

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 19, 2019 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matt Pleasant, Lesli Gibson, Charles Miller, Robert Uhlenhake, Kyla Thompson, Chad Cerda, Debi Shank, Jacob Walker, Jacob Lauer, Sue Beecher

The meeting was called to order by Matt Pleasant with a quorum of members present.

Minutes – The Council minutes from the September and October, 2019 meetings were approved. Charles made the motion with Kyla seconding it.

IMPD –Fred Carpenter provided a detailed overview of several recent incidents including a 10/14 break-in at the Irvington Flea Market, shots fired at 14th and Webster with apprehension of the perpetrator, and an arrest for battery in the 400 block of Webster with a gun being seized. Fred also provided advice for preventing Holiday crimes. Individuals should pay attention to their surroundings, take care when using banking services, and do not leave your car running and unattended. Dogs are good for deterring crime as are cameras. Everyone should watch out for their neighbors. Fred recommends that you document the serial numbers and other identification on your large items and take pictures of jewelry and other valuables. Pawn shops are required to request and view a seller's identification as well as take a thumb print. Being able to identify your possessions provides the police with needed information allowing possible recovery of your stolen items.

BLAKE JOHNSON – INDIANAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL

a) Blake was reelected to the Indianapolis City Council. The Council and meeting attendees applauded his victory.

b) The Council has proposed a pay raise for its members. The last pay raise for Councilors occurred in 2002. This is the third effort within the past few years and will be further discussed in committee. Councilors currently receive \$11,400 a year for 30-40 hours of work each week. This low salary limits Council membership to retirees, individuals who are wealthy enough to not be dependent upon the Council salary to support themselves, and individuals who are in executive level positions at their place of employment allowing them a flexible schedule to be able to participate on the Council. Individuals with limited or lower incomes or single mothers are unable to participate and provide a voice on the Indianapolis City Council. Blake is in favor of this salary increase. Indianapolis currently spends thirty cents on their Councilors compared to the seventy cents spent by other cities such as Fort Wayne and Evansville. The proposal would tie the pay raises to the current Judges' salary increasing it to \$20,000 a year. This change would not take effect until the second quarter of 2020 and will not affect the 2020 budget.

CITIZENS ENERGY - "Dig Indy Project"

Olivia and John provided an overview of the "Dig Indy Project" currently occurring in Ellenberger Park. A fact sheet titled "What's going on at Ellenberger Park?" to all attendees.

They answered questions from attendees and explained the coordination of the project between Citizens Energy and Indy Parks. Public comment was provided by a representative of the PAR-10 neighborhood who requested that a physical copy of the proposal be provided for the neighbors to review including the permitting process, impact on the trees in Ellenberger Park, anticipated completion date, etc. The PAR-10 representative will send her concerns in an email to Lesli so the Council can assist the neighborhood in monitoring the project.

Andre, the Parks City Planner for Indianapolis was present to answer questions as well as express support of the project. Andre also announced that the Pennsy Trail will be constructed from Shortridge to German Church Road and completed in late 2020. Construction on this section of the Trail will begin in March or April with completion expected in November 2020.

HANNAH HARPER MORRSION – MAYOR’S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATE

- a) New street lights will be installed on the eastside in the coming weeks. Ten additional LED street lights will be installed. Retrofitting of the old lights continues as well. The east side as a whole will receive 25 new street lights total by the end of 2019.
- b) Leaf pick-up for Indianapolis residents will occur from November 11, through December 6 of 2019. Hannah stated that using plastic bags for the leaves is considered the best practice. These leaves are mulched by the city and used in city park flower beds.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Neighborhood updates – Unfortunately rain made for a rough day for the Irvington Halloween Festival. The Historical Society is working on the final details for their “A Holiday Fair” to be held on November 23 and 24. The Irvington Merchants’ Open House will be held on Friday, December 6. The Irvington Development Organization has restructured and is scheduling activities for 2020. Clark Giles, Trish Hayes and Tyler Sheller were elected as the organization’s 2020 officers.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) The Irvington Winter Luminaria: Festival of Lights will be held on December 22, 2019.
- b) Four new members were voted onto the Council: Carrie Yazell, Caitlin Leubcke, Lys Lauer, and Dawn Briggs. Sue made the motion and Kyla seconded it.
- b) The Council will have a planning retreat from 9 am until approximately noon on December 7, 2019 at Charles Miller’s home.

Adjournment occurred at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Beecher