**HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Minutes for March 19, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT (**quorum at 8**):** Caitlin Luebcke, Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Dawn Cox Briggs, Francine Calvert Lee, Kyla Thompson, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Roxanne Hilton, Sue Beecher

**COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE:** 19

**Approval of Minutes**: The minutes for the previous month, February 2024, were approved virtually.

**Update from Tamar Harper, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, East District**

* Shooting incident today happened about two hours ago near Smash’d Burger Bar. No injuries reported, but investigation is ongoing and some details are unclear.
* Increase in 911 calls and big decrease in property crimes in Irvington in the past month. Thank you for the calls, continue to call those in.
* Next task force meetings will be April 10 at 6:00pm at East District Roll Call
* Blood Drive on April 19th from 12:00pm to 6:00pm at East District Roll Call
* If you email the department and don’t hear back, please call Officer Riojas (317-327-2288) because there have been issues with emails not coming through
* Drag racing on streets has become more prominent as some departments impose restrictions on who can be chased. IMPD has some such restrictions limiting pursuits. Continue to call those in.

**Updates from** **Jenny S. Menelas****, Area 2 Neighborhood Advocate**

* Starting a newsletter for the Eastside. Paper versions are available but the e-mail version is more usable because of all of the links. Email Jenny to get signed up.
* Coffee with a Cop on April 3rd at Gods Embrace (1040 N. Post Road) from 9:00am to 10:00pm
* National Night Out on August 6, 2024
* Indy Parks is hiring many lifeguards and counselors, if you know teenagers looking for summer work.
* Ellenberger Park Family Center now has free wi-fi.
* INRC neighborhood grants had their first info session tonight. The next will be on April 5th, which will be the last one before applications close April 15th. Attending an info session is required to apply.
* DPW construction project list has been released and is available to search online. This includes the conversion of New York and Michigan from one-way to two-way streets, which started a few weeks ago.
* RequestIndy requests are still coming in, please continue to file them.

**Updates from** **Andy Nielsen****, City County Councilor for District 14**

* INRC grant funded the Irvington banners that have been added around the neighborhood
* **Tree removal in Ellenberger Park**: Not a great complete update yet, but ongoing conversations with Citizens and Parks about how to bring the park to a state of repair that is better than it is now. Friends of Ellenberger Park just received recognition from Indy Parks. No further trees are going to be removed.
* [**Construction**](https://media.graphassets.com/jgO1xVTRqp97oMRC1ThQ): $1.24 million of Pedestrian Crash Focus Area improvements will come to Irvington and Christian Park. 27 intersections will receive crosswalks, curb cut outs, and many other improvements to pedestrian safety. The timeline is set to start in Q3 of this year and end before the end of the fiscal year.
* **Pennsy Trail Cleanup**: Ongoing issues with housing individuals who are camping along the trail, and there are still motorized vehicles traversing the Pennsy, with some of the bollards having minimal impact.

**Updates from** **Blake Johnson****, State Representative, District 100**

* Statehouse adjourned a week and a half ago. Non-budget years are very quickly-paced.
* Senate Bill 52 targeting the Blue Line died on second reading, which is unusual. The amount of civic and community engagement from people all across the board was very coordinated, and public testimony at hearings was focused and helpful. The bill passed out of committee on party lines but with a lot of regret from both parties, and the representatives on the other side did not want to vote for it again.
* The compromise on Senate Bill 52 was to maintain two lanes of traffic in both directions wherever possible, which won’t be possible in Irvington and Central State. This doesn’t necessarily prescribe shared/dedicated lanes one way or another. $142 million in federal funding has been recommended for the Blue Line right after the session ended. This grant depends on the line being at least 50% dedicated lanes.
* Road funding will be a big part of the legislative conversation in 2025, and while there is a chance of the state retaking control of Washington and Meridian, those details are very speculative at this time.
* The economic enhancement district of downtown Mile Square survived the legislative session, with carve-outs for apartments and homeowners who will be opt-in. The district might expand to a two-mile square but with these changes it’s not certain that the City-County Council will ultimately pass it as is.
* Vulnerable Road Users bill passed out of committee but died on third reading.
* Lemonade Stand bill intended to prevent health departments and HOAs from shutting down lemonade stands. It didn’t pass this year but will likely pass in the longer session next year.
* Happy hours are back – specifically legalizing time-based alcoholic drink specials.
* 13th check for state retirees was passed this year at the last minute.
* An amendment weakened the Gaming Commission’s enforcement mechanisms. Another weakened the office of the Public Access Counselor.
* Wetland protections were reduced again this year
* Medicaid $1B accounting error is going to be top of mind during the budget session next year
* Electronic billboard deregulation – an amendment was proposed to a roads bill but it didn’t get voted on. The goal may have been to pressure the city to negotiate with the industry.
* Bobcat bill – many southern Indiana legislators pushed for this due to reports of bobcats decimating livestock. The bill passed but there is still some study happening.
* Drone laws – hunters can track their deer with drones now.
* Senate Bill 1 – major literacy overhaul which includes a lot of additional support and coaching, but the most controversial provision which passed is that third-graders who do not pass I-READ will be retained for a year. Students would be able to take this test three times prior to the point of retention (once in second and once over the summer if they do not pass). An attempt to amend the bill to wait a year until Science of Reading legislation from last year could be fully effectuated was not passed.

**Open Forum**

* [**George Julian spring fundraiser**](https://www.georgejulianptsa.com/): Bingo Night, Friday April 19th at the Marine Corps Building on South Audubon. $25 at ticket or at table for $150 (7 seats).
* First Howe PTA meeting is Thursday, April 25th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Howe Middle School.
* Safe Routes to School hosting a bike/walk audit on Sunday, April 21st, 10am-1pm at the Irvington Library.
* [**Beastside Brewfest**](https://event.ontaptickets.com/events/beastside-brewfest-2024-4-27-2024) April 27th at Our Lady of Lourdes gymnasium. 10 breweries and cider, 2 food trucks.
* Six seats are available on the Irvington Community Council board. Applications will open next week and will be posted on our website (irvingtoncommunitycouncil.com) and through social media.
* **Halloween**: Vendor applications open May 1st. Email irvhalloweenvendors@gmail.com with questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah