

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

## Minutes for February 21, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 10):** Alyssa Lauer, Andrea De Mink, Carrie Yazell, Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Dawn Cox Briggs, Francine Calvert Lee, Jacob Lauer, Kami Spicklemire Nielsen, Kyla Thompson, Larry Messing, Lesli Gibson, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Sue Beecher

**GUESTS PRESENT:** City-Councillor Jason Larrison, Rep. Blake Johnson, Sen. Andrea Hunley, Matt Pleasant, Michelle Pleasant, Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate Brennan Edwards

**COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE:** 35

The meeting was held in person at the Irvington United Methodist 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, January 2023, were approved.

### Updates:

- **It's Lesli Gibson's birthday!**

**Blake Johnson, State Representative, District 100 and Andrea Hunley, State Senator, District 46 (15 minutes)**

- The legislators co-presented their remarks
- **Senate Bill 233:** Michelle Pleasant and Cassandra Crutchfield testified in support of a task force to look at road safety – comprehensively including driving, walking, biking, and all other forms of road use. Other states who have implemented this have been able to target roadway design to reduce fatalities and injuries on roads. This includes leading pedestrian intervals like those now on the Ritter and Audubon crossings of Washington Street.
- Rep. Johnson noted that there is more synergy between the House and Senate this year than in years past that has helped momentum with bills, as well as collaboration between the parties.
- **Senate:** ~\$8 million in additional funding for roads to be redesigned more safely, especially for wide roads that have historically been underfunded by the formula. This will be done by including “excluded towns” in the consolidated county as well as increasing state matching funds for grants
- **House:** Work zone and school zone safety bills to use technology to monitor and enforce speed in these areas
- **House:** Funding for a homelessness task force in Marion County – there is no low-barrier housing option for people who are homeless and dealing with addiction and mental health issues
- **Senate:** SB 114 provides protections for renters, specifically for utilities when landlords are delinquent and utilities are cut off
- **Senate:** SB 1 funds mental health crisis support services, including buffering the 9-8-8 hotline
- **House:** Automatic enrollment in 21st Century Scholars has passed the House
- **House:** Definition of machine gun changed – 3D-printed glocks and attachments have been added
- Bill was defeated that would have allowed landlords to pay a fine to continue negligent management
- **House:** HB 1499 - Property taxes are going to increase 13-18% based on valuation alone, bill would increase homestead deduction and gives property tax relief through a changed formula and deductions
- **Senate:** Dolly Parton Imagine Library established in Indiana

- **House:** Additional funding for the voucher program – increase family income level to 4x poverty rate (\$240k for a family of four). Likely to face opposition in the Senate without additional accountability around transparency and service of students needing special education services
- **Senate:** Ban on gender-affirming care for Hoosiers under the age of 18
- **House:** Provision to use school safety funds for firearms training for teachers. Teachers are already allowed to carry in the classroom, so the bill would provide an incentive to be trained, but also incentive to be armed
- **House:** Partisan school board races - bill would require declaring a party when running for school board. Voting margins on this bill are very thin.
- **House:** ESG - preventing state pensions from investing in firms that use environmental/social/governance metrics, which could potentially cost the state pension system \$7 billion
- **SB 486:** Limiting collective bargaining rights of teachers by limiting the right of union representatives to negotiate terms of the contract
- **HB 1142:** Legislators will give an update after researching

### **Brian Dickey, Indianapolis Public Schools (10 minutes)**

- IPS is the largest school district in Indianapolis with 31,00 students, 3,200 faculty, nearly 26,000 meals served per day and about 20,000 bus miles driven per day
- Positive momentum in academic progress, graduation rates, and teacher salaries
- IPS still doesn't feel like it is where it needs to be which led to the Rebuilding Stronger
  - Increase access to world languages
  - Increase access to band and orchestra
  - Increase access to Algebra I
  - Improve school and extracurricular facilities that are substandard
- Capital referendum was approved by resolution of the IPS Board for a \$410 million capital referendum
- In Irvington, this would mean reopening T. C. Howe as a middle school in the 2024-2025 school year
- \$39 million of investment in the T. C. Howe building for athletic facilities, reconfiguration of the building
- Julian would receive around \$9 million of investment for similar implementation
- An operating referendum was also proposed to operate the new structures with staffing and adequate compensation
- Funding from the current referendum from 2018 will continue until 2026
- TBD on when the community will be able to see the building but there will be input sessions prior to reopening
- If the capital referendum passes and the operating referendum does not pass, it's not clear what the long-term trajectory of Howe will be because there are state bills that will potentially cap operating referendums
- The district still plans to replicate the IB programs in Julian and Howe, but there are a lot of uncertainties over the next year about how and when.

### **City of Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development, Matt Pleasant (20 minutes)**

- TIF: Tax-Increment Financing – captures increase in property tax revenue from new development and allocates it to capital improvements in public assets in a specified geographic area over a 25-year time frame. Typically these include parks, greenways, playgrounds, and lighting
- This TIF district was proposed in December 2022 to capture the baseline value of the old Navistar/Harvester plant, which was vacant, putting its property tax assessed value at \$0. The district includes Irving Circle Park, Ellenberger Park, Pleasant Run Trail, the Pennsy Trail, Christian Park, Irvington Plaza, and a few streets.
- TIF District will have an advisory committee and the City-Council member for the district will make recommendations for who is on it.

- The Ford Visteon plant was included in the TIF in October 2022, but was removed from the final TIF. The Visteon site is in conversation to be added to this one or as a separate one. Adding Visteon now would raise the floor for the property tax assessed amount for the Navistar site.
- Visteon is on a 10 year tax-abatement but citizens are not on the hook in case property values fall
- The estimate for the annual assessed Navistar funds will be in the high six-figures but Matt will provide harder numbers when he has them
- City projects funded stay within the Metropolitan Development Commission
- March 13th, 5:30 in room 260 will be the hearing on the TIF.
- This TIF is not a housing TIF because those are a different type of TIF, which meets a different set of requirements and needs a number of vacant lots that Irvington doesn't have
- **Council voted a resolution to support the TIF district with the expectation that the Visteon plant be added as soon as is practical. Motion passed with no noted dissents.**

**Michelle Pleasant, School 57 Parent Teacher Association** (5 minutes)

- Hannah's Memorial Playground is officially complete!
- Invitation for the community to come out and enjoy it

**Old Business:**

- Vote of support for Irvington Development Organization pursuing the Main Street project
- Vote against rezoning for truck repair facility on Brookville Road (13 against, 1 abstention)
- Vote against rezoning for multi-family housing on Brookville Road (9 against, 4 in favor, 1 abstention)

**New Business:**

- Residents of Irvington are allowed to place political yard signs in their yard at any time
- Political signs cannot be removed from public right of way by citizens, but must be by a city employee

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah