

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for September 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 12): John Arbuckle, Dawn Cox Briggs, Francine Calvert Lee, Sue Beecher, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Jacob Lauer, Alyssa Lauer, Jordan Byrd Eveland, Caitlin Luebcke, Roxanne Hilton, Debi Allee, Jake Walker, Chad Cerda, Carrie Yazell, Billy Payne, Lesli Gibson, Kyla Thompson, Charles Miller

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the previous month, **August 2024**, were **approved unanimously with no noted dissents**.

Updates from [Andy Nielsen](#), City County Council District 14 (317-283-9680, andy.nielsen@indy.gov)

- Budget: Included a proposal for each of the 25 City Councilors to have a \$1,000,000 pot for a single project in their district. Requirements are that it must be either in either Public Works or Parks, and has to be a single project.
- Priorities at the outset for this district are for quality of life issues that are unlikely to be prioritized in the way that budgets are set
- Proposal is at the intersection of Ritter Ave and Pleasant Run Parkway:
 - Continuing the sidewalk that stops at this intersection so it continues to Arlington Avenue
 - Correct the intersection so that it is no longer so dangerous for pedestrians
 - Add a pedestrian island at the Northeast corner
 - Enhance the bus stop at the intersection
 - Resurface the entire street from Ritter to Arlington (most requested street for potholes)
 - Add a flashing beacon at the Bolton crossing
- Q: In case of an overrun, what happens?
 - Some parts of the plan could be cut or shrunk (e.g. replacing resurfacing with strip-patching) but Councilor Nielsen has a lot of confidence that this will all fit within budget. However there are partnerships and opportunities to add funding if needed.
- Q: Will this \$1,000,000 be a recurring opportunity?
 - It is not right now. It is available because of the way the budget looks right now.
- Q: What is the timing of this project?
 - It will start next year, but it's not clear how it will be sequenced with other projects.
- Q: Is this project possible because we're losing funding elsewhere?
 - It's not clear if the money could have gone further elsewhere, but this project is probably never going to be prioritized except for through a mechanism like this.
- Q: Are there any Right of Way issues?
 - Not as far as we are aware, but this is in its very early stages of just getting feedback on the general direction of the project.
- Q: When will the other projects happening in this area be done?
 - The current projection is that they will be done by early 2025, and this project would start in late 2025 after the other work is done.
- Q: Will there be a double sidewalk north of the intersection on the west side of Ritter (park side)?
 - That is not currently planned for.
- Q: Will the pedestrian bridge south of the tennis courts be replaced?
 - Yes, next year.
- Q: Will there be any maintenance or repair of the road bridge over Pleasant Run at this intersection?
 - Not in the budget yet. No data available at this moment about the bridge.

- Q: Will pedestrian signals be added at this intersection?
 - That is the plan, but exact locations depend on where electrical is located.
- Q: Will Vision Zero applications be pushed to help support this project?
 - Yes!
- Q: How do labor agreements work with projects like this?
 - The city has a number of contractors that work on these types of projects, some of which are organized by the city. This project would go under the traditional city bid process.
- Q: Is this a use it or lose it situation, with any deadlines?
 - The project must be identified by November 1st, but the completion deadline isn't so firm because once the money is appropriated, it can be depleted after the calendar year.
- Q: Why does the sidewalk stop where it does?
 - No one in this room knows!
- Q: Does the sidewalk have to be a certain material?
 - It could also be an asphalt trail.
- Q: Does this replace existing structures for Councilors to get their projects added to the budget?
 - No, it's more of an enhancement, and a bit of a political tool.
- **TIF Advisory Board:** Met yesterday for quarterly meeting. Interest from stakeholders in figuring out capital needs in the parks that sit in the TIF – Christian Park, Ellenberger Park, Irving Circle Park. The needs were pulled from the master plans, one of which was a playground for Ellenberger Park. Despite being promised in 2022, it likely wouldn't be funded without TIF funds now.
- **Hit and Runs:** Concern was brought by a neighbor that IMPD has not been responsive to some of the recent hit-and-runs of bicyclists. IMPD has been extremely [understaffed](#), and the state legislature has not yet approved enforcement cameras at intersections (they are being [piloted](#) in construction zones right now).
- **Joyriding/Spinners:** Three events this past weekend where IMPD was attacked by the attendees. Right now it is difficult for IMPD to seize the vehicle in these instances. A new ordinance will be introduced at the next Council meeting to make this possible.
- **Traffic Enforcement:** An officer at an intersection sat by a person run through a red light and did not do anything. Was told that we need license plates for enforcement.
- **Office Hours:** Second Tuesday of every month, 5:30-7:30 in the Irvington Library, third Saturday from 11:00 to 1:00 at the Warren Branch Library.

Joe Jarzen, Irvington Development Organization (jmjarzen39@gmail.com)

- Irvington Development Organization has been in Irvington for 22 years
- Meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm at the Irvington Lofts
- Madge Mural, designed by Andrea Light
- [Three designs](#) have been proposed for the mural
- The location for this mural would be on the side of the MyEyeDr building
- The goal would be to have the mural completed in time for the Halloween festival
- The designs have been posted on social media for people to share their favorite
- The garden in front of the mural is already a memorial garden to Shelly Shane
- The mural will be with acrylic-based paints which have held up better than oil-based paint

Halloween Committee Updates - Carrie Yazell

- Tickets for everything are now on sale! You can find everything [here](#).
- Window-painting information came out this week, with in-person registration Monday and Tuesday and online registration after that
- House decorating submission is October 1st through 13th

- Online voting is the 14th through 18th with in-person judging on the 20th
- Vampire Run registration is open!
- We still need as many volunteers as we can get!
- Pet costume contest submission kick of October 11th

Presentation of Council Donation to the Irvington Public Library

- \$2,500 donated to the Irvington Public Library to enhance the community room. The project will incorporate some Historic Irvington traditions including the Halloween posters.
- Irvington Picture Frame Company is helping as well
- Irvington Library is not open on Sundays given limited resources right now. Closest library open on Sunday is likely Fort Ben.

Open Forum

- [Wellness Fair](#) at Irvington Presbyterian Church on October 19th, 9:00am to 1:00pm
- Trees that were being replaced by Ellenberger Park is being implemented by Friends of Ellenberger Park.

The meeting was adjourned at **8:18**pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah.