

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for August 20, 2024

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

COMMUNITY PRESENT: 23

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

IMPD Update (Roman Williams-Ervin)

- Information at the last meeting was incorrect about the child being hit while boarding the school bus. Update: the driver did cooperate on scene, but the driver did have narcotics in their system and was charged with driving under the influence.
- Additional police activity will be seen in the school zones at the start of the school year to demonstrate a show of force. This may not be all year, but will be present along Washington Street at arrival and dismissal.
- Washington and Emerson: Browns Corner Park, many complaints about homelessness and drug use. IMPD is working with the Parks Department for a few months, alongside outreach groups. Some are offered housing, but others do not have access. For those that did not accept resources that were available, notices have been given and IMPD will be moving people out of the park by this Friday.
- [Friday, September 6](#): Blood drive at IMPD East District
- IMPD has a trespass agreement with Irvington Plaza, so if there is anyone trespassing IMPD is able to remove them without the owners being present

Updates from Jenny Menelas, Neighborhood Advocate Area 2 (317-327-5126, jenny.menelas@indy.gov)

- Concert Series at Indy Parks: Garfield Park (August 28), Riverside Park (August 22, 23, 29, 30)
- Ellenberger Park: Budget proposal at the City-County Council to give each Councilor \$1,000,000 for a discrete project that the Councilor wants to accomplish
- Pleasant Run construction would start, at the earliest, April 2025, as bidding is in phases 2 and 3
- Mayor's Action Center call line is having technical difficulties resulting in longer wait times
- Next round of Tactical Urbanism applications has its next deadline on August 30th
- Indy Animal Care Services is proposing spinning off into its own division and department. Currently it lives within Business and Neighborhood Services
- Animal Care Services employees being fired for looking into criminal background checks

AES Vegetation Management (Cody Flint and Isaac Titcher)

- Irvington has seven different circuits. Each line comes from a different substation or breaker.
- Project includes reliability, storm hardening, replacement of poles, and running new wire.
- Most of the poles in Irvington were installed in the 1970s, and one was as old as 1933.
- Poles are inspected on a 10 year cycle, typically 160,000 poles a year.
- 3.7 miles of main electrical lines are being replaced after about 50 years, with stronger poles and wire so that trees and branches falling don't break the wire or pole, but the cross arm instead to minimize impacts.
- Poles are going from 40 feet to 50 feet, and widening in diameter.

- Everyone in the impact zone received a letter that they would see activity in December.
- Specific homeowners would receive a more targeted letter, and notifiers will also come through neighborhoods, leave door hangers, and mark what needs to be done.
 - Green: trim
 - Blue: remove
 - Orange ribbon: propose removal
- Property owners must give consent to tree removal on their property.
- City trees that are in easement areas have to be approved by the city. If the city doesn't approve the removal, the utility needs to find another way to set the line.
- The newer, larger poles need a little more space than the older poles – 15' radius from the pole.
- City standard for distance trees that can be planted from the pole is most likely 25' from the pole.
- Branches overhanging the line are also typically removed if there is a risk of falling on the line.
- Likelihood of burying the lines in the near future is very low, and may not save the trees as digging the vaults does damage roots, and more transformers are needed.
- Cleanup protocol is to load up anything larger than 6 inches and mulch it, carting it to mulch companies. Stumps are cut and stacked into firewood size pieces neatly at the base of the tree to be picked up after two weeks, or sooner if the homeowner requests it.
- Notification on this project must be a minimum of two weeks prior to work. In this particular project notification has been between 4 to 6 weeks out. Notifications are photographed when they are delivered and mapped with metadata.
- If a customer doesn't want the tree removed, the notifier will go out and discuss the removal to see if there is a way to remove only part of the tree or find another way to mediate the issue.
- 25% is a guideline threshold for how much of a tree can be trimmed and it still survives. However, specific trees have different requirements – some can survive more, others can survive less.
- Heritage trees: AES may not be held to the same standard as what is required when private developers remove heritage trees in terms of replacing them by their mass or girth.

Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana (Cassidy Spencer)

- CSoCI covers 18 counties in Central Indiana
- Non-profit organization not affiliated with IMPD, focused on non-emergency tips
- Tips are anonymous and data privacy is a key function of the organization
- Does not replace victims and witnesses – instead aimed at pointing law enforcement in the right direction
- Photos can be submitted, but not doorbell cameras since it identifies the person submitting the tip
- When you submit a tip, you get a tip ID and password to update with more information and to communicate with detectives who need additional information. You also may be eligible for a cash reward in some cases

Pleasant Run Run and Vampire Run Updates

- **Pleasant Run Run:** This Saturday morning, August 24. Registration is still open for both participants and volunteers.
- **Vampire Run:** Morning of the Halloween Street Fair. Registration is also open!

Halloween Committee Updates

- **IUMC Hallowpalooza:** Concert from 3pm to 5pm on the first day of the Festival
- All events can be found [here](#)
- Writing contest deadline is October 11
- House decorating contest submissions start October 1

- Street Fair will have a larger Kids Zone this year, including the State Museum, more from Purdue Polytechnic, and many acts on Kids Stage (with some openings still)
- Festival is still looking for additional sponsors

Open Forum

- Irvington Community School is looking for more board members
- Kickball League is open to more players! They meet every Monday in Ellenberger Park

The meeting was adjourned at **8:27**pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah.