

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for May 16, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 10): Alyssa Lauer, Andrea De Mink, Caitlin Luebcke, Chad Cerda, Dawn Cox Briggs, Kami Spicklemire Nielsen, Larry Messing, Lesli Gibson, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Sue Beecher, Francine Calvert Lee, Roxanne Hilton

GUESTS PRESENT: Tamar Harper, Blake Johnson, Brennen Edwards, Brianna Owens, Adam Hampton, Jen Higgenbotham, Jason McClure

COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE: 21

The meeting was held in person at the Irvington Presbyterian Church, open to the public, and called to order by Sue Beecher at 7:00 pm who opened the meeting by welcoming Council members, guests, and public attendees.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the previous month, April 2023, were approved virtually.

Updates:

- A donation of \$2,500 to the IUMC playground from Beastside Brewfest proceeds was approved
- A donation of \$2,500 to the Pourhouse from Beastside Brewfest proceeds was approved

Tamar Harper, Community Resource Supervisor, IMPD East District (30652@indy.gov)

- Slow Roll Bike Ride, May 17th @ 6pm at Grace Tuxedo Baptist Church
- Number 1 complaint lately has been speeding, and is similar in other neighborhoods – it was also the number one complaint brought up at a recent law enforcement conference
- Another frequent issue is squatters – the more reports the better
- 2pm-5pm weekdays on Poplar, speeding to avoid traffic jams at Washington and Emerson
- Most police runs do not involve lights and sirens – only if there is a life in imminent danger
- If police stop for a traffic infraction and the person flees, the officer is not supposed to pursue
- Graffiti: Report to Mayor's Action Center if you find graffiti, but if you catch someone actually applying the graffiti then call 911
- IMPD is still 150 officers short of what they need in order to enforce at the levels they need to
- If you hear shots fired, call 911 to report it so that the data can be logged and patterns can be drawn

Update from Blake Johnson, State Representative, District 100

- 4 month legislative session closed a few weeks ago
- SB 283 - Road funding formula fix to include the populations of excluded cities into Marion County's road funding formula. Current formula only funds based on the length of center lane miles, regardless of width.
- Vision Zero Task Force language was passed through a house bill, which will work on pedestrian safety solutions, such as school and work zone camera enforcement, intersection design, etc.
- Work zone safety camera enforcement passed
- No Turn On Red: Indianapolis planned to enforce this throughout the downtown core. However, the Senate banned this policy in consolidated cities in Indiana – which is just Indianapolis. This bill had an emergency clause, meaning it went into effect immediately upon signature of the Governor.

- Low Barrier Shelters: Most shelters for unhoused people have high barriers to entry that make it hard for many people to access housing. Some provisions of a bill to address this were folded into the budget, including about \$20 million in funding. Shelters would be funded through an economic enhancement district but would run locally between the City and service providers.
- Machine guns were redefined to include glock switches – 3D printed tech that can turn a regular handgun into a machine gun. This effectively bans glock switches and allows for enforcement.
- Teachers are already allowed to be armed in Indiana if a school district allows it. A bill passed this year to allow funding for training teachers to use handguns if they are to be armed in schools. Language around safe storage information was added to the bill.
- Budget increased private school voucher eligibility to 400% of free-and-reduced price lunch eligibility income levels, which amounts to a \$1 billion increase, without increases in funding to public schools.
- Funding for mental health supports had a goal of \$130 million annually, but only passed the budget with \$50 million annually.
- Scholarship has been funded for the year! After beginning in 2016 about \$70,000 have been committed.
- Budget surplus is estimated around \$4-\$6 billion.

Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison

- Pathways Resource Center has Training Youth Force Success on June 14th (317-622-8695). Application deadline is June 2nd.
- Lyft Grocery Access program offers \$1-\$10 grocery store rides for people who qualify by income.
- Community Compass service and app has a new look, and helps direct people to food resources
- Southeast IMPD Community Day is 5/17 from 11am-2pm at Garfield Park.
- Haitian Flag Day celebration is on Thursday, 5/18 from 5pm-7pm at Community Alliance of the Far Eastside
- One Voice Porch Party is on Friday, 5/19 from 11am-7pm
- HealthNet hiring event on Friday, 5/19 at Avondale Meadows YMCA, coming up soon
- IndyGo is condensing its routes due to driver shortages
- IMPD Hoops for Peace 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament @ Windsor Village Park, June 3rd, 11am to 4pm
- Things to do on indy.gov (search for it)
 - Submit a traffic complaint
 - Unsafe building program
 - bns.unsafebuildings@indy.gov
 - 317-327-8600
 - nuisance.abatement@indy.gov

Brianna Owens, Irvington Community Advocacy Network (ICAN) Program Director

- 299 clients assisted as for April 30th of this year, 30% of clients served no longer need services
- Founded in 1997 in a collaboration among Irvington ministries (Irvington Association of Ministers)
- ICAN has two ministries:
 - ICAN Assistance Center is in Irvington United Methodist Church (open to all) - 10am-1pm
 - ICAN Food Pantry is at Downey Avenue Christian Church (open to zip code) - Thursdays 1pm-3pm
- ICAN lacked a leader for 7 months and is now rebuilding after a few missed grant cycles
- Includes a clothing closet, provides personal care items, connects clients to transportation services
- ICAN also provides referrals to outside agencies that have better-fit resources, especially mental health
- Goals: Advocacy, Increase Grants/Donations, Collaborate with Partners
- Upcoming events –
 - Monthly food giveaways in partnership with other organizations like Big Red Food Box (May-Sept)

- IUMC Strawberry Festival coming up
- June 24th will have a large giveaway including small kitchen appliances and school supplies
- Irvington Wellness Fair at Irvington Presbyterian Church
- Angel Tree at IUMC – take an ornament with a need and fulfill it
- Greatest donation need:
 - Food donations (pop-top cans are best) collected on Thursdays
 - Clothing, especially underwear and socks, and clothes in larger sizes
 - Blankets and sheets, backpacks, suitcases, sleeping bags
 - Can openers
 - Financial donations would go to Father Rick at Our Lady of Lourdes. Checks payable to ICAN

Adam Hampton, Hampton Designs and Irvington Business Association

- Adding a summer event to complement the Holiday Open House
- Celebrate Irvington on Saturday, June 24 from 11am-11pm, including events on Bonna and Audubon
- Lots of vendors and live music with approximately 3,000-5,000 guests
- Funded by Indy Pride through a grant
- No street closures other than a closure at Irving Circle for a concert

Jen Higgenbotham, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association Board

- Wine and Cheese Festival from 5pm-10pm on July 22 in memory of former HCNA president
- Located at the Sturm Esplanade (greenspace south of Arsenal Tech) along Sturm at the corner of Arsenal
- Live music by Dysfunction Brass

Jason McClure, Smash'd Burger Bar

- Restaurant is ready to open as soon as the state approves everything
- All of the equipment is in and ready
- Soft openings will happen first, and then a full opening is on the way
- Beer and wine license, offering local drafts and cans
- Will offer 4 oz. smash burgers on buns or Texas toast, waffle fries, and vegetarian and kid-friendly options
- Will be open 11am-10pm, unless the market requests earlier or later
- Not affiliated with the national Smashed Burger chain

Public Forum:

- Bridge at Ellenberger Park has been closed for several months, seeking an update from IndyParks on the timeline for when the bridge will be reopened
- Streets at St. Clair and Campbell were painted for accessible ramps, seeking an update from the city
- Discussion of a shifting floodplain map due to the Dig Indy project
- Work on New York and Michigan two-way conversion is expected to start this year

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah