

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for June 20, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT** (quorum at 10): Alyssa Lauer, Carrie Yazell, Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Francine Calvert Lee, Jacob Lauer, Kami Spicklemire Nielsen, Kyla Thompson, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Roxanne Hilton, Sue Beecher

**COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE:** 14

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, June 2023, were approved.

## **Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Advocate**

- New flier for the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates including a boundary map
- IMPD Community Day on July 12 from 11:00am to 2:00pm in Brookside Park
- Far Eastside Festival on July 29 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at CAFE
- Back to School Community Resource Day June 24 from 8:30am to 12:00pm at the Marion County Public Health Department at 38th and Rural
- National Night Out is August 1st (Tuesday)
- *The Beet* newsletter is out for May, which is the newsletter of the Indy Food Policy initiative
- East Rotary Golf Outing is June 29th at 10:00am at Maple Creek Country Club
- Safe Summer Barbecue will be June 24 at Meadowlark
- Indy Center for Conflict Resolution wants to reach new clients: 317.363.1699
- IMPD Teen Academy on June 26-June 30, ages 12-14 at Creston Middle School (317.327.3029)
- Best way to get information and stay in touch is through the email newsletter or on Next Door

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

- Proposal 111: No Turn on Red in the Downtown Area and the creation of pedestrian safety zones was passed by the Council. Despite state law banning these types of proposals, Council moved forward with the understanding that state law goes into effect on July 1st, giving a window to pass the plan. The pedestrian safety zones include the vast majority of Irvington
- Proposal 149: In July, this proposal will be considered to hire 3 special attorneys to prosecute gun crimes through the federal criminal justice system.
- Proposal 156: Proposed gun safety measures that would go into effect if state restrictions are repealed by state action, court action, or federal action.
- Proposal to allow the Department of Public Works to create greenway speed zones, including slower speed limits where trails cross city streets, such as Pleasant Run and the Pennsy Trail.

## **Paul Diebold, President of Irvington Historical Society, Bona Thompson Center**

- Located at the Bona Thompson Library, one of only two remaining buildings from the Butler University Campus when it was located in Irvington from 1875-1928

- Purpose is to mark historic places, collect documents and art, and preserve artifacts and locations, as well as to educate the public through exhibitions and published works
- Raised \$1,000,000 in 2002 to restore and reopen the Bona Thompson, as well as a \$7M investment in the Missions Apartments
- Preserve America and Save America's Treasures award designation, as well as an Indiana Landmarks Award
- The Greater Irvington area includes four large historic districts: Irvington, North Irvington Gardens, Emerson Heights, and Irvington Terrace, as well as the smaller Pleasanton and Emerson Avenue Additions
- 6 to 8 exhibits rotate through the building each year
- 21 years after the 2002 investment, many of the components of the building are in need of rehabilitation. The "Bettering the Bona" campaign seeks to remedy this:
  - Climate Control by rehabbing the HVAC – \$90k
  - Steam Works Gallery – create a new space in the old boiler room – \$70k
  - Greater Irvington Exhibit – create a new exhibit – \$100k

### **Donn Smith**

- Donn did a songwriters series at the 75-seat Stage Door Theatre last year funded partly by the Council
- Last year's series included 8 shows from March through October
- Proposing 4 shows this year, July through October
- Seeking sponsorship from the Council again, \$150 per show, \$600 total
- Songwriters are paid by suggested donation of \$10. Each show has four songwriters who split the funds
- If you want to support the series, donate directly to the Stage Door Theatre
- Council moved and voted to approve \$600 by voice vote, with 12 votes in favor and no dissents.

### **Updates:**

- Saturday, June 24 – Irvington Pride
- Saturday, June 24 – First Irving Circle Park concert of the year
- Sunday, June 25 – Irvington Garden Club's Annual Garden Tour
- George Julian School 57 received a Tactical Urbanism grant from DPW

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah