June 8, 2013

Friends,

I simply want to give you a brief update on where we stand with our project to acquire and stabilize the Beth El Temple on 34th and Ruckle.

We are glad to report that the Mapleton Fall Creek CDC has decided to support our efforts by working with the City to re-direct available CDBG funds toward stabilizing the structure and thus save it from falling apart.  Talks with the City toward that end will begin this coming week.   The CDC is to be commended for extending leadership in saving this historical structure for future use and we look forward to a positive result.  We especially thank Tyson Domer for putting together a presentation that outlines our immediate plans to move our project forward.

In the meantime, BDMD is finishing up its feasibility study on the building and we hope to share the results as soon as possible. Jonathan Young, a resident in the neighborhood, has led that incredible effort.

We have also officially formed an independent organization under the name Temple Heritage Center Inc.  Here we thank Indiana Landmarks and Todd Janzen for making that happen.  Needless to say, there will be much work to be done once we acquire the building.

The building is now, or will soon be, in the hands of the County Commissioners who will need to decide on its proper transfer.  We plan to make our case soon and move as rapidly as possible to stabilize the building which is literally falling apart.

We also hope to launch efforts soon to bring together the residents of our neighborhoods and members of the Jewish community to work together on defining the uses of the building in a way that will make our Temple Heritage Center a sustainable functioning touchstone for future generations.  Both Congregation Beth El Zedeck and the Mapleton Fall Creek Association have already indicated interest in our project and we look forward to their full involvement.  We will also need other partners throughout the City in this effort.

And, Indiana Landmarks continues its efforts to nominate the structure as a National Landmark.  This designation will undoubtedly give our project even greater significance..

Since we are now beginning to accumulate a great deal of material that should be shared, I have created a DROPBOX to allow you to examine the various aspects of our efforts.  In that folder you will find photos, historical information, the draft of the feasibility study, Tyson Domer's excellent presentation, and much more. The folder will be updated as we continue making progress.  Please feel free to look at the stuff and if you have any comments, don't hesitate to share them.  Click on this link to get your there.

[www.tinyurl.com/templeheritagecenter](http://www.tinyurl.com/templeheritagecenter)

We have been working on this project since October of 2011.  The great unselfish and enthusiastic support we've received from many many people is a testimony to this compelling story of preserving a heritage and sharing it with people near and far.  We are putting down the seeds that will one day bear the fruit which will be shared by all.

Isaiah