

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2020 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lesli Gibson, Chad Cerda, Charles Miller, Kyla Thompson, Ed Adams, Jacob Lauer, Alyssa Lauer, Robert Uhlenhake, Debi Williamson Shank, Chris Moraldo, Caitlin Luebcke, Dawn Briggs, Carrie Yazell, Sue Beecher

The meeting was called to order by Lesli Gibson with a quorum of members present.

Approval of Minutes: The November, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

IMPD Update: Fred Carpenter, IMPD East Liaison, was present to provide updates and invite the public to ask questions.

- a) IMPD confiscated 1100 guns in the East District during calendar year 2019 which is the largest number in any of the Indianapolis district. The Northwest District was second with 692 guns being confiscated. Fred clarified that the East District boundaries are Meridian to Carroll Road, north to Pendleton Pike and south to Brookville Road.
- b) Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for February 19, 2020 from 10-12 pm at the North Shadeland Avenue Starbucks.
- c) Richard Riddle is the new Commander for the East District and Matthew Churchman is the new East District Detective.
- d) Irvington residents are encouraged to contact IMPD if they have information they believe would be helpful. "If you see something, then say something!"
- e) Thieves are still targeting the catalytic converters on all types of vehicles.

BLAKE JOHNSON – INDIANAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL

- a) The 2020 Indianapolis City Council was sworn in as the youngest Council on record with 11 of the 25 members new to that body.
- b) Blake drafted a letter of support for control of Howe High School to be transferred to Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS). Blake did this after much thought and consideration for the future of Howe. Blake has and continues to have a long term commitment to education. Charter Schools USA, the former overseer of Howe, failed to coordinate educational opportunities within Howe with the Irvington community as a whole leading to isolation and lack of transparency in the quality of education being provided to those students. Blake is already working with a Howe Reuse Committee to consider possible reuse plans for the building and property. Michael O'Conner, who is a member of the IPS

School Board; Jay Height from Shepherd Community Center; and Tim Mulherin of Irvington Community Schools will be part of this reuse committee. Additional stakeholders will be approached and identified to serve on the Howe Reuse committee. Howe will be closed for the 2020-2021 school year as an end of year “push and pull”. Currently Howe is a 2500 student school with an enrollment of only 600 students. IPS will be offering those students a school choice within the IPS District for the 2020-2021 academic year. Teachers are not guaranteed placement but are able to apply to open positions. Blake understands that Howe is a large campus and an important part of Irvington’s identity with much potential. Blake will advocate for the building and grounds to be secured and maintained during the year it is not used. Blake had already submitted a schedule for the Committee’s 2020 meetings including public meetings within the community for the spring and summer.

HANNAH HARPER MORRISON – MAYOR’S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATE

- a) Project Indy is launching “summer jobs for kids” for 2020. In 2019, 4,000 kids within Marion County were employed through this program. This project attempts to engage businesses to provide summer jobs for these kids to assist in the development of real work skills. Indy Parks alone has 450 employment opportunities. ProjectIndy.net is the website which contains all of the project details.
- b) Hannah stressed the importance of participating in the 2020 Census. For the first time in history it can be taken completely on line. Hannah has “Census swag” for distribution including totes, t-shirts, stickers, and posters depicting the “Count Me Indy” theme.
- c) Christmas trees can be dropped off at Ellenberger, Broad Ripple and Garfield Parks through January 31, 2020.
- d) The Pennsy Trail is scheduled to be completed up to German Church Road by November of 2020.
- e) Veteran’s Bus Passes for 2019 can be updated for 2020 at the Julia M. Carson Central Transit Center located downtown at Washington and Delaware Streets.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) DigIndy Project Update – Lesli received an email from Citizens Energy documenting that all construction on this project specific to Ellenberger Park and surrounding area will be consolidated and delayed until August of 2021. Citizens will also follow the current Master Plan for Ellenberger Park from 2000 and will replace all trees and restore both the ball fields and the trails to their original condition after the project is completed.
- b) Neighborhood Updates:

IDO - Andy Neilson, Treasurer for the Irvington Development Organization (IDO), provided an update for the Council. IDO's priority is maintaining the current streetscape. All Neighborhood Assistance Credits (NAP) available through IDO for 2020 have been assigned as requested. These are applicable to state income tax liabilities only. Andy spoke to the street lights currently being maintained by IDO. No property taxes are used to maintain these. These cost roughly \$11,000 annually to keep on. IDO is seeking an "open ended sponsor" for these costs. The infrastructure for these is owned by IDO and not the city of Indianapolis. If IDO was unable to pay to keep them on, the city would replace them with the traditional cobra head lighting used throughout Indianapolis, though not at a 1:1 ration. The group recommended that IDO approach IPL as the open ended sponsor. The group also discussed the fact that Woodruff Place utilizes an Economic Improvement District (EID) to maintain their historic streetlights. There were no detailed updates for either the Historical Society, Garden Club, or Friends of Irving Circle.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) The specific membership for the Council subcommittees is still being developed. Individuals who are not council members are able to join subcommittees. Carrie Yazell will be the 2020 Halloween Festival Chairperson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Sue Kennedy of the Irvington Public Library stated that opportunity for the neighborhood to provide feedback on library services with CEO Jackie Nytes, the 2020 CEO Love Your Library Tour, will occur at the Irvington Branch on February 18, 2020 from 6-7 pm.
- b) Lesli announced that January is Radon Action Month. Many of the older homes such as those in Irvington contain high levels of radon gas which can be a health hazard. The local health department will test your home for radon for free. You may also purchase test kits at local hardware stores.

Adjournment occurred at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Beecher

