

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for November 19, 2024

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

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

## Updates from IMPD [East District](#)

- Last 2024 meeting for the IMPD East District is this month. Next meeting will be in January 2025.
- Kroger crime trend: Organized wallet/purse pickpocketing from tops of carts and while loading groceries
- Brown's Corner Park @ Washington and Emerson: IMPD East District has been working with people living in the park for six to eight months, alongside outreach organizations who were offering services such as hotels to stay at. 90% of the people living in the park refused services. Some people moved, some took their things, some didn't. DPW is responsible for the forestry management in Brown's Corner Park.
  - Some of the people may have moved into the creek near Howe Middle School. However, that side of the street is in the Southeast District.
- Complaints about drug dealing near the karaoke place on Brookville Road: in Southeast District, information was forwarded along to them.
- Person was hit at Washington and Audubon – person stayed on scene, no criminal activity noted.
- Kia/Hyundai theft trend is continuing to be a problem – mostly kids who steal and dump them. Owners should take their vehicles to the Hyundai or Kia dealer to update the software so it cannot be stolen.

## Updates from [Jenny Menelas](#), Neighborhood Advocate (317-327-5126, [jenny.menelas@indy.gov](mailto:jenny.menelas@indy.gov))

- Leaf collection season continues until December 6. You can put up to 40 bags out each collection day. Burning leaves is illegal and you can be fined up to \$2500 for doing so.
- Faith in Place is offering \$3500 for nonprofits and places of worship to plant and maintain trees on their property. You can find more information [here](#).
- Coffee with a Cop: December 4th @ 9am-10am at Panna Donuts
- Brown's Corner Park: Residents were informed on October 1st that they needed to vacate. Trash removal and forestry was completed by DPW in the area as of yesterday. Signage will be added to the park. There have been mixed messages about whether the vegetation removal was exclusively environmental or about discouraging camping, as a large portion of the park was clearcut.
- AES pole replacement power outages – no communication from them about why power outages haven't aligned with posted notices

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

- Wawa gas station at Shortridge and Washington: petition was pulled at the last minute and will not move forward.
- \$1 million councilor-led project is still scheduled to move forward as discussed at last month's meeting. This would be anticipated to begin in 2025, and wrap up in late 2025 or early 2026.
- Irvington Plaza: the developer may have a new petition in the coming months to develop the Plaza in order to better market the property.

### The Black Hat Society (Nancy Lynch and Kitrina Arbuckle)

- Mission: The Black Hats Society of Historic Irvington (TBHSHI), a nonprofit established in 2016, is a social group of theatrical witches based in the Irvington neighborhood of Indianapolis for the purpose of entertaining at community events and raising money for local charities. Founded for participation in the Irvington Halloween Festival, we have many different backgrounds and beliefs and encourage everyone to have fun, be themselves, make friends, and express their creativity.
- Dance troupe of people who dress as witches and contribute to charity.
  - 2023: \$5,297 raised for Coburn Place, IYG, FIDO, and ICAN
  - 2024: \$9,548 raised so far for FIDO and the Pourhouse
- Managed the Kids Booth at the Spooky Stories event as part of the Irvington Halloween Festival
- Present and perform at many events around Irvington and the city
- 170 members and 9 council members. Limited membership opening and renewals in January. Members contribute and volunteer actively and make their own costumes.
- Nancy cackled at the end.

### Halloween Committee Updates

- Poster contest's new voting system was successful!
- House decorating new voting system has some kinks to work out still.
- Window painting had a new registration system which worked great!
- Wellness Fair was a new event this year
- Carrie-themed Halloween Ball at Our Lady of Lourdes was a lot of fun!
- Art Auction was at a new location this year @ the Benton House
- Horror Shorts continued partnership with Heartland Film Festival and a new partnership with Kan-Kan
- Family Movie Night had a new partnership at Crystal Creek Farms
- Spooky Stories had many new winners this year including \*yours truly\*
- Zombie Bike Ride had a record turnout with a new route, partnering with Bike Indy
- Vampire Run also had a record turnout with 696 runners for the 5k and 75 for the 1 mile
- Street Fair had great weather with 200+ vendors, and IMPD estimates 70,000 attendees, with a record number of people volunteering to help put on the festival
- New partnership with Strangebird with a specialty drink contributing a portion to the festival
- IDO scheduled their fall cleanup for the day after the Street Fair

### Luminaria Committee Updates

- Last Sunday before Christmas Eve each year – this year December 22 from 6pm to 10pm
- Kits will be available for purchase by December 6, the day of the Irvington Business Association Holiday Open House.
- To help boost participation, you can become an unofficial block captain! You'll help make sure everyone in your corner of Irvington has lights to put out on the night of Christmas Eve.
- Kits are \$5 and include 10 candles and 10 bags.
- Sand will be available at Ellenberger Park for free. Bird seed also works!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah.