

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 16, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Uhlenhake, Charles Miller, Kyla Thompson, Larry Messing, Chad Cerda, Roxanne Hilton, Francine Calvert Lee, Ronak Shaw, Lys Lauer, Jake Lauer, Kami Nielsen, Sue Beecher

GUESTS PRESENT: Cyndi Carrasco, Candidate for Marion County Prosecutor, Jason Larrison, Indianapolis City-County Councilor for District 12, David Ray, Indianapolis City-County Councilor for District 19, Brennen Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison, Blake Johnson, State Representative for District 100

The meeting was held in person at the Irvington Presbyterian Church, open to the public, and called to order by Larry Messing at 7:02 pm who opened the meeting by welcoming Council members, guests, and public attendees.

Approval of Minutes: July minutes were approved.

Cyndi Carrasco, Candidate for Marion County Prosecutor

Cyndi was born in El Paso, Texas the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She moved to Indiana 20 years ago, attended Indiana University Law School, and lived in downtown Indianapolis while doing so. She most recently worked as the Indiana Inspector General. Cyndi believes that public service is not about politics but rather is about making the right decisions. Cyndi stated that “crime is all over Marion County” and “our city is in crisis”. She believes we need to get back to the basics of holding people accountable, partnering with other agencies, and invest in resources to prevent crime. She believes “public safety is the foundation to opportunity”. She would like to imbed deputy prosecutors in local neighborhoods as was done during Terry Curry’s administration.

Cyndi was asked to respond to three questions:

- 1) **When your opponent took office, he stopped the prosecution of most marijuana related offenses. How would your approach as prosecutor differ from his? Will your resume the prosecution of misdemeanor possession of marijuana?** Cyndi responded that she will not “categorically disobey” or ignore laws.
- 2) **Since the passage of legislation repealing the right to abortion, many doctors and women are afraid. Your opponent has stated he will not prosecute abortion related crimes. Will you?** Cyndi responded that she “will not categorically ignore the law” and her job “is to enforce the law”.
- 3) **Many crimes in Irvington are quality of life crimes. There are also many complaints in Irvington related to the lack of traffic enforcement. IMPD tells us they don’t have the manpower to enforce traffic laws in Irvington, not even in school zones. What do you say to residents of our community worried about the quality of life crimes and lack of enforcement of minor offenses by IMPD? What will you do as prosecutor to change this?** Cyndi stated “she too is concerned about these things” and promised to ensure traffic laws are enforced in Irvington. She stated these “are important crimes”

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Blake Johnson, State Representative, District 100

- 1) Blake provided an informational quick guide specific to Indiana's automatic tax refund. Many taxpayers have yet to receive the initial \$125 refund with the legislature having voted to begin distributing a \$200 refund.
- 2) Blake spoke to the recent abortion ban to be enacted by the State of Indiana.

Jason Larrison, City-County Councilor District 12

- 1) The City County Council is actively working on a budget to be adopted in October of 2022. Jason sits on the Parks, Education, Administration, Finance and Sustainability Committees. Jason stated that there has been an infusion of federal funds which are being utilized to increase city employee salaries. Some of those funds are also being utilized for infrastructure.
- 2) Specific to Irvington, Jason has proposed a 25 mile per hour speed limit that would include the area from 10th to Brookville and Arlington to Emerson. Washington Street would not be included in this.
- 3) The public in attendance asked about the possibility of rumble strips or speed bumps being installed on the Pennsy Trail. Jason stated that DPW has the authority to approve this and would most likely utilize "speed tables versus speed bumps or rumble strips. A question regarding the installation of lighting along the Pennsy Trails was also asked. Regarding a question specific to new sidewalks, Jason stated that Irvington is not on the list to receive these for 2023. New York and Michigan Streets are receiving some curb cuts. Public comment indicated that the \$100 being provided by Marion County to property owners would be better spent on infrastructure improvements. Jason responded to a question specific to digital billboards stating that these are still banned in Marion County.

Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison

- 1) Brennan spoke to the Mobile Crisis Assistance Team (MCAT) which is a resource used by IMPD.
- 2) Brennan mentioned the non-emergency resources number which will be available until 6 pm every day through the James E. Waters, Jr. Conflict Resolution Center under the leadership of the Indy Public Safety Foundation.
- 3) Brennan distributed a card listing Veterans' Affairs resources.
- 4) Brennan was asked who the Council and neighborhood could contact regarding a more detailed explanation of how neighborhoods are chosen for infrastructure updates. He stated we should contact Jeff Bennett or Judith Thomas.

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David Ray, City-County Council District 19 Representative

- 1) David sits on the Homelessness, Public Safety, and Infrastructure committees.
- 2) He meets with IndyGo next week.
- 3) The Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival will be held from September 22-24 and will be set up behind the church this year.

Ellenberger Park

Sue provided a summary of the Ellenberger Park survey feedback and efforts which included an overview of what has occurred in the past twelve months. The choice of having artificial turf installed in the park was voted down resulting in additional public feedback sought. The Council has committed to assisting with the identification of and exploring funding for further improvements having met with our City-County Councilor and Citizens. The Council is supporting the installation of a band shell which aligns with public input of prioritizing an amphitheater and was part of the 2012 Ellenberger Master Plan. The Council received 11 responses to the July 2022 survey with 7 of those supporting playground improvements, 3 requesting paved walkways, 2 in favor of a bathroom facility, and 2 in favor of a splash pad.

5346 Brookville Road Zoning

David Kingen provided an update to the zoning efforts occurring for 5346 Brookville Road. David introduced himself as an urban planner who is assisting the owner of this property. David has filed rezoning and variance petitions for this property with a hearing scheduled for September 29, 2022. A site plan will be required to be developed. David stated that his client did not have the authority to remove the 21 trees from the right of way in anticipation of utilizing the property for parking purposes. These trees will be replanted in Irvington per his agreement with the city. The site plan will be specific to the developing of a truck repair facility for semis. Eleven repair bays are proposed although David stated it might be reduced to eight bays. The trucks would not be allowed to idle and would remain on-site for 10-12 days on average. Parking will be part of this repair facility. Hours of operation would be 7 am to 7 pm. All chemicals and captured would be taken off site for disposal in keeping with state and federal guidelines.

David's client also owns property in the 5400 block of Greenfield Avenue and will be seeking permission to construct a two-story apartment building with up to 75 apartments at fair market value. David stated that the two homes on either side of the property are not zoned as residential and he believes the owners should get their zoning corrected. He also contended that the tow yard located nearby on 5437 Greenfield Avenue does more to devalue homeowners' properties than his client's truck repair facility.

Neighbors spoke to property damages already incurred during this process and asking for assurances that this does not occur as the process moves forward. Neighbors also insisted that they be included in the discussion as these projects move forward.

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Charles Miller spoke to the fact that the trees removed were mature, heritage trees which should not be replaced by mere saplings from a local home and garden center. Charles suggested that financial restitution should be part of the tree replacement efforts.

Old Business:

Kami Nielsen, Halloween Festival

- 1) We are at capacity for vendors for the festival.
- 2) The volunteer sign-up is now open. All volunteers receive a free t-shirt and beer ticket (if over 21).

New Business:

Lys Lauer presented a motion that the Council submit a letter to the Indianapolis City-County Council supporting a continued ban on all electronic billboards in Marion County. The motion carried unanimously with Robert Uhlenhake abstaining from the vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Beecher