

Draft Minutes of the August 20, 2019 Meeting of the Irvington Community Council

The meeting was opened by Council Vice President, Lesli Gibson, at 7:05PM

The following members of the Council were present:

Lesli Gibson (Vice President)	Kyla Thompson	Chris Maroldo
Bonnie Cate (Secretary)	Charles Miller	Robert Uhlenhake
Chad Cerda (Treasurer)	Sue Beecher	
Ed Adams	Jake Laurer	

Not Present: Matt Pleasant (President), Aaron Hacker, Debi Williamson Shank, Jake Walker

IMPD Update

Fred Carpenter (IMPD East District Community Liason), Jerry Leary (IMPD East District Commander) and an IMPD East District Patrol Officer were present to give some updates and to invite the public to answer questions.

There is a warrant being issued for a recent package theft in Irvington (location was not specified). As a preventive measure, the officers stated that if you can't be home to receive a package, try and have a neighbor pick it up or have it delivered to another location. The current trend that they are seeing is that porch thieves watch for packages to be delivered and then immediately take them.

The shooting at the 10th and Arlington Marathon station is still under active investigation. No arrests have been made yet, but it was stated that this was not a random shooting. Because this case is still being investigated, a lot of information is not available to the public so as to not compromise the investigation.

The assault of an elderly man on N. Catherwood is also still under investigation. No updates were available at the time of the meeting.

Recently promoted District Commander, Jerry Leary, introduced himself. He stressed the importance of contacting IMPD regarding suspicious activity – “if you see something, say something.” For a crime in progress, call 911. Otherwise, call non-emergency at 317-327-3811.

There has been an explosion of violent crime to the west of Irvington –IMPD has been putting a significant amount of pressure on this area. 40% of the crime in Indianapolis happens in the East District and officers are busy, but that doesn't mean they're not willing to react to what they know. Relaying information to IMPD about any suspicious activity is encouraged.

Blake Johnson, Indianapolis City Council Update

The City is currently in the midst of budget season, and the City Council is conducting evening hearings for next couple of months.

The budget is \$1.2 billion dollars this year and has seen an increase in revenue; this is the 3rd balanced budget that has been introduced. City's financial health is getting stronger, and the City will be investing in public safety, infrastructure, and 2% salary increases for IMPD –without having to increase taxes.

The resurfacing / repaving of Lowell (from Arlington to Kitley) is on Blake's priority list, but there is currently no timeline for when this will be completed.

Earlier this year, Blake circulated an online survey to get a sense of what citizens in his district consider to be the biggest priorities for improvement. Blake will aim to post the results of this survey on his Facebook page in the near future.

Hannah Harper Morrison, Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate Update

"Clear the Shelter Day" adoption event took place August 17th, and it resulted in around 160 animals going to new homes. If you have space or are interested in having a pet, Indianapolis Animal Care and Control has lots of animals available for adoption.

Fall Programming registration is now available for Indy Parks (i.e. sports, football leagues, recreation leagues, etc.). For more information, visit www.indy.gov/parks.

Call out for artists and designers - Indianapolis will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2020 and the Bicentennial Commission is accepting submissions from any Marion County resident for an official logo, which will be used to promote the bicentennial celebration. Submissions will close 9/30/19. For more information, visit <https://cityofindy.submittable.com/submit>. There are also monetary prizes for the winners.

Street sweeping has rolled out - Maps are available at www.indy.gov/sweeps. Sweeping will take place once monthly in each section on main thoroughfares.

"Indy Do Day" – Event will take place September 26-30th, and is designed for the people of Indianapolis to get out, meet neighbors, and participate in community projects. For more information visit <https://indydoday.org/>.

Barry Key, Frontdoor Home Design

Barry Key, the owner of Frontdoor Home Design (located at 6101 E. Washington Street), was present to talk a little bit about his new business and why he chose Irvington as a location. Barry is from a small town in southern Indiana and, after looking all over the Indianapolis for a location for his shop, settled on Irvington because he enjoyed the "small town feel." A ribbon cutting ceremony took place in May, and his shop, which features unique furniture and home décor pieces, gives priority to goods made in the United States. The furniture in his shop is fabricated in Indiana. Barry invited the public to follow Frontdoor Home Design on Facebook for updates and events.

Old Business

Neighborhood Updates

- Irvington Historical Society - The IHS recently had its annual Irvington Ice Cream social on August 4th, and it was well attended. Featured exhibits include "Irvington Homes: Steeped in History," which will run through September 28th; "Military Tattoos", which will wrap up August 28th, and "A Century of Cameras", through September 1st.

A painting titled "Irvington in December" by artist and Irvington resident, Dorothy Morlan (1882-1967) recently underwent an extensive conservation treatment and has returned to the Irvington Historical Society. The Irvington Community Council donated funds to assist with the restoration of the painting, which will be featured as part of a larger exhibit of Morlan works at the historical society in 2020.

- Benton House – The 46th Annual Benton House Tour of Homes and Classy Car Show will be September 15th, 12-5PM. Tickets are \$15.00 each and are now available for purchase online or at Black Sheep, Ace Hardware or Hampton Designs (beginning in September). There are 10 stops along the tour this year, including the Bona Thompson Memorial Center. The grounds of the Benton House will also feature an array of classic cars, live music, hot dogs and ice cream. Volunteers are needed to assist with set up, tear down and ticket taking along 10 stops. Anyone who volunteers for 2.5 hours will receive free a free ticket for the tour. For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, visit <http://thebentonhouse.org/> or the Benton House page on Facebook.

New Business

- Farmer's Market – The next Irvington Farmer's Market will take place Sunday, September 8th from 12-3pm at Ellenberger Park.
- Halloween Festival Update – Festival Co-Directors Nancy Tindall-Sponsel and Manuel Aguilar gave an update on this year's Halloween Festival events schedule for October 19th - 26th, as well as a sponsorship update.

A title sponsor has been secured this year and will be announced at the end of September.

If anyone has any sponsorship opportunities for the Festival, please send an email to irvingtonhalloweenfestival@gmail.com.

For a full list of this year's Halloween Festival events, please visit <https://www.irvingtonhalloween.com/events>.

Volunteers are needed for the Halloween Festival in many areas - not only at the street fair, but also at the various events that take place throughout the week prior. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit <https://www.irvingtonhalloween.com/volunteer>. Volunteers will receive a free Halloween Festival Volunteer t-shirt!

Public Comment

- Kara Commons, an Irvington resident and small business owner, introduced herself and her business called “The Memory Collective. Kara’s business centers on targeted interview-style conversations compiled into a book of memories to pass down to family members or to give as gifts. Visit her website at www.thememorycollectiveco.com.
- A concern was expressed about the lack of a marked school zone on South Kitley Avenue at Julian Avenue - near Irvington Community Elementary School. With the street being recently repaved, there are many people speeding and not paying close attention to pedestrians who are walking with their small children to school. It is especially dangerous because there are no sidewalks on this street. Hannah Harper Morrison stated that a school zone request was submitted a few weeks ago and is currently in the works. The city is just waiting on design logistics to be finalized.
- Sue Beecher thanked Blake Johnson and the City for its consistence in helping to maintain Irving Circle Park and the fountain.

Adjourn - 8:01PM