

# HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for June 18, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT** (quorum at 12):

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the previous month, May 2024, were [approved unanimously with no noted dissents].

**1. Welcome and call to order (5 minutes)**

○

**2. Approval of May Council Minutes (5 minutes)**

○ Approved unanimously

**3. Introduction of new Council Member - Kyla Thompson (5 minutes)**

○ Debbie is back! She was on the council and is now back.

**4. Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department East District Updates (5 minutes)**

○ No rep here tonight. There meeting was last night (6/17)

i. Crime reduction–down by 11%

ii. Property crime down by 3%

iii. Violent crime down by 39%!

iv. Using data analysts to figure out where hotspots are to influence where police cars stall and wait for about 15 minutes. Have noticed a dip because of this.

v. Has been a dip in Spinners–IMPD would like us to call the 911 line (even for driving past or just hearing it)

1. They are worried more about any observer that is videoing the spinning and how much they are in danger.

2. The IMPD meeting is the 2nd Monday of every month at 7 at the IMPD offices on Shadeland (but no meeting in July).

**5. Updates from [Jenny Menelas](#), Neighborhood Advocate (317-327-5126, [jenny.menelas@indy.gov](mailto:jenny.menelas@indy.gov)) (10 minutes)**

○ No Jenny tonight, feeling sick. 😞

○ Andrew B. is here as a proxy from Congressman Carson's office.

i. Job fair August 6th 10-2 at Ivy Tech Culinary Building

1. Internships, apprentices, volunteer opportunities, and employment.

a. Big event! First and second floor.

ii. He was here in Feb. In March, over 10 million dollars was approved for Indianapolis

1. Public transportation, infrastructure, youth development, etc...

iii. For 2025, we are requesting for over \$38 million for Indianapolis

1. Limited last year, couldn't request for non-profits

2. For 2025, it'll be focused on airport projects, public transit, nonprofits, public security, etc...

iv. Carson sits on the transportation committee

1. Got provisions passed about pilot safety

v. Congressional Act Challenge-until October to submit an app. High Schoolers compete against other high schoolers nationally.

1. Computer focused

**6. Updates from [Andy Nielsen](#), City-County Councilor District 14 (317-283-9680, [andy.nielsen@indy.gov](mailto:andy.nielsen@indy.gov)) (10 minutes)**

- It has been VERY hot.
  - i. Heat and air quality are going to continue to be issues
  - ii. Indy Parks and Indy Public Library are good resources for information on cooling stations.
  - iii. No-zone days are when days are very bad and could be harmful.
    - 1. First one declared for this Thursday, June 21st.
- Construction
  - i. Coordination has been tricky between state and city (especially with the eastside construction like 2-way conversions, park development, 465 southbound work)
    - 1. Southbound finishes this week, then northside will begin for 3 weeks
    - 2. Michigan conversion will be done in the winter
    - 3. Whittier and Michigan will be completed by winter, as well.
    - 4. Hopeful that traffic congestion will calm down after the 465 work is done
    - 5. Pleasanton area is having an issue with large trucks tearing up the streets in this area and getting worse because of increased traffic from construction.
      - a. Caitlin asked if there were any immediate fixes that IDPW could do now.
        - i. A conversation can happen, but must keep budget in mind.
    - 6. People who live directly by the park- Does Andy know if anyone from Citizens has reached out to those neighbors specifically?
      - a. Andy has asked Citizen to be as proactive as possible with canvassing.
        - i. Specifically the example of water being shut off without any notice given to neighbors.
    - 7. Neighbors have expressed issues with housing issues–cracks in plaster walls
      - a. Lesli says that they are anticipating any claims due to the work they have been doing. Not sure when that will go into place, per se.
  - ii. Trash around Irvington Plaza area.
    - 1. Wanted to thank neighbors who have been reporting issues/zoning violation tickets to the mayor’s action office
      - a. It is not our responsibility as a neighborhood to keep the Plaze clean, it comes down to the owner.
        - i. Keep reporting to the proper channels.
          - 1. The owner is getting fined and paying them every time, thus far.
    - 2. Question about the amount of rocks being dragged into Ritter bike lanes.
      - a. Audience Questions: Detour around Pleasant Run Parkway–cars aren’t stopping at the Stop sign constantly–What can be done to enforce that?
      - b. Question from Sue: The speed limit signs are gone on Ritter all the way down to Brookville. Andy has been notified.

**7. Lisa Watson, President of the Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation and Benton House, 317-357-0318, bentonhouse.org (10 minutes)**

- The IHLF owns the Benton House, the Kyle Oak, and the Wilson Parker Cemetery.
  - i. There has been a big restructuring and a very motivated board.
  - ii. One of the big undertakings is to rebrand and make sure that it is very clear that people understand that these landmarks are all under the IHLF.
  - iii. What they would like to do is have a Kyle Oak Association
    - 1. Message Lisa at [info@bentonhouse.org](mailto:info@bentonhouse.org) if anyone is interested in participating in the development of an Association.
  - iv. If they know anyone interested in bidding on small jobs at the Benton House–asking about recommendations for contracting.
    - 1. They would like to have three bids.

2. They would like to have a more robust list of contractors to reach out to.
- v. Events and Rentals
  1. They are picking up!! Only a few weekends are still available (that is up on their social media).
    - a. Local non-profit organizations and schools can use the Benton House for FREE for meetings!
  2. Four major events:
    - a. Book Brigade–July 17th, The sale itself starts on the 19th (4 pm) until Sunday 2 pm.
      - i. Sunday at the end of the book sale, really need help loading and transporting books to different organizations
        1. Free books are given to volunteers
        2. Free libraries and teachers can get free bags of books.
    - b. Game Night - August 17th 4 pm to 10 pm
      - i. Two game vendors will be there to facilitate games
      - ii. Ash and Elm will be there
      - iii. A lot of the games are for sale at Black Sheep. There will be a coupon/discount to purchase at the end of the night or later on.
      - iv. Will need some volunteers
    - c. The Tour of Homes on September 15th noon from 5
      - i. Snug will be open for the tour.
      - ii. Shuttles will be available again. Can buy a wristband for \$5.
      - iii. Hoping that Howe will be on the tour.
    - d. Car Show happens at the same time as the home tour from noon to 5.
      - i. Not muscle cars, for any proud car owner.
        1. Awards around 3 pm
        2. Food vendors and live music will be there, as well.

**8. Halloween Committee Updates - Caitlin Luebcke (10 minutes)**

- 122 days away!!!
- Halloween Festival Committee meetings have started. The next one is coming up in July. The email is ready, but the volunteer sign-up is not ready yet
- Vendor apps close on July 1st.
  - i. Have more applications than spots open, important to complete applications before the deadline.
- Sponsorship opportunities are still available.
  - i. Larry Messing has been working on that.
- Sign-ups for races are open through race day
- The poster contest is up and running.

**9. Presentation of council Donations to Community Organizations from Beastside Brewfest - Kyla Thompson and Francine Calvert Lee (10 minutes)**

- Darcy Kurtz is the Executive Director of FIDO and is present to collect the raised money.
  - i. What does FIDO do?
    1. At 16th and Sherman. Work all over Indy for almost 20 years. Mission is to improve the quality of life of outside dogs. Decided to go out into the neighborhood where there are a lot of outdoor chained dogs. Over the years, a large spay/neuter program started. Developed a large pet food pantry. Was once a month, but is now twice a week. There is also a fence program to help with fence assistance to get dogs off of chains and able to run in safe enclosures. Has a partnership now with Animal

Control offices to help offer resources for compliance. Also, help in-home vet care.  
Help is geared toward income-qualified people.

2. FIDO has a booth at the Irvington Farmer's Market
  - ii. \$2,500 presented!
  - iii. Big thanks to Jacob Lauer, Charles, Lys, Francine, and Kyla for a very successful brewfest!!
- Our Lady of Lourdes
  - i. It is Stephanie's birthday and she is here today with her cutie son, William to say thank you.
  - ii. She is the School treasurer. She runs the annual school fundraiser. A Spring Benefit that is just for the school, not involving the Parish.
  - iii. The money will go to fund a new playground. The playground is open to all neighbors, as well.
  - iv. \$2,500 presented!

### **10. Open Forum (10 minutes)**

- Maureen Wilson-Pastor at Irvington Presbyterian Church. Now has a community board showcasing resources and events. Hopefully, some updates will happen soon.
  - i. Book club dates on Monday the 24th and July 1st, 6-8 pm reading Matthew Desmond's book Poverty in America.
- June 30th Irvington Garden Tour. Tickets can be purchased at Black Sheep Gifts, Irvington united methodist church, Ace hardware
- Motion made to donate \$500 to the garden club.
  - i. Members must recuse themselves.
  - ii. Motion passes**
- Jesse- Any Blue Line updates?
  - i. Andy answered: Piece of legislation that is going through the city-council right now. IndyGo will finalize after that for bidding, then construction will begin during next year's construction season.
  - ii. Kittley to Shortridge will not have a stop.
- June 29th-Irvington Pride reminder. 11am - 5 is the festival. Then there is a drag show at the Lodge that will run from 8-11 pm.
  - i. All info on Facebook.

**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 July 16, 2024, at 7 pm at the Irvington Presbyterian Church. Recordings of this and previous Council meetings can be accessed at [irvingtoncommunitycouncil.com](http://irvingtoncommunitycouncil.com) You may email the HICC at [info@irvingtoncouncil.com](mailto:info@irvingtoncouncil.com)**

The meeting was adjourned at **8:05**pm. Respectfully submitted by Jordan Byrd-Eveland on behalf of Ronak Shah.