**HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Minutes for January 16, 2024**

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

**COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE:** 27

The meeting was held in person at the Irvington Presbyterian Church, open to the public, and called to order by Sue Beecher at 7:09 pm who opened the meeting by welcoming Council members, guests, and public attendees.

**Approval of Minutes**: The minutes for the previous month, November 2023, were approved virtually.

**Updates from** [**IndyGo**](mailto:jpatterson@indygo.net) **regarding the Blue Line**

* Moving the Ritter Station to the west side of the intersection from the east side
* Still having one-on-one conversations with business owners

**Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Roman Williams-Irvin, Community Resource Officer**

* CRO handle community concerns and challenges, this one specifically for East District
* Shooting in Bosart-Brown on January 15th, contained and targeted crime
* East District under Commander Riddle is focused on targeting violent crime
* Partner with Stacy Rojas, both ride through the neighborhood frequently on bikes
* First Task Force meeting is at 201 N. Shadeland on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00pm. These meetings are an hour long and share lots of information with many neighborhoods.
* Homelessness in the Irvington area, especially along the Pennsy, usually starts with offering resources, and occasionally requires removal if property owners are getting fined for trash by the health department
  + If trash becomes a problem, residents can contact Business and Neighborhood Services or the Department of Health to file a report. This includes both private and public property. This triggers an inspector to be sent to the location. The request would be filed on RequestIndy through the Mayor’s Action Center.
  + It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain their property
  + The police try to offer housing resources and services but the help is not always accepted
* For properties becoming problematic with trash, graffiti, and trespassing but delinquent owners, it is still good to apply constant pressure by reporting these through the Mayor’s Action Center. The police are able to remove people from vacant properties without utilities and that are boarded up, but it is easier when a no trespassing sign is posted. Some owners can also be tasked to put up fences.
* The Mayor’s Neighborhood Advocate is also a good resource. Our new MNA will come next month.

**Updates from** [**Andy Nielsen**](mailto:Andy.Nielsen@indy.gov)**, City County Councilor for District 14**

* District 14 is a new district that puts all of Irvington into the same City-County Council district – previously the neighborhood was split into two districts with separate representation
* Councilor Nielsen is committed to showing up during both easy and hard conversations and to always being available and responsive
* Role of the City-County Councilor
  + Legislator for the city, separate from the mayor (the executive)
  + Sets the budget for the city
  + Creates policy and laws to govern how the city runs
  + Appoints members to boards and commissions that govern city policy
  + Oversight over the Mayor and the administration of the Mayor’s office
* Top priority for Councilor Nielsen is pedestrian safety, with a focus on design and construction, complemented by enforce
* Second priority is economic development that provides for everyone in the community
* Third priority is safe, affordable, clean housing for all. There is a prevalence of substandard and unstable housing coupled with a high rate of evictions, making everyone less safe. We need investments that make housing more accessible to everyone that needs it.
* Committees are the best way to consistently advocate for District 14. Assignments:
  + Administration and Finance
  + Public Works
  + Rules and Public Policy
  + Environmental Sustainability
* Update from Representative Blake Johnson on pedestrian safety: House Bill 1281 “Vulnerable Road Users” passed out of committee today. The bill provides additional enforcement for drivers who harm vulnerable road users, such as construction workers and school zone pedestrians
* City is still looking for a director of the Department of Metropolitan Development
* City Proposal 22 would expand the scope of the Fatal Crash Review Team. At the moment, this team only meets in response to a fatality. This proposal would expand the mandate to include serious injury.
* Blue Line Ritter Station will be moved to the west side of the intersection, and a blackout date is committed for the month of October to not interfere with the Halloween Festival
* Trash will be the first point of conversation with Department of Public Works
* Ellenberger Park pedestrian bridge will be the first point of discussion with Parks Director Boyd on Monday
* Speed limit 30mph to 25mph reduction signs have been updated and changed through parts of the neighborhood. The Terrace is done, now a stop sign will be added to the non-existent three-way stop north of Ellenberger Park.
* Irvington Plaza: Councilor Nielsen has met with Mr. Tallen and hopes that we can continue to be good advocates for inclusive development, including housing in some form. The neighborhood was split on that. An advisory committee will be created to help implement the usage of TIF funds.
* Ford Visteon plant will be included in the existing Irvington TIF without increasing the allocation area, based on the 2023 assessment, creating much more money for parks and greenways in Irvington. TIFs do not raise taxes.
* A park was promised for Ellenberger Park years ago.
* Thrive Plan for recycling included citywide curbside recycling.
* Speeding on Washington Street is a concern. At the moment we can’t use cameras to issue citations, but both the Representative and Senator for Irvington are working on changing that.
* Speeding on non-painted roads is also a concern, as well as the lack of painting on some roads

[**Frances Rivera**](mailto:riveraf@myips.org)**, Principal of T. C. Howe Middle School**

* School is opening this fall and receiving new students
* PTA has gotten started and Principal Rivera will be at the Safe Routes to School meeting
* Construction work is ongoing at Howe – new roof, cabling, new A/V equipment in all classrooms, furniture has moved and the floors are being redone
* An open house should happen sometime this spring – the date is not scheduled yet and communication will come from the district and distributed through social media pages
* Estimated school size is between 700-800, which would put class sizes at between 25-27 students

**Michelle Pleasant, President, George Julian School 57 PTSA**

* Safe Routes to School Irvington kick-off meeting will be tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17th at 7:00pm at Downey Avenue Church
* This is a chapter of a national organization, partnering with [Health By Design](https://healthbydesignonline.org/) who does these partnerships with other schools in Indianapolis

**Principal Angie Therber, Eastside Catholic School Partnership**

* Principal and parent of Our Lady of Lourdes presenting
* School is located at 30 S. Downey Avenue, built in 1958 and undergoing some renovations
* 205 students attend the school from preschool to 8th grade, with an increase in enrollment
* 11% are multilingual learners, 34% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
* 66% are practicing Catholic
* School offers a full curriculum, electives, and clubs
* Open House: Sunday, January 28th from 11am to 1pm
* Class sizes would be capped at 25 based on current capacity

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah