

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for September 19, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alyssa Lauer, Caitlin Luebcke, Carrie Yazell, Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Dawn Cox Briggs, Francine Calvert Lee, Kyla Thompson, Lesli Gibson, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Sue Beecher

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, August 2023, were approved.

## **Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison**

- September Food Distributions and Cooking Demos - Indy Food Policy Council
- Information on Eskenazi's Mobile Crisis Center is available
- P 30 events coming up in October: Hoodies and Hot Chocolate and Open House on October 21st
- Soul Food Sunday, last one is on Sunday, September 22nd
- Coffee with a Cop from 5:30-6:30 on September 27th at Irvington Starbucks
- Spirit Week information at feccindy.org, running from Monday 9/25 to Saturday 9/30
- FECC meetings will be in-person moving forward
- FECC Kickball Tournament starting at 3pm on September 30th
- ROOTED School hosting at conversation about the achievement gap on September 21st from 6-8pm
- Indy 101 social media campaign through the city's channels to educate the public
- INRC Collaborative Spirit Award deadline is September 25th
- CAFE LHHM celebration coming up, may be others on the eastside coming up during LHHM (9/15-10/15)

## **Thomas Hartnett-Russel, Community Programs Manager, Energy Assistance Program**

- Information presented tonight will be focused on the 46219 zip code, rather than Irvington specifically
- Taxpayer funded program through Health and Human Services to support low-income residents with utility payments to prevent home energy from being cut off. Benefit was established in 1981.
- Block grant program differentiated to support highest-need, both financially and in terms of energy use
- EAP distributes funding to local organizations to grant based on need (in this area it's the John Boner CC).
- In addition to funding ongoing bills, the program can fund appliance replacement if needed.
- In 2023, over \$10 million in assistance was distributed. About 85% was regular, ongoing benefits and about 15% was crisis benefits (in danger of disconnection or running out of fuel)
- Within 46219 specifically, about \$430,000 was distributed.
- About 11% of the nearly 6,500 eligible households are being served. Not enough people are using it.
- New program year opens on October 2nd of this year. Besides [application](#) and ID, requirements are:
  - Indiana Resident
  - Eligible to receive federal taxpayer funded benefits (citizen or qualified non-citizen)
  - Must be responsible for paying for utilities
  - Income eligibility (either 150% of poverty or 60% of state median income) based on 3 months
- Can apply over the phone by calling 211
- Applying to the program can protect residents from utility shutoff during the coldest part of winter
- Money is distributed from IHEDA directly to the utility, except when utilities are included in rent

### **Michelle Pleasant, President, School 57 PTSA**

- Pumpkinpalooza coming up on Sunday, September 24th from 10am to 2pm. Pasta collection for Second Helpings, bringing a box will get you a discount. Tours of the school will also be available. Bring a wagon!
- Open House - State of the School with the new principal Camille Haley, 9/20 and 9/21 6pm-7pm
- Tactical Urbanism follow-up survey has been distributed based on their project
- FACE Liaison has been added on staff, Keianna Davis

### **Matthew Thompson, Manager of Recruitment and Retention, IPS**

- Howe is still scheduled to reopen for the 2024-2025 school year as an IB Middle School
- Open House and Tour Dates are coming up
  - **Tour** - Tuesday, September 19, 5:30-6:30pm
  - **Tour** - Tuesday September 26, 3:00-5:00pm
  - **Tour** - Friday, September 29, 2:00-4:00pm
  - **Open House** - Tuesday, October 24, 5:00-7:00pm
  - **Showcase of Schools** - Wednesday, November 1, 4:00-8:00pm. The hope would be that a principal is in place by this time. Offers are being extended but the right fit hasn't been found. The building will open no matter what.
  - Will work on a daytime tour for students at School 57
- Schools 19, 34, 57, 58, and 82 are direct elementary feeders into Howe. Other students can directly enroll in Howe through the Enroll Indy platform
- Howe capacity will start at 300-400, with a maximum of 550
- Construction is ongoing but much is cosmetic, wiring, and simple utility work because the bones are strong. The district wants to get more families and neighbors in during the process instead of not opening it up.

### **Jason Larrison, Indianapolis City-County Council, District 12**

- Budget planning for 2024 year (\$1.5 billion)
- Mayor's Office of Education Innovation presented to the Education Committee today
- October will be the end of the budget planning process at two full Council meetings, one for public comment and one for the final Council vote
- One of the neighborhood concerns was around the high number of people experiencing homelessness in encampments near Twin Aire and at the Washington Street CITGO station, alongside other unsafe activity
- Cameras are up at the intersection of concern but no major activity has taken place yet
- Better to call 911 than non-emergency for what could be a drug-related medical emergency, because they are more likely to address it urgently and send out the right mix of support services (e.g. mental health)
- Updates on speed limit signs that are pending to be installed in Irvington: the wrong number is up in Irvington Terrace but Councillor Larrison has notified them that it needs to be corrected. Washington is missing a 35 mph speed limit sign eastbound.

**Old Business:** Brookeville Road petition was mostly dropped and rezoned to D8 Residential (no truck repair)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah