

Irvington Neighborhood Plan
Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Committee
March 25, 2004

Facilitator: Todd A. Durnil, Irvington Community School Board.

Attendance: Viola Abbott, Sue Barnett, Kathleen Biale, Alan Blunk, Jeff Coppinger, Todd Durnil, Jack Eichacker, Mary Jane Teeters Eichacker, Gary Weir.

Handouts at this Meeting:

Irvington Town Hall Meeting, Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Discussion Notes

Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Committee Participant Survey

Discuss a List of Speakers to Aid Committee

Committee Handouts that Included:

Washington Street Corridor Project

The Pennsy Trail

Irvington Historic District

Cultural District Application

Ball State University Project

Article-"Commercial Gentrification: Beyond the Rhetoric" by Donovan D. Rypkema

The National Road

Irvington Development Organization Five-Year Vision and Strategic Plan

Discussion:

1. Committee members introduced themselves.
2. Link to Circle Society website.
3. Centralize place to locate information physically, Bona Thompson suggested
4. Check with Jeff Bennett regarding directional signs.
5. Investigate grant dollars for info center along the National Road.
6. Resource is [hisoricirvington.com](http://www.historicirvington.com)
7. 20's, 30's and 40's art in gallery at Bona Thompson.
8. Individual art for sale at Bona Thompson.
9. Increase distribution of calendar.
10. Construction historic signs on interstate.
11. Possible speaker – Irving Theater rep.
12. Steering Committee speakers may suffice for Arts/Culture needs.
13. Jeff Coppinger has an interest in being a member of Steering.
14. Irving Theater Foundation seeking a fiscal agent whom can assist in buying the Irving Theater, the main problem to renovation.
15. Irving Theater Foundation fundraiser at Howe High School (4/24), open house (4/17) in actual theater.
16. Ninety percent (90%) of debris has been cleared from Irving Theater.

Visit <http://www.historicirvington.org/> for more information regarding the plan.

17. Consensus on a use for Irving Theater, as a cultural center, visual and gallery art, other non profit uses.
18. Irving Theater renovated to its original look in 1915.
19. Irving Theater is the cornerstone of new development, neighborhood perception, and recognition.
20. A new civic theater can locate in the Irving, possible IUPUI students, Irvington Methodist.
21. SEND interested in examining the Irving as a fiscal agent, coordinate with Irvington Development Organization (IDO).
22. Post Committee handout on website, great website!
23. Old Adventis (historic) building suggested as a higher education classroom, possibly a free University.
24. Free University, higher education instructors willing to teach for “free”, no fee. Still in existed, but not on the scale in the past.
25. Focus on Irvington’s literary and educator founding.
26. Irvington Plaza revival, half price bookstore is a suggestion.
27. Identify location for a permanent home of the Irvington Charter School.
28. Actively recruit businesses noting the benefits of locating in Irvington, video store and flower shop was suggested.
29. Renovate Marsh in order to attract more neighborhood residents, certainly if it is a higher profit store.
30. Asbestos problems at Eastgate, demolition.
31. Irvington neighborhood is on the upswing in terms of gentrification.
32. Extend Cultural trail to Irvington.
33. Improve park and greenway construction/maintenance, and street maintenance.
34. Improve organization to accomplish more projects, organizing as one community voice.
35. Delete the recommendation for limited alcohol sales for art-oriented businesses, concurrent with the original town covenants.
36. Iris Center is a possible business to locate in Irvington, a good fit to the neighborhood concept. Now located at 16th/Penn (Herron).
37. Improve perception of crime utilizing better lighting, focus on residential areas.
38. Pedestrian gatherings help with a negative perception, possibly helped by new businesses, Irving Theater renovation.
39. Increase code enforcement to eliminate derelict buildings, especially if it hurts other property values or a sale of a building.
40. Reuse of blood center? Suggestion is education, office. A use that does not generate a great deal of parking. Most retail uses are eliminated.
41. Next meeting scheduled for April 29th.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity is scheduled for Thursday, April 29th at 7:15 p.m., Irvington United Methodist Church.

Notes taken by Tim Hayes, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis

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