

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for May 20, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 11): Billy Payne, Chad Cerda, Sue Beecher, Ronak Shah, Kyla Thompson, John Arbuckle, Robert Uhlenhake, Jake Walker, Carrie Yazell, Charles Miller, Caitlin Luebcke, Dawn Cox Briggs, Jacob Lauer, Lys Lauer, Jordan Byrd, Lesli Gibson

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the previous month, **April 2025**, were **approved unanimously**.

Highlights from the 2025 Indiana General Assembly Legislative Session - Representative Blake Johnson ([House District 100](#)) and Senator Andrea Hunley ([Senate District 46](#)).

- **Road Funding**
 - \$50 million in road funding was approved for Indianapolis – assuming Indy matches the funds using the wheel tax (this will probably have to be raised)
 - Also fixes the issue of measuring center lane miles vs. actual lane miles, making this closer to \$150 million in total per year for road funding for Indianapolis
- **Public Education**
 - Property tax reform (SB 1) will lead to some people paying more on property taxes, especially those with homes that have lower assessed values. Those with more expensive homes will pay less.
 - Property tax revenue will need to be shared between district schools and charter schools, which will decrease the amount that district schools receive.
 - Local governments will lose about \$1.5 billion over the next few years, about half of which is being cut from public schools.
 - Pre-K suffered some significant cuts that will make it harder for people to enroll.
 - School board elections are now partisan. They won't have to run in a primary, and they can run as "non-partisan" or leave it blank, and they won't be included in a straight ticket either way.
- **Health care**
 - On health, public health, Medicaid, and adult day programming all experienced cuts.
 - HB 1391 - Services for aged and disabled. Boosting in-home care, launching a telehealth pilot, improving Medicaid access, and creating a state ombudsman. However, this is difficult with limited services available for people to access, as well as limited broadband access.
 - HB 1521 - Protects genetic privacy when DNA is sent to a company so that the data can be anonymized or purged at any point in perpetuity, no matter who owns the data
 - Marijuana legalization - closer this year to regulating Delta-8, because some of the marijuana byproducts are not regulated for any age group and have no controls on sale or packaging. However, that did not end up passing. There are models to predict how much tax revenue could be raised.
- **Other budget changes**
 - Public media corporations lost funding during this past legislative session.
 - Many businesses became exempt from business property taxes.

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

- **Spring Fiscal:** \$34 million appropriation from income taxes
 - \$8 million for residential streets
 - \$2 million supplemental to pay for new snow policy (Plow: 4" residential, 2.5" connector)

- Triples income-based home repair budget: Priority on keeping people in their home, which includes being able to afford and make a small repair so that they don't have to leave their home.
- \$2 million for parks, including \$400,000 in District 14
 - All tennis/pickleball courts in Ellenberger Park will be resurfaced with new lighting
 - Jake Greene Park will also get its courts resurfaced
- Cultural Districts will receive a small appropriation. Andy is pushing for Irvington to be added as one of the Indianapolis Cultural Districts.
- \$3 million towards residential alleys
- \$3 million to support chronically homeless neighbors
- **SB 1:** Impacts of property tax bill will be felt by Indianapolis. There are going to have to be budget and service cuts in order to avoid tax increases.
- **Vision Zero:** Spring Fiscal includes funding for recommendations by the Fatal Crash Review Team (which also reviews seriously bodily injury that does not result in fatality, such as paralysis)
- **Indianapolis Local Education Alliance:** No appointees from the City-County Council, as the four city appointees come from the Mayor. The meetings are not subject to the Open Door Law other than the final meeting that will announce the plan.
- **Pleasant Run Trail:** Question about the connection between Emerson and Pleasant Run Trail which has not been completed even though all of the surrounding projects appear to be done.
- **Michigan-New York Conversion:** Should be completed late Summer/early Fall. After opening there will be a period of enhanced enforcement to ensure parking and driving norms are followed.
- **\$1 million Ritter/Michigan project:** Connecting the sidewalk that is disconnected at this intersection so that the sidewalk is connected from Arlington to Downtown. The engineering challenges of the bridge are causing it to take a bit longer but the project is still moving forward.
- **New Trash Contract:** DPW will still be servicing routes that it has been, but those who have trash picked up by Republic will be shifting to Lakeshore. Lakeshore will also be providing the curbside recycling.

Updates from [Jenny Menelas](#) Area 2 Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

- Last meeting! Jenny is moving on from this role after Friday. She really enjoyed getting to know Irvington!
- Jenny will be a community leadership offer for CICF.

American Red Cross Candice Toney, Community Resilience Builder, on Fire Prevention

- Fires are frequently caused by gas or electric issues, and are rarely caused by smoking
- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking, and know where your fire extinguishers are
- Plug large appliances directly into the wall, and avoid overloading outlets with too many devices
- Do not cover extension cords with staples, tape, or throw rugs
- Leave flammable objects at least three feet from outlets and heat sources
- If you smoke, avoid smoking in bed or around oxygen tanks (which can explode)
- American Red Cross provides free smoke alarms at events throughout the year
- Check for fire using the back of your hand instead of the palm, as the back has a thinner layer of skin
- Cover up vents to prevent smoke from entering the room
- Be sure you have a safe meeting place and that everyone knows their responsibility
- CPR training is offered by the American Red Cross, along with basic first aid

Committee Updates

- **[Beastside Brewfest](#):** Guggman Haus won the judge's trophy and Bier Brewery won the choice award. They were also the only brewery to completely empty their kegs! This was the first year we didn't sell out, as this

year there were many other brew/wine fests on the same date. The event still made a profit, sufficient to make the donations we planned to make, but there may be some retooling for next year.

- **Pleasant Run Run** will be on August 23rd, including a 5 mile, a 5k, and the Kids' Dash. The **Vampire Run** will be the day of the Halloween Street Fair, October 25th, including a 5k, a 1k, and the Little Bat Dash. Registration is open at runsignup.com
- **Halloween Festival**
 - Poster contest has begun, with voting later this summer
 - Kids/youth division will begin later this year
 - Merchandise will be ready by the first Farmers Market
 - Vendor applications are open until July 1st
 - Volunteer opportunities are always available!

Presentation of Council Donation to the Black Hat Society

Donation will help an event supporting the Irvington Counseling Collective on June 22nd from 3pm-6pm.

Open Forum

- **Ransburg YMCA:** Pool opens on Saturday, Day Camp opens on June 2nd and is almost sold out. Emergency Access Food Pantry is fully distributing every week. Onsite child care for families working out. Swimming lessons and safety around water lessons will be offered this year. The Ransburg YMCA has been open for 66 years and is trying to reimagine its role in the community. There will be focus groups later this month and early next month, as well as surveys, to help gather community input. [Sign up here!](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah.