

**Irvington Town Hall Meeting
Parks and Open Space Discussion
February 21, 2004**

Facilitator: Kent Knorr; Ellenberger Park Manager

Discussion:

The discussion was lead by Kent Knorr. Kent is an Irvington resident as well as the Indy Parks Ellenberger Park Manager. He is also in charge of the Ellenberger hockey rink and swimming pool and familiar with the Indy Parks planning operations. Joel Stevens was present to discuss Storrow Kinsella's developing plan for the Pennsy Trail. The summary of the parks and open space discussion follows. There is no prioritization in the listing.

Issues that were raised during the discussion of parks & open space in Irvington:

1. There is a lack of good open space and parks for children to play.
2. The open space along the golf course requires better maintenance.
3. The residents stressed that constant maintenance was an important factor that needs improvement in much of the neighborhood's open space
4. The open space and parks should be adapted to fit the theme of the surrounding neighborhood. There are park areas that are aesthetically unattractive and contrast with the surrounding residential neighbors. An example of this is the bright blue playground equipment and port o'pots located on park property.
5. Safety should be considered in planning any new park or open space.
6. Neighborhood vacant lots should be considered as potential sites for pocket parks and community gardens. Irvington has already created one community garden that has proven to be highly successful.
7. It is important that the Kessler plan be utilized and properly implemented.
8. Higher curbs should be put in place to ensure safe passage for pedestrians. It may be difficult to replace the existing deteriorated granite curbs.
9. Deteriorated parks facilities such as bridges or pavilions should be replaced.
10. The residents would like a water source such as a community fountain that is accessible to pets for drinking inside Ellenberger Park.
11. The walking trail on the parkway east of Arlington should have improved pedestrian protection against nearby auto traffic and be extended to the southwest corner of Irvington.
12. The trail material along the south side of Ellenberger Park should be changed from gravel to a smoother more usable surface (such as asphalt) that will allow for bikes, strollers, and roller blades.
13. Accessibility concerns were raised in regards to trail and park facilities.
14. Some suggested the Ellenberger baseball and softball diamonds could be reconfigured for little league use.
15. Open space could be implemented into the redesign of Washington Street as a grassy median down the center line of the street.
16. The water quality of the creek needs to be taken into consideration.
17. A connection between area park facilities (i.e. hockey rink) and area business should be developed as a tool for economic development.

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

18. The speed of new improvements to the existing parks is slow and should be improved.
19. The currently planned rapid transit corridor should be examined and taken into consideration as it affects the area parks.
20. The Ellenberger ice rink should better advertised through a website, flyers, and Spanish advertisement.
21. Park concerts would be an excellent mechanism to attract visitors to Irvington parks and businesses.
22. Some suggested the possible development of a green space (small park or playground) on the south end of Irvington Plaza near the Pennsy Trail.
23. Some suggested the development of an amphitheater inside Ellenberger Park.

People who have agreed to be on the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Parks and Open Space Committee:

Facilitator- Kent Knorr

Members-Sue Barnett, Pat Brown, John Gyurek, Michael L. Harmon, Dean Illingworth, Joshua Kaufmann, Jennifer Meehan Mills, Joyce Newland, Lucy Newton, Jennifer Richardson, Kimble Richardson, and Wendy Sellers-Lyons

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Parks and Open Space Committee will be Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church.

Notes taken by Matt O'Rourke and Nathan Schmidt, Ball State University, College of Architecture and Planning: Indianapolis Center