

**Irvington Neighborhood Plan
Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Committee
April 29, 2004**

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

Attendance: Viola Abbott, Alan Blunk, Todd Durnil, Karen Martin, Lucy Newton, Gary Weir.

Handouts at this Meeting:

Irvington Neighborhood Plan Speaker Series

Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Discussion Notes from March 25, 2004

Press Release – Mayor, Rotary announce effort to beautify, showcase “gateways” to city, neighborhoods (4/28/2004)

Irvington Neighborhood Survey

Reference 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

Discussion:

1. Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Irvington Neighborhood Plan Speaker Series.
The Committee suggested adding Harry Burkhardt, the former owner of the Irving Theater, to the Speaker Series on May 16th, 2004. A question arose concerning how transportation issues will be covered in the Irvington Plan.

3. Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity Discussion Notes from March 25, 2004.
 - ◆ Check to see if the Transportation Enhancement Application was funded for the Washington Street Corridor Project – Phase 1.
 - ◆ Add the email list of Historic Irvington Community Council to the general distribution of Irvington Plan correspondence.
 - ◆ Promote new artists at the Bona Thompson art gallery.
 - ◆ Focus business efforts in Irvington Plaza closer to street for new development.
 - ◆ Improve sidewalks near Irvington Plaza.
 - ◆ Acknowledge the Irving Theater rehabilitation as the cornerstone for arts/cultural; development.
 - ◆ Rehabilitate the Irving Theater to its original look in 1927.
 - ◆ Additional use of Irving Theater recommended as concessions with limited space/food for all ages.

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

- ◆ Tie Irving Theater rehabilitation to Golden/Sheridan Theater.
 - ◆ Washington Street is a physical impediment. Utilize Washing Streetscape recommendations.
 - ◆ Pennsy trail can be improved utilizing transportation enhancement funds.
 - ◆ Emphasize art education in elementary schools.
 - ◆ Irvington Community School plans on an enrollment of 400 students. Currently, 98% of the students come from Irvington.
 - ◆ Volunteers supporting elementary education needs improvement.
 - ◆ A charter high school is planned for the Irvington neighborhood.
 - ◆ Irvington Community School is available for GED classes.
 - ◆ City of Indianapolis assistance is requested for the renovation of Irvington Plaza.
 - ◆ A historic designation that can implement design standards is a must. A designation can improve the design of new buildings that is compatible with Irvington's historic character.
 - ◆ Combat the negative perception of crime by constructing more streetlights appropriate to Irvington's historic character, focusing on residential areas.
 - ◆ Paint the water tower with a logo consistent with Irvington's historic character.
4. Press Release – Mayor, Rotary announce effort to beautify, showcase “gateways” to city, neighborhoods (4/28/2004). Provided for Committee information.
5. Irvington Neighborhood Survey. Distributed.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Arts, Culture, Education, and Diversity is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 27th at 7:15 p.m., Irvington United Methodist Church.

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