

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for July 14, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 13): John Arbuckle, Dawn Cox Briggs, Andrea De Mink, Kyla Thompson, Francine Calvert Lee, Sue Beecher, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Jordan Byrd Eveland, Lys Lauer, Jacob Lauer, Caitlin Luebcke, Roxanne Hilton, Debi Allee, Jake Walker, Chad Cerda, Lesli Gibson

COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE: 28

1. Welcome and call to order (5 minutes)

2. Approval of June Council Minutes (2 minutes)

- Minutes were approved unanimously by oral vote with no noted dissents.

3. Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department East District Updates (8 minutes)

- Data for the year so far for Irvington:
 - i. Violent crime is down 30%
 - ii. Property crime is up 18% (primarily due to larceny and vehicle theft)
 - 1. Remind neighbors to lock cars as most of the larceny is out of cars
 - 2. Car owners can buy a club (approximately \$18) to keep Kias and Hyundais from being stolen through the viral trend driving this theft
- Concerns about drivers detouring and speeding through neighborhoods to reroute around construction traffic from Citizens and from 465. Slows down after evening rush hour.
 - i. Complaints like these can be made directly to the traffic branch to expedite the complaints, as it prevents the middleman – (317) 327-6525
 - ii. Also continue to share these directly with Roman so he can escalate the complaints and be there during that time. He will be there himself using his radar.
- Concern about crashes where police have not necessarily been called, but debris from the collision remains. This is typically the responsibility of the property owner and the tow truck driver, but if it hasn't been cleaned up and is in the road, call it in to the non-emergency number at (317) 327-3811. If it's on the sidewalk, call the Mayor's Action Center or put in a RequestIndy ticket.
- Update on the driver that hit a teenager in the Irvington area – it was an accident and the driver remained on the scene. No arrests were made in the case.
- Donations to the IMPD, as well as purchases of their t-shirts, go towards community outreach, as the department does not provide a budget for this. This includes monthly community meetings of the East District Task Force – the next is at 6:00 on Wednesday, August 14th at headquarters, **201 N. Shadeland**. Hot dogs are served!

4. Updates from [Andy Nielsen](#), City-County Councilor District 14 (317-283-9680, andy.nielsen@indy.gov) (15 minutes)

- Budget process is beginning soon. Some of Councilor Nielsen's requests include:
 - i. Infrastructure: Higher levels of infrastructure investment – and particularly higher proportion of current spending to be spent on the east side. This would go beyond crosswalks and resurfacing towards intentional preventative infrastructure.
 - ii. Public safety: This district has a clinician-led community response team that goes on emergency runs to lead before officers get involved. 24/7 program, and gets separated out during dispatch calls. The data has been better for officers and people calling for help, and Councilor Nielsen is going to ask for it to be renewed.
 - iii. Parks: Indiana Forest Alliance has been advocating for preserving urban forests, so one of the requests is to incorporate preservation of urban forests in the city's development plan.

- **Pedestrian safety:** Vision Zero plan for the city was introduced last week for the city of Indianapolis. The strategy is designed to eliminate pedestrian traffic fatalities and crashes that involve serious bodily injury. This is done by bringing stakeholders in throughout the entire county. This has been done in other cities to great success – Hoboken, NJ is in their third year of zero traffic fatalities after implementing a Vision Zero plan. The proposal starts with year one Vision Zero priorities (including a full-time employee to coordinate it and to receive community input and proposals). It also includes a fund to better deploy projects similar to tactical urbanism projects for permanent infrastructure that would address the most problematic intersections.
 - i. To support the proposal, you can send feedback directly to Councilor Nielsen and work with organizations like Health By Design, AARP, and the Indy Parks Association who are also advocating for this proposal.
- **Backyard breeding:** Proposal would create a free registry for backyard breeders to register unaltered animals (not spayed or neutered). Registration is required. Failure to register would begin with a warning and information, but repeated violations would eventually lead to a fine. The goal would be to rein in some of the excess of unhoused animals, and to encourage more responsible pet ownership. We are currently the largest city in the U.S. with no regulation of any kind.
 - i. A question was raised on whether or not there has been discussion to bring back population limits for animals within a household. Councilor Nielsen will find out and follow up.

5. Updates from [Jenny Menelas](#), Neighborhood Advocate (317-327-5126, jenny.menelas@indy.gov) (8 minutes)

- Many reports in Irvington about trash carts being stolen. Report these to the non-emergency IMPD number first, and then contact the Mayor's Action Center for a replacement.
- **Tuesday Tens:** Weekly updates about all of the major city updates, including road closures.
 - i. Recently MAC calls have had a wait time of 20-30 minutes. The team is fully-staffed but the MAC is closed for an hour on Thursdays from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Wait times should not be that long for calls to the MAC. If that happens, reach out to Jenny so she can follow up.
- Question about a timeline for when Pleasant Run will be reopened between Emerson and Ritter – Jenny will follow up.
- Question about when Ellenberger Park will be reopened – Jenny will follow up.

6. Brian Shelley, Executive Director of Ransburg YMCA (2 minutes)

- Brian has been with the YMCA for 16 years but has been the Executive Director of Ransburg YMCA for just three months.
- His goal is to open up the YMCA on Shortridge to the community and to expand charitable support and community collaborations.
- \$200,000 of infrastructure improvements for the building, including updated HVAC. Pool liner has been fixed and there have been no shut-downs since.

7. Jeffrey McKean, Attorney Bose McKinney and Evans LLP (30 minutes) *Note: Roxanne Hilton has recused herself from this portion of the agenda*

- In May, Christian Park Neighborhood Association asked Historic Irvington Community Council to write a letter of remonstrance urging the non-renewal of the liquor license for Club Paradise on English Avenue, a business which has had multiple incidents of violence recently. Alongside Council Nielsen and IMPD, HICC voted unanimously to send the letter.
- The owners have since made some efforts to remedy the problems that were illuminated, and given that the business is not within Irvington or Christian Parks' boundaries but is just between both, the business owner has asked to present to the Council on their behalf, in response to questions from Christian Park about the business.
- Jeffrey McKean is representing the business owners who are present today and has met with neighborhood leaders, IMPD Commander Hicks, Councilor Nielsen, and State Representative Blake Johnson on ways to remedy the problem.

- Mr. McKean stated that he believes everyone wants a safe neighborhood and a well-run business at the end of this process.
- Club Paradise has been a cabaret since the 1970s, and was purchased by the family of the current owners in the 1990s, whose father passed it to her in 2019.
- There were shootings on April 10, May 1st, and May 5th of this year, prior to which the club had reportedly been quiet with minimal incident. However, the high concentration of shootings is unacceptable.
- Measures that have been taken since, which were set to be put in place after the second incident:
 - i. Meetings with IMPD and excise police
 - ii. Recording all customers that came in
 - iii. Additional lighting
 - iv. Additional security officers
 - v. Changed the music that was being played
 - vi. Addition of a B-Link system that connects directly to the police
- After the third incident, the owner voluntarily shut down the business indefinitely to try to figure out a way to rebrand and reopen in a new format.
- Cabaret license will be turned in and they are willing to make commitments to permanently void it and never bring it back. The dance floor has been removed and lighting and paint have been brightened up considerably. Windows that have been covered with wrap will be opened back up, which haven't been opened since it was the original location of Steer Inn. A patio will be opened up into the large parking lot.
- The goal is to convert the business to an all ages sports bar, including a family area for children separated from the dining area, open for lunch and dinner. The current bar area will be converted to a larger kitchen to support this heavier food component, and to be more inviting for neighborhood residents to come in.
- The new name would be **The English Sports Bar and Grill**, painted in a Kelly green color with white trim. The business would be open from 11:00am to 11:00pm. Every prior incident had occurred after midnight. They anticipate being able to open for a limited menu in 30 days, and to have the full menu available in 90 days.
- A pool table and darts have been added, with plans for trivia and karaoke, and space for live acoustic music. All of the security systems would remain in place, though by closing early they're hoping they will no longer need the staffed security.
- Having the new post office and the new Monarch Beverage facility nearby, along with the Justice Campus nearby, adds to the desire to reopen it in a new format. IMPD made a comment about wanting it to potentially be a cop bar.
- The proposal from excise and IMPD is for a 90-day probationary period, with commitments and checkpoints, to see if the new business can succeed at its goals. If so, the renewal hearing would occur after that probationary period, which is determined by Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.
- The current owners will be present much more moving forward, with Christian taking over as full manager and then a separate kitchen manager and bar manager.

8. Halloween Committee Updates - Carrie Yazell and Caitlin Luebcke (10 minutes)

- Poster Contest: Last date is Friday, July 19. Voting opportunities will be on social media, and winners will be announced on July 30th! Posters should be ready by the August Farmers Market.
- The new t-shirts and hoodies are out! T-shirts glow in the dark, hoodies do not.
- Vampire Run registration is up and running. Discounted price is being offered right now but it will go up on July 26th, from \$36 to \$40. There is a 5k Run/Walk, a 1 Mile run, and a Bat Dash that is currently \$0 but will go up to \$5 on July 26th. You can buy a bundle registration for both the Vampire Run and the Pleasant Run Run to save on both. It is 5 miles with 5k/1 mile/kids options.

- Vendor applications were due July 1st and acceptances/rejections were sent out yesterday. A record 455 applications were submitted this year, so many great vendors unfortunately had to be turned down. We have a great list of vendors including a waiting list.
- More food vendors than ever, a larger Kids Zone, and a returning beer garden.
- We always need volunteers, not just for the Street Fair but for the entire week of events. We especially need volunteers for parking.
- This year we are opening up a Friends of the Festival for people to donate and support the work of the Halloween Festival.

The Historic Irvington Community Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Irvington Presbyterian Church. The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2024, at 7 pm at the Irvington Presbyterian Church. Recordings of this and previous Council meetings can be accessed at irvingtoncommunitycouncil.com You may email the HICC at info@irvingtoncouncil.com

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah.