

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for April 18, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 10): Caitlin Luebcke, Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Dawn Cox Briggs, Francine Calvert Lee, Kami Spicklemire Nielsen, Kyla Thompson, Larry Messing, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Sue Beecher

COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE: 22

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, March 2023, were approved virtually.

Jason Larrison, City-County Council District 12 Representative (jason.larrison2@indy.gov)

- Graffiti encroaching into Irvington: What to do?
 - Submit to the Mayor's Action Center first
 - Email the tracking number of Jason
 - Two types of graffiti issues:
 - Public property – Public Works cleans it up
 - Private property – Business and Neighborhood Services issues a citation
- Lack of speed limit signs on Washington Street – DPW is going to address them
- Dropping speed limits from 25 to 20 mph in neighborhoods? Yes, but requires an engineering study and a traffic safety study to lower it below 25 per Indiana Code.
- Speed limits were recently reduced to 25 mph on many Irvington roads in the past years, so signs will be going up in the near future, and 30 mph streets will be replaced with 25 mph ones where changed
- Irvington/Brookville Road TIF district was approved by the Council this past month, capturing property tax increases over the next 25 years from development on the old Harvester/Navistar site and any new Irvington Plaza development, and reinvesting that into parks and greenways in the area
 - TIFs are not a tax increase on homeowners or business owners
- New zoning ordinance dealing with commercial parking lots will be discussed at the next Council meeting to address the issue of semi-truck parking
- City ordinance to turn all downtown intersections into No Turn On Red is likely to pass the Council but may be prohibited by a new amendment at the state level – banned only for Indianapolis
- The plan is still to expand the TIF to include the old Ford Visteon (now Thunderbird) site, but that will likely require including some underdeveloped commercial properties on East Washington Street. This could lead to new revenue sources, but could also dilute the existing TIF.

Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison (brennan.edwards@indy.gov)

- It's Earth Month! Lots of opportunities to do your part to help in parks and in the community.
- Indy Parks is still hiring, and sign-on bonus is increased to \$250.
- Summer Day Camps will be back at 15 locations around Indianapolis.
- IndyGo is looking for Transit Ambassadors, which comes with a \$60 stipend.
- All Things Senior is an Americorps Seniors event coming up on Saturday, April 29 from 10am-2pm
 - Located at the Edna Martin Leadership and Legacy Center in Martindale-Brightwood

- Includes giveaways, free tests and vaccines
- Far East Soccer League – Deadline to sign up is April 22nd, and they play at Grassy Creek
- Under the Good Samaritan Law, anyone has the right to clean graffiti, enter, secure, and otherwise tidy or clean up an abandoned or vacant property (34-30-26).
- For abandoned properties, you can call the Mayor’s Action Center – they typically mow and fee, and will sell the property if it’s vacant based on tax records. They also board them up within 3-5 days, typically.
- Slow Roll Indy hosting Ride the East Side on May 17th at 5:30pm, starting the ride at 6:00pm. Water and refreshments will be provided.

Tamar Harper, Community Resource Sergeant, IMPD East District (tamara.harper@indy.gov)

- Recovering from surgery but one of her team members presented on her behalf
- East District National Night Out Against Crime – Tuesday, August 1st, 2023
- Coffee With a Cop – Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 (5:30-6:30 at Irvington Starbucks)
- East District Task Force Meeting Dates – May 10, 2023 (6:00-7:00 at IMPD East District HQ)
- 1200 illegal guns removed from East District
- All crime categories have gone down except Robbery
- Many opioid deaths in this district over the past year, still a big concern
- Additional cameras and gunshot detectors being added

Robert Uhlenhake, Irvington Community Council, Land Use Committee

- Four major zoning cases in the pipeline
- Brookeville Road site where old growth trees were cut down: Petition for rezoning for the truck repair shop was withdrawn, but they will still plan to vacate the alley and join the two parcels together. It is unclear what the plan will be after that, and there is a continuance on the petition.
- Greenfield Avenue site: Petition for the apartment plan, including vacating alleys, was continued until July
- Paul’s Nursery site: Petition filed to rezone for a convenience store/gas station
- Former site of Wyliepalooza (which relocated into LVL UP) has a new owner that would like to make it a tattoo parlor. It is too close to residential per zoning laws and requires a variance.

Eilise Lane, CEO/Head Brewer, Scarlet Lane Brewing Company

- This Saturday will be the grand opening of Scarlet Lane Brewing Company in the old Black Acre Taproom, including full menu and full drink list
- SLB will be open seven days a week beginning this week
- SLB is hiring for all positions, and is always hiring
- SLB has the existing Black Acre stock and is serving that now, and will later begin using the recipes
- SLB is also all ages, including high chairs and baby changing stations

Jim Arnold, The Snug, Irish Pub in South Irvington

- The building that used to be Peg’s Salon is being planned to open as a small (30-person capacity) Irish Pub
- The owners are seeking Council support for (hopefully) the May hearing for a zoning variance
- The owners have done stakeholder engagement in the community and have gotten support from everyone that they were able to talk to
- The owners are going to encourage pedestrian access and plan to install a bike rack
- The owners would like obtain a three-way license (beer, wine, and liquor)

Updates at T. C. Howe

- The Early Learning center is confirmed, and will be opening this fall! Enrollment opens today (though the form won't be live til later today), and it will have 80 spots. (<https://dayearlylearning.org>) It will be in the southernmost addition of the building
- \$39 out of \$410 of the capital referendum are slated for Howe, but the Early Learning center is funded separately and will open even if the referendum fails
- For the building, roofing and HVAC are the most expensive upgrades, followed by interior plumbing, flooring, configuration, and electrical
- For the exterior, repaving, demolition/construction of buildings and fencing, landscaping, and drainage will be the bulk of the work
- For athletics, all 17 high school sports will be offered to Howe students (including swimming and golf somehow), for both boys and girls
- Most of the field refurbishments will be for softball and baseball fields and lighting, as well as construction of new restrooms and concessions
- Security upgrades -- mainly cameras, card access, and telecom -- will be paid for by a previous district-wide security referendum that came in under budget, allowing remaining money to be reallocated to Howe
- The building is in pretty good interior condition and they anticipate lots more tours and community access, including opportunities to paint murals and display artwork, prior to opening if people are interested

Open Forum

- George Julian PTSA will be hosting their Trivia Night on Friday ,MAy 12th at the Irvington Event Center at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:45pm and it is a fundraiser for the school.
- Irving Circle Park cleanup Saturday, May 13 at 9am
- Kile Oak cleanup on Saturday, April 29 at 9am
- Beastside Brewfest on Saturday, April 29 at 7pm (tickets online)
- Tree giveaways from AES Indiana around the city, including at the city's Earth Day Festival as well as at many regional parks on Arbor Day weekend, April 29 (the closest is Grassy Creek)
- Halloween Festival poster contest begins soon, and this year will include a youth poster contest. Be on the lookout after Memorial Day weekend
- Vendor applications open May 1st
- Sponsorship opportunities can be found at irvingtonhalloween.com
- Irvington Kickball meets every Monday at 6:30 PM at Christian Park

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah