

**Irvington Town Hall Meeting  
Public Safety and Code Enforcement Discussion  
March 18, 2004**

**Committee Members:** Dean Hvidston, Doug Hvidston, Elizabeth Najjar, Wendy Sellers-Lyons, Sharon Tabard, Dale Tippit and Erma Windson.

**1. Approval of February Meeting Notes**

**2. Maps**

The following maps were shown: Irving aerial photography, existing land use, existing building condition, population based on density and income based on density.

**3. Crime Statistics**

Crime statistics were distributed for Indianapolis Police Department occurrences in Irvington compared to the entire Indianapolis Police Department District and the Marion County Sheriffs Department occurrences in Irvington compared to the entire Marion County Sheriffs Department District.

**4. Previous Questions**

**City's Abandoned Housing and Affordable Housing Initiatives**

- Bruce Baird (327.5617) coordinates the city's abandoned houses and affordable housing initiatives.
- Inventory of vacant homes has been completed.
- Top Ten list of property owners was released.
- There was a comprehensive review of city-owned surplus properties for redevelopment.
- 15 vacant houses were transferred through US Dept of Housing & Urban Development's Dollar Homes Programs to local CDCs for rehab and creation of affordable housing.
- Abandoned House Work Group was created.

**Street & Parking Questions**

- Parking questions can be answered by the Department of Public Works-Engineering (327.2560)

**Pennsy Trail**

- The Pennsy Corridor runs from Arlington, east to the county line, south of Washington St.. The future Indianapolis Pennsy Trail will connect to the existing Pleasant Run Greenway Trail and to the Town of Cumberland's future Pennsy Trail. Storrow/Kinsella and Al McFerrin with Associated Right-of-Ways are under contract. The City-County Council has approved a \$1.8 million for project development. A Phase I Environmental Study is being completed and in the future the City will make offers to property owners.

**Neighborhood Resources**

- **Division of Community Development and Financial Services (CDFS)** is responsible for seeking federal grants and other funds and monitoring their use in not-for-profit community development efforts (327.5894) <http://www6.indygov.org/cdfs/cdfs.htm>
- **CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions** helps older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and as independently as possible. It serves as a single point of entry for in-home services for persons with disabilities, regardless of age. <http://www.cicoa.org/>
- The **Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP)** works to expand the supply of quality, affordable housing through leveraging public and private resources. INHP provides home

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

ownership training, housing counseling, low cost loans and also serves as the coordinating body for the community development corporations in the city. <http://www.inhp.org/>

- **Community Action of Greater Indianapolis** is an agency that offers such services as seasonal heating assistance, weatherization and housing, Project Head and the foster Grandparent Program. <http://www.cagi-in.org>
- **Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)** is the Ford Foundation's subsidiary organization, which solicits corporate funding to support local non-profit neighborhood redevelopment programs, housing services, economic development and technical assistance. <http://www.liscnet.org/indianapolis>

## 5. Economic Development Packet

The economic development packet is a resource for the committee to reference the following reports: Washington Street Corridor Project, The Pennsy Trail, Irvington Historic District, Ball State University Project, Cultural District Application and Commercial Gentrification: Beyond the Rhetoric.

## 6. Committee Discussion

A discussion worksheet was distributed to focus conversation. Comments have been listed topically. There is no prioritization in the listing.

### Streets & Alleys:

- Determine locations where diagonal parking may be more efficient than parallel parking along streets.
- Increase parking spaces near commercial and apartment land uses.
- Report street and alley conditions and ensure report has been acted upon.
- Ensure vehicular and pedestrian access to Pennsy Trail are upkeep and in good condition.
- Increase lighting for safety in alleys and streets.
- No parking in alleys. Call IPD to get vehicles towed away.
- Remove shoes on the telephone lines.
- Parking vehicles too close to corners causes dangerous intersections.
- Parking vehicles too close to corners causes difficulty for school buses to maneuver.
- Determine process to remove parking on corners.
- Explore options for parking on only one side of the street on one-way streets.
- Narrower streets slow traffic and are safe.
- Enforce traffic speeds in school zone.
- Ensure children have safe walking routes to school.
- Place a median down Washington Street to slow traffic.
- Create safe areas for pedestrians to cross Washington Street.

### Aggressive Animals:

- Video trap or take pictures of aggressive animals for evidence of incident.
- Emphasize the need to report all aggressive animal occurrences to know frequency.
- Find homes for stray animals by working with animal shelters.
- Education to children by working with schools, animal control and IPD to provide educational programs about how to react to animals.
- Create community programs to educate how to respond to aggressive animals.
- Create public education pieces (ex. flyers, bookmark, eastside paper, Irvington website) to distribute at the public locations (library, farmer's market) providing information about aggressive animals and other topics.
- Promote and emphasize various spade/neuter programs and low cost pet supplies and maintenance.

### Crime:

- Create crimewatch blocks throughout the community.
- Create neighborhood associations and have covenants for the bettering of neighborhoods.
- Promote the crimewatch concept at the town hall meetings and other public events.

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

- Emphasize the importance of individuals reporting crime.
- When you see crime/prostitution, call officers.
- When you see crime/prostitution, tell the individual they are not wanted in this neighborhood.
- Reduce crime occurring near schools.
- Increase lighting in public locations. Contact property owners to encourage brighter lighting.
- Code enforcement for violations in public places.

#### **7. Possible Speakers/Presentations**

Status on Irvington becoming a CDC.

#### **8. Research For Next Committee Meeting**

Map of existing crimewatch blocks.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee will be Thursday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church.

Notes taken by Nicole Mueller, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis