

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for March 21, 2023

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jim Rawlinson, Brennan Edwards, Lela Simmons, Jordan Gleason

**COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE:** 25

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, February 2023, were approved by voice vote with no noted dissents.

**Irvington Development Organization (IDO)**, Jim Rawlinson, 317.260.0669, [irvingtondevelopment.org](http://irvingtondevelopment.org)

- Irvington Development Organization is 20 years old, and played a role in recruiting Black Acre Brewing Company, the Irvington Lofts, and the Washington Street streetscaping.
- Many regional cities and small towns across Indiana have a Main Street Program, which supports quality of life initiatives, securing grants, and coordination of stakeholders.
- To be an official Main Street – a national designation – you need to meet a set of criteria, attend trainings, and report data regularly, which unlocks the grants available.
- IDO applied to the program and solicited letters of support from other community organizations based in Irvington, and they received ODAN status – a provisional status on the way to Main Street designation
  - Level 1: ODAN, Downtown affiliate level
  - Level 2: Indiana Main Street
  - Level 3: National Main Street
- Current boundaries run along Washington from Ritter to Arlington, along Bonna from Ritter to Audubon, along Ritter from Washington to Bonna, and along Audubon from Washington to Bonna
- Ask: To have one (or more) members of HICC to serve on the Main Street committee under IDO
- IDO has the capacity to do all of the data collection and reporting within IDO's current group
- Estimated time commitment: 90-minute monthly meeting and 60-minute monthly committee meeting
- Measures include census of properties, vacancy rates, building condition

**Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate**, Brennan Edwards, 317.833.4933, [brennan.edwards@indy.gov](mailto:brennan.edwards@indy.gov)

- Monthly East District Task Force Meeting on April 12th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- East District Crime Watch – Contact Steve Talley, 317-327-6265, [steve.talley@indy.gov](mailto:steve.talley@indy.gov)
- Meet the Peacemakers - April 11th, Tuxedo Park Baptist Church, 6:00pm-8:00pm
- IMPD is having a blood drive on Friday, April 21, from 12:00pm-6:00pm
- Mental health crises: [Assessment and Intervention Center](#) at 2979 E. Pleasant Run Parkway, 317-327-8733
- Non-profits with Marion County receive free fare passes on IndyGo
- Lots of hiring around the city, especially IndyParks and especially for lifeguards
- Seed Library at Warren Branch Library

- Post Road pavement rehabilitation – updating, improving, and maintaining the infrastructure of Post Road, from 21st Street to Washington. Project has already begun. (cwright@crossroadengineers.com)
- Indy Parks grants with Lilly update: work at Ellenberger Park is grounded in the Master Plan and the 5-year comprehensive plan, which is being amended now. The plan is the primary mechanism to obtain funding. The race-income index is based on census tracts, which is available on [SAVI](#). The parks that were excluded were primarily outside of the race-income range. For the other parks that were outside the range but still included, they were already soliciting funding from Lilly. Indy Parks wants Friends of Ellenberg to establish themselves more before they can receive a large tranche of funds. Meeting between both is on April 10.

**Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS)**, Lela Simmons, Chief Schools Officer, simmonslela@myips.org

- \$410 million capital referendum on the May ballot (primary ballot)
- Goal would be to improve 20 buildings to a status rated as “Good”
- In Irvington this would impact George Julian School (\$10 million) and T. C. Howe (\$40 million)
  - Julian will have mechanical, electrical, plumbing, lighting, masonry, windows, exterior walls, doors, floors, IT, security. They are widening the sidewalk, adding a iron fence between brick pillars, removing the condemned annex, adding bollards to stop cars
  - Howe is planning to reopen the 2024-2025 school year as a 6th-8th IB School, with 500-600 students. There will likely also be an early learning center in the building as well.
  - Once a principal is hired, there would be opportunities for the community to come into the space and see it. This will likely happen right after spring break, and maximum 1-2 months
  - There will then be a year of planning with a lot of community engagement to vision what the middle school will look like when it reopens, and the building will be open for tours
  - There will also be beautification and service days, including murals and groundworks

**Jordan Gleason**, co-owner of Snug, along with Jim and Carey

- Jordan came pre-pandemic to present about opening an Italian restaurant, but that is not happening
- Jordan is now planning to open an Irish pub in Irvington in the old Pegs building with his co-owners
- 30 seats, 550 square feet, open until 10pm Sunday-Thursday and open until 11pm Friday and Saturday
- Proceeds will be donated on a seasonal scale
- Jordan plans to file for a variance and a 3-way permit (beer/wine/liquor)
- More in-depth presentation is coming next meeting, plan is to open in autumn for 2023

**Open Forum:** Investigations of the instances of vandalism and violent crime recently are ongoing. The violent incidents were separate from each other and from the vandalism. Reach out about safety issues to [irvingtonsafety@gmail.com](mailto:irvingtonsafety@gmail.com).

**Democratic Primary Forum for District 14:** April 4th @ 7:00pm

**Beastside Brewfest:** April 29th

**Irvington Kickball** resuming May 1st

**Vendor Applications** for Irvington Halloween Festival opening early this year, May 1st

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah