

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for May 21, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT** (quorum at 12): Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Jake Walker, Francine Calvert Lee, Kyla Thompson, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Sue Beecher, John Arbuckle, Andrea De Mink, Billy Payne, Jordan Byrd Eveland, Dawn Cox Briggs, Carrie Yazell

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

## Introduction of New Council Members, Kyla Thompson

- John Arbuckle - Introduced last meeting
- Debbie Williamson Holly - Joining the board again after sitting in the past
- Billy Payne - New Council member. Born and raised eastsider who has been back in Irvington for four years and manages events regularly, especially runs including the Irvington Vampire.
- Jordan Byrd Eveland - New Council member. Lives on the north side of Irvington and frequently volunteers. Excited to help with grant writing and event management with the Council.

## Andy Nielsen, City County Council District 14, 317-283-9680, Andy.Nielsen@indy.gov

- Each spring, the city works to appropriate funds from local taxes. This week the first round of appropriations were made.
- \$3 million were allocated to transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness. This includes people who are intermittently homeless and for those who have been experiencing chronic homelessness but are not able to access high barrier shelters.
- Funding has been allocated to support a new fire station site for the station second-closest to us, IFD #20. Station #25 is the closest station, built in 1928. It is ranked 9th in the line for replacement, which puts it at replacement in the next five years.
- \$500,000 has been allocated to a school zone safety fund, addressing a number of problematic intersections in and around school zones.
- Council passed an ordinance reducing the speed limits of the streets south of Irvington Plaza to 25 mph. It may take some time for these to be put into place, but this lower speed limit now encompasses nearly all residential streets in Irvington.
- Club Paradise at English Avenue: many incidents have occurred leading to violence recently, and the business is up for renewal with the liquor license board next month. Councillor Nielsen will be remonstrating against renewal, and asks that the Historic Irvington Community Council joins him with a letter of support or with additional remonstrance. IMPD will also be remonstrating against this business.
- **VOTE:** Motion was made by Ronak Shah, and second, to write a letter in remonstrance of the renewal of the liquor license for Club Paradise, in alignment with the request by Councillor Nielsen. Motion passed with thirteen ayes, no noted dissents, and one abstention by Charles Miller.

## Jason Kimmell, President of Friends of Ellenberger Park, www.friendsofellenbergerpark.org

- Annual Retreat occurred in February of this year, with a focus on beautification and advocacy for the park. Many of the ideas from the previous year were quite ambitious, and the goal was to focus on the highest impact outcomes for the 42 acres of the park.

- Monthly cleanups will be the second Saturday of each month, including edgework and flower bed cleaning. (*ask what people can clean up*)
- Food Truck Thursdays are sponsored by FoEP from May through July. Attendance has been down this year from last year. The trucks park on the service road by the community building.
  - Vendors are announced on Facebook and Instagram, either through FoEP or neighborhood pages
- Community garden is growing behind the old ice rink building. Everything grown is given away. One of the members of the group has put in a lot of time to maintain these beds. Additional new flower beds have been created and planted. Possibly a water spigot on the comfort station.
  - Citizens Energy might be able to sponsor a cart to get water to some of the beds, and will also be giving them gloves and safety vests for cleanups. If they are unable to sponsor it, FoEP may be able to use some donations from an anonymous donor.
- Pickleball group is part of Friends of Ellenberger Park, and plays on multiple days a day, matching people up based on their skillset. They also help the park by pulling weeds.
- Co-sponsor for a new pollinator patio in front of the rink building, along with the Irvington Garden Club.
- Yoga in the park on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7am to 8am in Ellenberger Park with Breathe Yoga
- Kevin with FoEP is a member of the TIF advisory steering committee (*ask about two-way conversion*)
- Pool: IndyParks continues to be understaffed and is having a hard time hiring lifeguards and camp counselors, but Ellenberger is fully-staffed! Swim lessons will be held regularly and the pool should be open for regular hours for the full summer, hopefully including Saturdays. A swim team will also practice there.
- Water gun fight: was a huge hit in the pass, not sure if it will happen again depending on capacity
- Movies in the park: new director of the Indianapolis Symphony is open to performing in the park after the dig project is completed, and movies in the park may come back then, but FoEP needs more volunteers
- Significant uptick in littering in the park.
- Two way conversion: the curb wasn't properly taken out before the sod was put down in the northwest corner of the park, so there are concerns that if it isn't corrected kids may trip on it or it may not get mowed. A dedicated bike lane and a right of way will come all the way down to the park.
- Tree canopy: The long term plan for the park is to maintain the existing mature trees which have not been taken care of. A separate tree maintenance budget may be needed to accomplish this. After the dig project is done, there may be plans to increase the tree canopy but this hasn't been spelled out yet.

#### Legacy Committee Updates

- Since 2001, the Founders Awards recognize businesses, individuals, and organizations making contributions to Irvington's quality of life. Previous winners are available on the website.

#### Halloween Committee Updates

- Halloween Festival is being planned already, and committee meetings will begin in June.
- Poster contest is open for entries, including a new Youth Division.
- Vampire Run registration is open
- Vendor applications are open
- All merchandise will be released at the same time, both summerwear and winterwear
- Sponsorship opportunities are available for those interested in sponsoring the festival
- Website: [irvingtonhalloween.com](http://irvingtonhalloween.com). Email: [irvingtonhalloweenfestival@gmail.com](mailto:irvingtonhalloweenfestival@gmail.com)
- **VOTE:** Motion to approve the Halloween budget with flexibility for future addendums as needed was made by Kyla Thompson and seconded. Motion passed unanimously with 14 ayes, no dissents, and no absentions.

#### Discussion of Irvington Business Association Request for Funding for Irvington Pride

- June 29th from 11:00am to 5:00pm, with other events occurring later in the evening.

- Irvington Business Association has done the Holiday Open House for almost 20 years, and was interested in adding a summer event. They landed on Irvington Pride to make a more neighborhood-based pride event aligned with the much larger Indy Pride.
- Irvington Pride is getting a little bit bigger every year, occurring both at Irvington Lodge and at Audubon and Bonna. Vendors will be located in both locations.
- Indy Pride is no longer able to help sponsor the festival – last year they provided \$3500 for security. As a result, Irvington Pride is looking for outside funding to support this, and is asking the Council to support with half of this budget, \$1750.
- Right now the festival costs more than it makes in vendor fees, so any proceeds this year will go back towards next year’s festival and the Holiday Open House.
- Snug is going to make a t-shirt to sell for \$20 each to help generate additional proceeds.
- **VOTE:** Motion made by Charles Miller to support the budget ask as stated for \$1750, and seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no noted dissents.

#### Open Forum

- Brookville Road tree cutting from last week: Many semis have been parking in the lot that was cleared and have been reported. The property owner put up signs and boulders to discourage semi parking, and attempted to have some towed, but these interventions haven’t been successful. The lot is not zoned and will not be zoned for truck parking.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah