimited area building. Proponent indicates 52 feet of separation between some parts of the building, rather than the required 60 feet. The Commission approved variances (a) and (c) by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variance (a) and (c).

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	×			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	\boxtimes			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			

Michael Popich	X	
John Watson	\boxtimes	

(b) Proponent indicates that they are asking for extra travel distance in a corridor space. The Commission **approved** variance (b) by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variance (b).

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	×			
Todd Hite	×			
Wes Jordan	\boxtimes			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	×			
Michael Popich	×			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-25(a)(b)(c) Broad Ripple Mixed Use Development Building B, Indianapolis: Ed Rensink, RTM Consultants, spoke on behalf of proponent.

(a) and (c) Proponent indicates that there is a lot line at the north face of the north residential building at 6205 N. College with an easement agreement in perpetuity to share the space in between, with access to a parking garage and plaza in between. Easement area is unimproved and cannot be built upon. Proponent asks for variance in wall ratings and amount of openings in exterior wall given that easement area cannot have additional construction, therefore total distance between buildings should be considered rather than distance between lot line. The Commission approved variances (a) and (c) by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variance (a) and (c).

Roll Call Vote			
Name	Υ	N	Other
Harold Davidson			Absent.
Greg Furnish	X		
Jim Greeson	X		
Joe Heinsman	X		

David Henson	X	
Todd Hite	X	
Wes Jordan	X	
Jim Murua	X	
Scott Pannicke	×	
Michael Popich	×	
John Watson	\boxtimes	

(b) Proponent indicates that buildings with four or more stories are required to have access to roof through an enclosed stairway. Proponent requests allowance to roof via an exterior fixed ladder rather than alternating tread stair, which is allowed under 2015 IBC and subsequent editions. Topmost roof is stepped back from total area, and interior stairs do not go to topmost roof. Proponent indicates that roof has 42-inch guard rail. Architect Dan indicates that they are requesting replacement of ladder due to technical limitations and neighborhood comments. IFD indicates that they want the ladder closer to roof hatch. The Commission approved variance (b) by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variance (b).

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent.	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	\boxtimes			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-26 Crum Properties LLC, Batesville: No speaker present. A second chance to speak was given again at the end of the meeting, with no new speakers identifying themselves. The Commission **tabled** the variance by a vote of 10-0.

Roll Call Vote			
Name	Υ	N	Other

Harold Davidson		Absent.
Greg Furnish	X	
Jim Greeson	X	
Joe Heinsman	X	
David Henson	X	
Todd Hite	X	
Wes Jordan	X	
Jim Murua	X	
Scott Pannicke	X	
Michael Popich	X	
John Watson	\boxtimes	

22-02-27(a)(b)(c)(d)(e) The Pearl on Main Street, Fort Wayne: Ed Rensink, RTM Consultants, spoke on behalf of proponent. Commissioners expressed concern about trash potentially blocking corridors and about the use of flame or other appliances on the roof, as well as occupancy issues. Proponent indicated that trash room is locked and only accessible to authorized personnel, and that the use of portable heaters, grills, and other combustion/heat based appliances could be restricted. Commissioner Murua indicated that the roof in question had some visibility to officials who could intervene in the case of occupancy issues. Proponent also indicates that there are no restroom facilities on the roof and that the doors are locked to the general public, further limiting potential occupancy issues. The Commission **approved** variances (a) through (e) with conditions by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve variances (a) through (e) on the following conditions: 1) Trash room will be locked except to designated personnel. 2) Appliances or amenities placed on the decks must comply with code requirements.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

22-02-28 Fensler Residence, Floyds Knobs: Lead Foreman Cliff Winchell speaking on behalf of proponent, Lauren Winchell. Commissioner Heinsman expressed concern about the size of the utility room. Proponent indicates that the appliances are more spaced apart than indicated in the drawing, and the room cannot be used for anything else. Proponent indicates that a walk-out basement is not an option due to hitting rock and needing to modify the basement foundation plan. Lauren Winchell indicates that she sent an e-mail to Denise Fitzpatrick after the meeting started. Denise uploaded it as the last attachment to the variance. Chairman Murua suggested that a residential sprinkler system could be installed to eliminate some of the hazards associated with the variance request. Commissioner Heinsman indicated that he would like to see at least one egress window in the basement. The Commission **denied** the variance by a vote of 10-0

Motion: Deny.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	\boxtimes			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	\boxtimes			
Jim Murua	×			
Scott Pannicke	×			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

8. Commission Review of Local Ordinances

a. Preliminary (Pre-Adoption) Review

- i. Building Code Ordinance of Putnam County: Mr. Guedel notified the Commission that Putnam County had submitted a draft building code ordinance for preadoption review on January 7, 2022. Staff is currently reviewing the ordinance and while it is under review concerns regarding the ordinance can be submitted to Commission staff for consideration. A copy of the draft ordinance was included in the meeting materials.
- ii. **Town of Edinburgh Fire Prevention Ordinance:** Mr. Guedel notified the Commission that the Town of Edinburgh had submitted a draft fire code ordinance for preadoption review on February 3, 2022. Staff is currently reviewing the ordinance and while it is under review concerns regarding the ordinance can be submitted to Commission staff for consideration. A copy of the

draft ordinance was included in the meeting materials.

- iii. City of Danville Fire Prevention Ordinance: Mr. Guedel notified the Commission that the Town of Edinburgh had submitted a draft fire code ordinance for preadoption review on February 17, 2022. Staff is currently reviewing the ordinance and while it is under review concerns regarding the ordinance can be submitted to Commission staff for consideration. A copy of the draft ordinance was included in the meeting materials.
- iv. **City of Muncie Fire Code Ordinance:** Mr. Guedel notified the Commission that the City of Muncie had submitted a draft fire code ordinance for preadoption review on February 10, 2022. Staff is currently reviewing the ordinance and while it is under review concerns regarding the ordinance can be submitted to Commission staff for consideration. A copy of the draft ordinance was included in the meeting materials.

b. Adopted Ordinances

i. Clarksville Building Code Ordinance: Mr. Guedel notified the Commission that staff had not identified any conflicts with the ordinance and recommends approval. The Commission approved the ordinance by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	N	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	X			
Scott Pannicke	X			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

ii. **City of Decatur Fire Prevention Ordinance:** Mr. Guedel notified the Commission that staff had not identified any conflicts with the ordinance and recommends approval. The Commission **approved** the ordinance by a vote of 10-0.

Motion: Approve.

Roll Call Vote				
Name	Υ	Ν	Other	
Harold Davidson			Absent	
Greg Furnish	X			
Jim Greeson	X			
Joe Heinsman	X			
David Henson	X			
Todd Hite	X			
Wes Jordan	X			
Jim Murua	×			
Scott Pannicke	×			
Michael Popich	X			
John Watson	\boxtimes			

- 9. **Final Comments/Closing Remarks from Chairman Greeson.** Chairman Greeson provided final comments.
- 10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The specific format of the meeting will be announced once it is identified whether the disaster declaration is extended which would permit the meeting to be conducted electronically. Public notice with the meeting details will be posted in accordance with the Open Door Law.
- 11. Adjournment: Chairman Greeson adjourned the meeting at 12:35 am. EST.

James L. Heison		
APPROVED:	DATE:	May 4, 2022
James L. Greeson, Chairman	_	