

**Irvington Town Hall Meeting
Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee
April 15, 2004**

Committee Members: Elizabeth Najjar, Joyce Newland, Jennifer Ruby, Sharon Tabard, and Dale Tippit.

1. Approval of March Meeting Notes

2. Participant Survey

The Irvington Neighborhood Plan Participant Survey was distributed and asked to be filled out. The purpose of this survey is to provide information regarding the resources that committee participants have to offer the neighborhood when it comes time to implement plan recommendations. Seventeen have been completed so far. The information provided on the completed surveys is summarized in the document, Survey Results as of 4/8/04. Copies of the summary were distributed.

3. Irvington Neighborhood Survey

The committee examined a draft of the Irvington Neighborhood Survey. The purpose of this survey is to provide information to the committees regarding Irvington's strengths and weaknesses. The survey should cover all of the aspects of the neighborhood that are being dealt with by the committees. The Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee members made the following comments:

- Add to the list of ways to improve your neighborhood: Recreation/educational opportunities for adults.
- Add to the list of ways to improve your neighborhood: Diversity awareness and outreach to Latino population.
- Make a version of survey in Spanish possibly utilizing the local schools for translation.

4. Maps

The following maps were displayed: active crimewatch programs, aerial photography, building condition, existing land use, existing zoning, and vacant housing & condition. These maps are posted on the website at <http://www.historicirvington.org/>.

5. Proposed Irvington Speakers Series

The proposed Irvington Speaker Series were discussed. All sessions will be Sunday afternoons from 2-4 PM at the Bona Thompson Center. The topics and dates are the following:

- May 2 – Irvington Historic District Status
- May 16 - Eastside Revitalization and Economic Development

It was recommended to find someone to talk about the process and benefits in forming a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to improve development activities such as home repair and rehabilitation. This speaker maybe fit appropriately at the May 16 Speakers Series. There should be an attempt to advertise the Irvington Speakers Series in the new Indianapolis Star East.

6. Committee Discussion

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

Homelessness:

- Continue to support Irvington Congregations As Partners (ICAP) for prevention of homelessness.
- Assist with fundraisers, donations, event promotion, and volunteering for ICAP.
- Encourage the continuation of educational programs for reemployment.

Housing condition and vacant housing:

- Emphasize the importance of citizens reporting poor housing conditions throughout the community.
- Formulate a resource list for code enforcement and health and hospital.
- Ensure children and homeless are not entering vacant houses.
- Generate an informational piece indicating organizations and contact information for various circumstances.
- Build up Crimewatch program involvement throughout the community.
- Educate the community about housing rights and contacts for improving the neighborhood.
- Develop a lecture series or pamphlet incorporating health and hospital, code enforcement, and animal control to better inform the community about proper responses to various issues.
- Promote homeownership and utilize INHP for educational opportunities.
- Entice real estate developers to promote Irvington housing and business opportunities. Express opportunities in investment of rental profits and possible grant opportunities for housing rehab.
- Encourage banks to help people learn about proper finance.
- Focus on entire Irvington area, beyond the blocks immediately north and south of Washington.
- Emphasize blocks on fringe that need improvements because they will impact the heart of Irvington historic homes. Address these issues ahead of time through education.
- Utilize code enforcement and health and hospital as a tool to start addressing deteriorating houses throughout Irvington.
- Encourage immediate response to broken windows, abandoned vehicles, etc. Involvement lessens the likelihood for this activity to continue. Fix the little things and the big things will fix themselves.
- Increase pride in neighborhood.
- Develop a revolving loan for housing rehab.
- Determine who is interested in having a CDC to start up a group.

Lighting:

- If streetlights are out, call Indianapolis Power and Light for replacement.
- Ensure information is available to people about the process to place additional lighting throughout the community. It is the responsibility of the people wanting additional lighting to pay for electric costs.

Parking:

- Streets are narrow and people park on both sides creating unsafe conditions.
- Many times, people park on sides of the street where there are restrictions. Increased parking enforcement is needed.
- Ensure enough parking for residents and visitors, while yet creating a safe environment with accessibility.
- Vehicles parking on street are also a street calming method.
- Would additional one-way streets ease the narrow street issue?

Pedestrian Safety and Access:

- Stray dogs can be threatening to pedestrians.
- Determine ways to ensure slow speed in school zones.
- Flashing lights in school zones tend to slow vehicles down more effectively.
- Ensure people with disabilities have adequate sidewalk access in their neighborhood.
- Improve sidewalks and curb cuts where necessary.
- Expand bicycle safety throughout Irvington

Pennsy Trail:

- Develop safe community connections to the Pennsy and Pleasant Run Trails.
- Ensure people biking on the Pennsy Trail know of commercial opportunities along Washington Street.

Railroad:

- Contact health and hospital will take care of long grass along railroads.

Speedrome:

- The Speedrome has been in existence for many years. There can be a lot of noise associated with a race; however, the Speedrome does meet code in regard to the noise along and start and stop times.

Community Collaboration:

- Expand educational opportunities.
- Publicize activities going on throughout Irvington, making residents more aware.
- Promote and encourage cultural awareness and Spanish classes.
- Develop activities for all age cohorts.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Irvington Neighborhood Plan Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee will be Thursday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Irvington United Methodist Church.

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