

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for January 17, 2023

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Jason Larrison, Brennan Edwards, Michelle Pleasant, Baldeep Baidwan and guests

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.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

II. Introduction of New Council Officers and Council Members: Sue Beecher was announced as the newly elected President of HICC. Alyssa Lauer was announced as the new Vice President, Ronak Shah as the new Secretary, and Roxanne Hilton as the new Treasurer.

III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the previous month, November 2022, were approved by voice vote with no noted dissents.

IV. Update from Jason Larrison, City-County Council District 12 Representative

- Current order of business of the City-County Council is approval of mayoral appointments
- **Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) District**
 1. **Overview:** A TIF district is designed to capture property taxes that are expected to increase with large scale redevelopment. A proposed TIF district in the Irvington Area is being proposed around the old International Harvester/Navistar site on Brookville Road.
 2. **Scope:** The TIF district is drawn so that those taxes can be reinvested in specific geographic areas that can benefit from them. This district as planned includes Irvington Plaza, Christian Park, Ellenberger Park, Irving Circle Park, and the greenways connecting these parks. The plan only includes the locations where funding can be used, not what the dollars can be spent on other than that it is intended for capital improvements rather than operational costs. It also does not replace existing funds.
 3. **Status and Timeline:** The plan is going to the City-County Council to be heard in committees after receiving the plan. The plan will be introduced in February and approved in March. It will be nearly finalized at this point but will need final approval from the Metropolitan Development Commission.
 4. **Engagement:** The TIF district will have an Advisory Committee. The Department of Metropolitan Development will be engaging with the community on the plan as it is not finalized yet, so there will be opportunities to learn more and give feedback.

- **Lilly Endowment on Indy Parks:** Ellenberger Park and Irving Circle Park were not included in the Lilly Endowment's funding of parks around the city. Irving Circle Park, for instance, has a cracked basin and the fountain will be unusable soon. Indy Parks stated that they have a master plan for this park but has not yet provided it to HICC after multiple requests. Ellenberger Park, similarly, doesn't have reliably functioning HVAC and restrooms. Councillor Larrison stated that Lilly made their decision based on the economic conditions of the neighborhoods selected, with non-binding feedback from Indy Parks. Councillor Larrison suggested reaching out to Director Boyd directly, reaching out to the Parks Alliance, and investigating who else is funding parks projects besides Lilly.

V. Update from Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison

- Please continue mulching your Christmas trees at Ellenberger Park by the pool!
- Far Eastside magazine will have a new issue out this week, online and at libraries.
- The American Red Cross has an initiative to help ensure people have working smoke alarms.
- Autumn Leaves of Eastgate will have their one-year anniversary this month.
- "Sharing the Dream" event at Ellenberger Park displayed new lighting, facilities, concession stands, murals, and other improvements. Indy Parks Director Phyllis Boyd noted that more improvements and investments are on the way.
- ~\$11.5 million are being invested in five parks on the Far Eastside. Indy Parks stated parks selected for funding were based on community input, an equity lens, and likely impact due to usage rates. According to Indy Parks, the equity lens came from a recent assessment and vulnerability index determined by census block.
- Mr. Edwards will ask for the specific documentation that underpins the decisions made by Lilly about what Parks to invest in, and come back to HICC to share.
- Mr. Edwards recommended continuing to communicate with Indy Parks in order to push them to increase investments in parks in Irvington. Mr. Edwards will follow up with Indy Parks on updates to the playgrounds that were promised last year. He anticipates that will happen in the next few years.

VI. Update from IMPD

- IMPD was not present but Brennan Edwards shared that Coffee with a Cop is happening on Thursday, January 18th from 10:00am to 11:00am at Neidhammer Coffee Co.

VII. Update from Blake Johnson, State Representative District 100

- Representative Johnson was not present but sent in an update and will be in person in February. Representative Johnson plans to do a series of monthly living room Town Halls, including one in Irvington. A legislative survey will be arriving by mail and he requests feedback.

VIII. Old Business:

- **Irvington Luminaria:** Thank you to all of the businesses in the community who were gracious enough to sell lanterns for the Luminaria – and for being willing to sell them again next year!

- **Brookville Road – Baldeep Baidwan:** The proposal includes two properties – a proposed 50-unit apartment complex at 5400 Greenfield Ave, and proposed a truck repair facility at 5436 Brookville Road. Both of these are in a location where old growth trees were cut down last year. The presenters have a pre-meeting this week with the city.
 1. **5400 Greenfield Avenue:** 40 two-bedroom apartments, 10 one-bedroom apartments, with green space, solar panels, and a green roof. Approximately 2 parking spots will be available for each unit, limiting the density to 50 units. Presenters want to lobby IndyGo to route by the apartments as well as to encourage biking. Irvington Development Organization expressed interest in higher density, as well as in including some subsidized apartment units, but currently the proposal is for 50 market-rate apartments. Elm Street will remain a fully public right-of-way.
 2. **5436 Brookville Road:** Truck repair facility will also include office space. The presenters noted that civil engineering must take into account drainage issues that the development will cause according to state law. The topography is scheduled which will guide how to ensure that the drainage won't adversely impact nearby residences. Less time was available to discuss this property but more will be discussed at a later meeting.

IX. New Business:

- **December 2022:** HICC donated \$500 to the Steve Nicewanger Toy Drive and Benton House Luminaria Celebration
- **Donation to Big Red Food Box:** Big Red Food Box works to address food insecurity in Irvington, with five summer food giveaways where hundreds of people have been able to receive totes of non-perishable food. HICC recognizes the efforts of the Neighborhood Food Collective and grants a \$2500 donation. Food boxes are located at many locations around the neighborhood, and about 3,000-3,500 pounds of food are picked up by neighbors each month.
- **April 4, 2023 Candidate Forum:** Candidates for the May 2023 primary will be invited to share their views on questions important to voters at our April candidate forum.
- **Updates from School 57 from Michelle Pleasant, PTSA President:** Hannah's Memorial Playground is officially complete as of today, just under one year after fundraising began for it. All the kids played extremely hard on the playground and smiled a lot. The playground includes all new equipment, murals, and many components to honor Hannah's memory.

X. Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah