

**Irvington Neighborhood Plan
Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee
June 17, 2004**

Committee Members: Jennifer Ruby

1. Approval of May Meeting Notes

2. Handouts

- June meeting notes.
- Irvington Neighborhood Survey Results as of June 2, 2004
- Vision statements for all Committees
- Goals, Objectives, Projects and Programs Worksheet

3. Committee Discussion

Committee Vision Statement: Starting with a historic foundation, Irvington has grown into a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community, meshing home spun shops with industrial spaces and building safe and peaceful neighborhoods a block at a time.

Community Crime Objective: Promote a physical environment to reduce crime.

1. Inform the community about the process to replace or add lighting throughout the community. (Such as contacting the City, contacting property owners, or pooling resources.
2. Encourage immediate response to broken windows, abandoned vehicles, etc. Community pride shows offenders that vandalism and crime will not be tolerated.
3. Educate residents of simple crime prevention measures (flood lights, prickly bushes under windows, motion detectors, landscaping to allow visibility)

Housing Goal: Create a positive living environment and increase community pride in Irvington. Encourage the preservation of historic homes, improve overall housing conditions, and create a range of housing types, styles and affordabilities for the community.

Housing Objective: Encourage owners and landlords of Irvington homes to live in our neighborhood to discourage vacant, abandoned and substandard housing.

1. Establish a mechanism for Irvington to purchase 'at risk' homes for repair, renovation and resale. Research available grant monies, partnerships and revolving loan opportunities.
2. Entice real estate developers to promote Irvington housing and business opportunities.
3. Promote homeownership by using INRC's educational opportunities.
4. Assess feasibility of forming an Irvington Community Development Corporation (CDC) within the next three years.
5. Encourage landlords to invest in the community through involvement in neighborhood improvement projects and improving and maintaining their properties.
6. Target landlords who do not comply with housing and rental standards. Make certain residents and public officials report code violations.

Housing Objective: Provide housing options for all income levels and support comprehensive programs to combat homelessness.

1. Open a facility or program providing immediate assistance for the homeless. This is to provide money, shelter, food and counseling.
2. Develop a program to provide skills training and job placement.
3. Continue to support the Irvington Congregation As Partnership (ICAP) for the prevention of homelessness by assisting with fundraisers, donations, event promotion and volunteering.
4. Education realtors and banks on various loans and grant opportunities for people to purchase housing in Irvington. Encourage banks to inform the public about legitimate financing options.

Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety Goal: Connect neighborhoods, business and cultural activities throughout Irvington with safe, accessible routes. Establish new infrastructure that lessen conflicts between motor vehicles and recreational movement.

Pedestrian Objective: Provide sidewalks and multipurpose paths to improve access and promote non-motor traffic throughout Irvington. (i.e. walking, biking, rollerblading, etc.) Make crossings on Washington universally accessible and promote safety near children's play areas and schools.

Pedestrian Projects and Programs:

1. Determine ways to reduce or enforce traffic speeds in school zones. Recruit volunteer citizens to stand by school zones with signs that say 'slow down in the school zone.'
2. Improve pedestrian protection against nearby motor traffic along the walking trail on the parkway east of Arlington.
3. Ensure people with disabilities have adequate universal access in their neighborhoods.
4. Continue to improve sidewalks. Develop a list of sidewalks that need to be replaced and submit it to the proper agencies.

Multimodal Objective: Create a physical environment that ensures ease of movement with sidewalks, trails, intersections, public spaces, signage and multimodal transportation for persons of all ages and abilities.

Multimodal Projects and Programs:

1. Eliminate vehicle parking too close to intersections to improve safety.
2. Incorporate universal accessible standards for all new projects, public spaces, park trails and park facilities.
3. Develop safe community connection to the Pennsy and Pleasant Run Trails
4. Define way to promote safety and reduce crime on the proposed Pennsy Trail.
5. Promote bicycle safety and rollerblading throughout Irvington.

Parking Goal: Provide safe and convenient parking for businesses and residential uses.

Parking Objective: Maximize on street parking convenience while considering the impact with motor and pedestrian traffic.

Parking Projects and Programs:

1. Determine location where diagonal parking may be more efficient than parallel parking in high demand areas along streets.
2. Determine a balance between parking needs and safety on narrow streets. Residents and visitors need to park near their homes or near shops they patron. However, on narrow streets, parking adds to existing safety issues between vehicles and pedestrians.
3. Increase parking enforcement where restrictions are not followed.
4. Determine locations where shared parking makes sense.
5. Determine need for parking near commercial and apartment land uses.

Aggressive Animal Safety Goal: Reduce aggressive animal behavior and control stray animal population for the safety of residents.

Aggressive Animal Objective: Inform public on procedures to address aggressive animals and encourage pet adoption and feral programs.

Aggressive Animal Projects and Programs:

1. Emphasize the need to report all aggressive animal occurrences to better know frequency. Encourage videotaping and photography wounds, damage, the animals and offending animal's behavior for evidence of incident.
2. Work with schools, animal control and IPD to educate the community on how to react to animals.
3. Promote and emphasize various spay/neuter programs and low-cost pet supplies and maintenance.

4. Next Steps

A Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee Report will be drafted and distributed to committee for review sometime in the month of July.