

**Irvington Town Hall Meeting  
Economic Development Discussion  
February 21, 2004**

**Facilitator:** JauNae Hanger

**Discussion:**

JauNae Hanger started the discussion by asking people to express their opinions regarding economic development in Irvington. The responses follow. There is no prioritization in the listing.

1. There is a concern regarding the Washington Street corridor and streetscape.
2. Irvington Plaza is a concern. An upgrade is needed.
3. Economic development is an important topic. It will have an impact on all the other committees.
4. New businesses are needed to fill vacancies on Washington Street.
5. More parallel parking and lighting are needed on Washington Street.
6. Parking is especially needed on the south side of Washington Street.
7. Signs on Washington Street are a concern.
8. Both shops and gardens are important in Irvington.
9. The Penny Trail will be an important new element in the community.
10. A new antique store will be opening on Washington Street.
11. New businesses are needed.
12. There has been deterioration on Washington Street.
13. The neighborhood should maintain it's family oriented feel. It is a neighborhood of which we can be proud.
14. It would be nice to be able to shop for groceries without driving.
15. Allowing beer and wine to be sold would encourage more restaurants, which is desirable.
16. It would be nice to be able to buy a good bagel in the neighborhood.
17. Retailers don't realize the buying power that exists in Irvington.
18. Any new development should take into account the important history of the neighborhood.
19. Irvington is not always depicted in a good light by the media. We need to think of ways to change this. We need to work with the newspaper.
20. The Indianapolis Star is adding an eastside section. This should help.
21. The neighborhood needs good restaurants.
22. The community needs better communication with Marsh in regards to the store in Irvington Plaza.
23. It would be better for older residents if there were stores such as a material shop or bookstore.
24. We need to make sure that the neighborhood's historic buildings are preserved.
25. The library is a \$4 million dollar investment in the heart of the commercial area. Usage at the new library is up 57% over the old library. The coffee shop that was in the library didn't make money, but it didn't lose money either.
26. The train stop area at Audubon and the Penny right-of-way is important and needs attention.

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

27. As a part of preparing a plan for the neighborhood, land use and zoning plans will be prepared.
28. The Irving Theater building is an asset to the community.
29. Better reuse of buildings is needed.
30. It is good that School #57 was not torn down.
31. An application for funding for the streetscape proposal developed at the public workshop in October 2003 has been submitted.
32. More people need to be out walking in the neighborhood. Walking needs to be encouraged. More neighborhood retail that can be walked to is needed.
33. The neighborhood needs to be economically viable.
34. The Kroger and Osco are very high grossing. Why can't the neighborhood get more desirable retail in other locations?
35. More information is needed regarding the town covenants and the impact they have.
36. The Economic Development Committee should identify what they want the community to be in the future and then develop a strategy for attaining the vision. Should the neighborhood have more jobs available for instance?
37. The good aspects of the neighborhood need to be advertised. How do we get the word out?
38. Some communities deliver to new residents a basket of free items and coupons from neighborhood businesses. It's a great way to welcome new people to the community and to invite them to shop locally at the same time. Couldn't this be done in Irvington?
39. The Pennsy Trail is being designed by Storrow and Kinsella Associates. Funding is available for trail development. The City is determining ownership of right-of-way. The City will talk to individual property owners if they have questions or concerns regarding the proposed trail.

**People who have agreed to be on the Economic Development Committee:**

Facilitator: JauNae Hanger

Members: Rosemary Armour, Lisa Bennett, Larry Buell, Sabina Calhoun, Rob Elliott, Maureen Griffin, John Gyurek, Michael L. Harmon, Blade Hauth, Bob Heimach, Craig Heindel, Philip Hooper, Jane Ann Hughes, Dean Hvidston, Doug Hvidston, Dean Ilingworth, Rick Johnson, Jonathan Katz, Sarah Katz, Joshua Kaufmann, Mark Kippert, Becky Langsford, Mike Lewis, Micheal Mace, Emily Mack, Karen Martin, Steve McGrath, Jennifer Meehan Mills, Joyce Newland, Dene Dresch Niddiffer, Marty Powell, Christopher Short, Rosemary Spalding, Patrick Sullivan, Kyla Thompson, Julia Waggoner, Leon Waninger, and Mike Williams

**Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Economic Development Committee will be Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church.**

Notes taken by Bob Wilch, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis

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