

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 19, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Uhlenhake, Charles Miller, Kyla Thompson, Lesli Gibson, Chad Cerda, Roxanne Hilton, Francine Calvert Lee, Jake Walker, Ronak Shaw, Lys Lauer, Carrie Yazell, Sue Beecher

GUESTS PRESENT: Michelle Pleasant, President of School 57 PTSA, David Ray, Indianapolis City County Councilor for District 19, Brennen Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison

The meeting was held in person at the Irvington Presbyterian Church, open to the public, and called to order by Lesli Gibson at 7:05 pm. She opened the meeting by welcoming Council members, guests, and public attendees.

Approval of Minutes: May and June minutes were approved.

Michelle Pleasant, President of School 57 PTSA

School 57 not only met but exceeded the fundraising goal for Hannah's Playground. Installation will begin this fall after scheduling a clean-up day.

David Ray, City-County Council District 19 Representative

- 1) Jason Larrison asked CEG about the build back to fund the master plan for Ellenberger Park. This is not in CEG's purview so it will not occur. Indy Parks was approached about paying for it, but their funding is on hold. A final decision will be made after the "big dig" is completed. Indy Parks will seek additional public input on the Ellenberger Park project.
- 2) The intersection at Washington Street and Audubon Road which currently consists of loose bricks is being fixed.
- 3) The National Night Out will be held on August 2, 2022.
- 4) An update on the Irvington Arms apartments was provided. A security guard has been hired to allow people in and out of the building as appropriate. The next step is to reduce inappropriate access to the building by securing the fire escape which is being used to allow entry to individuals who should not be in the building.
- 5) David Kingen is the owner of the property on Brookville Road where trees have been cleared to allegedly allow for overnight semitruck parking. He knows he has "messed up" and should have obtained the required permissions prior to clearing the property. He was invited to this Council meeting but did not attend.
- 6) There will be Coffee with the Councilor at the Cherry Tree Starbucks on July 31, 2022.
- 7) A group of six Council members created and provided David with a list of questions to provide Irvington community residents with information regarding him and his efforts as a City-County Councilor. David began his presentation by stating he does not know whether he will run for re-election for the Indianapolis City-County Council and has made no official announcement. David was a union electrician for the IBEW which led to his involvement in local politics. He has a huge affection for the east side of Indianapolis having grown up on Sheridan Avenue and attended Little Flower and Seccina schools. His wife teaches third grade at Holy Spirit. David outlined what he considers his biggest accomplishments as a Councilor.
 - a) He supported the pursuit and commitment to seeking public funding for the Penny Trail in 2020. This positively impacts the eastside by connecting Irvington to Cumberland.

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- b) He has sought funds to improve the infrastructure, especially the streets, in the Warren Park neighborhood.
 - c) He supported the “responsible bid ordinance” which increases oversight of public dollars as related to city contracts.
 - d) He has supported Indy Go and specifically the Blue Line plans.
 - e) He is chair of the Education Committee for the Council. Along with Blake Johnson he created and supports Indy Achieves and initiative which provides resources for students to receive educational training, whether vocational training or college education, post high school. He believes education is important and Indiana is not doing enough so he and Blake created this committee.
- 8) David stated he works to ensure the eastside of Indianapolis receives its “fair share” of resources and funding by being the “annoying voice”. He acknowledged that the Eastside has the oldest infrastructure in the city of Indianapolis. In terms of his “engagement level” in the community, his district consists of many elderly individuals, and he states he “has been present”. He feels he does constituent services “well” and is above average in this area. He is currently the Benefits Administrator for IBEW and oversees a staff of ten. He is “out of the city a lot” which impacts his attendance at the City-County Council meetings, making it low. He feels that attendance at the meetings is “not as important” as obtaining input in his district. However, he could change his flight “if need be if issues affecting the eastside are on the agenda”.
- 9) In response to the recent death of a 7-year-old in his district who was struck and killed by an automobile while waiting at a school bus stop, David supports the Safe Streets Initiatives. He supports IMPD in their attempts to catch those who do not follow the law in a school zone.
- 10) In summary, David believes he is “smart and engaged” and “responsive as a downtown Councilman and not just a neighborhood Councilor.” He is learning from Jason Larrison how to serve Irvington and is “excited to be our Councilman for the next 1 ½ years.”

Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison

Brennan introduced himself to the group and stated he began in his job a week ago. He lives in Lawrence outside of the district. His goal is to ensure all are connected receive all needed information, His contact information is: email at Brennan.edwards@indy.gov and telephone at 317.833.4933.

Old Business:

- 1) Roxie stated that we received \$8200 of the \$10,000 of the INRC grant she applied for on behalf of the Council which will be use for purchasing banners to be displayed along Washington Street. We must show renderings as the next step and the installation should occur in October of 2022. Lisa Bennett asked if these be changed out seasonally, and Roxie indicated that this would not be a possibility.
- 2) The Halloween Festival will include a Ball this year. The poster contest entries are due on July 22. Jake reported that McAllister is paying the cost for all generators needed for the Festival.

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Open Forum:

- 1) Eddie Hager, a resident of City-County Councilor Hart's District 18, provided an overview of his concerns regarding multiple proposals for the development of "semi park and sit" areas.
- 2) Andrew Willard who just moved here from Missouri spoke about his individual efforts to pick up trash in Irvington. He would like to join any current initiatives in Irvington or start one himself. Thanks so much Andrew and welcome to Irvington!
- 3) Leslie Schulte of Community Heights provided an update on the traffic calming initiatives along 10th Street. Currently the group has raised the amazing amount of \$35,000 which is about half of the amount needed. On August 6, the group will be painting a traffic calming mural along 10th street, and all are welcome to join.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Beecher