

Iles Park Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Watch Meeting Minutes March 4, 2019
Track Shack, 6pm



19 people were in attendance.

- **Curt Drew, President**
 - With more than 600 homes, Iles Park has plenty of renters who should be welcomed to be involved – and plenty of children who can be encouraged to attend our fun events.
 - We will create a flyer to hand-deliver when the weather turns nice.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Neighborhood Cleanup 3/23 11am – meet in Iles Park.
 - Easter Bunny 4/13 10am-noon.
 - Garage Sales 5/3 and 5/4 – even if just open for a couple hours, it's OK! Let us know and we'll post signs pointing to your home.
 - 4th Annual National Night Out Tues, 8/6
 - Curt will ask HOT Officer April speaker for Neighborhood Watch – tentative
 - Carol will ask Director of Community Relations Juan Huerta speaker for May meeting - tentative

- **Ward 6 City Council Kristin DiCenso and Ward 6 Candidate Elizabeth Jones were in attendance**

- **Rail Relocation Presentation, Kevin Seals, Engineer, and Jeff Bushur, Environmental Scientist**
 - Halfway done with entire project, which should be finished by end of 2025, when Union Pacific (UP) and Amtrak trains could move to 10th St.
 - Even after UP trains move to 10th Street tracks, UP will still own the property along the 3rd Street tracks; ownership would need to change before the City could do anything with the corridor.
 - **High-Speed Rail Corridor** along 3rd Street tracks; the max speed for high speed rail in town is 40 mph.
 - City has already filed application for **3rd St Quiet Zone**; the IL Commerce Commission must approve it; typically 4-6 months; could have Quiet Zone by fall 2019. The fencing and other equipment on the 3rd St tracks will be reused for 10th Street when trains move.
 - **Carpenter St underpass** was completed August, 2016
 - **Ash underpass** scheduled to be completed September, 2019; Norfolk Southern (NS) trains should switch to new track on 10th St this week, then work can begin on 2nd train bridge over Ash for Union Pacific (UP) tracks.
 - **Laurel underpass** scheduled to be completed end of 2020.
 - **Rail overpasses (bridge replacement) at 5th & 6th Streets (Segment IV)**
 - Scheduled to begin early fall of 2019, with anticipated completion 2021.
 - Princeton & 6th intersection will be closed.
 - Adjacent homes will be demolished this spring.

- Each street will be done one at a time. The current rail bridge will be removed and 2 new huge bridge beams will be installed above each road (one at a time.) Each new bridge will be wide enough to carry 2 tracks, making 4 tracks possible through the area. Roads will only be closed at night for 3 consecutive weekends and some weeknights. After one street is done, the other street will be done.
 - No work is planned for the roadway, sidewalks or drainage; that would need to come from the City and / or IDOT.
 - 40 parcels were purchased for Segment IV, including 26 houses.
- The **railyard** between Laurel and S Grand will be relocated elsewhere (Jacksonville?)
- **Madison & Jefferson underpasses, North Grand underpass, North Grand overpass** scheduled for completion around 2023; then **S Grand and 19th underpass** and **Ash and 19th underpass**.
- At north end, the new system will split south of N Grand. The NS tracks will continue as before. The UP tracks will head straight north through the 10th St space, going through the current EPA building, just east of the bingo hall, then meeting up near Ridgley Avenue with the current tracks that go north to Chicago.
- There will be a **new train station (multi-modal center)** on both sides of the tracks near 10th and Washington. Sangamon County needs to finalize a contract for design before the track alignment can be finalized. The current Union Station could be reused in some way.
- It is beneficial for the railroads to close grade crossings; they save money in terms of fewer accidents, lawsuits, legal liability.
- All parts of new rail system will have capacity to carry 4 tracks (2 UP and 2 NS). Each railroad has specific specifications, so tracks are built separately to different specs. Initially there will be 2-3 tracks. UP may have 2 tracks to allow for Amtrak and cargo on separate tracks.
- **Rail flyover** between Stanford & I72 is on hold but on the books. UP has agreed to move to 10th St without it.
- There will be **open houses** in April, May and June for the **race riot historical sites** north of Madison along the new rail path.
- Additional information at **SpringfieldRailroad.com** – meeting dates, sign up for newsletter, video of drone flyover of entire route. They are available to present to other groups.

Next Meeting

- Iles Park Neighborhood Watch Meeting April 1, 6pm Track Shack

Respectfully submitted, Carol Kneedler, Secretary