

Iles Park Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Minutes January 6, 2020, 6pm
Track Shack
20 attendees



Kristin DiCenso, Ward 6 Alderwoman

- **Juvenile issues**
- **Call her 217-494-2975!** Don't spread fear and hysteria on social media.
- **City Budget** – Mayor proposing a grant position; other ideas being continued.
- **Infrastructure work** suggested to Public Works – they have software to see the status of roads.
- **Walnut St**
 - Was closed to replace an 1886 sewer last summer & fall.
 - Will be put on a road calming – 2 lanes with bike lanes.
 - Will be closed again June & July for overlay.
- **5th & 6th St rail overpass** put off in favor of Laurel first; reinforce sidewalk and fix drainage; should be addressed in next 6-12 months
- **Leaf pickup continues**
 - Jan-March – must use stickers
 - April – December – no stickers; every other week pickup
- **Rail quiet zone** still with the feds – possibly not until all rail traffic moved off 3rd St tracks
- **Downtown university campus project**
 - Economic Development group now called Strategic Alliance
 - Plan was to tear down historic buildings, including the only flatiron building south of Chicago in IL.
 - Kristin indicated they don't need 4 contiguous blocks; making a decision soon.
 - Benedictine is too far away; has asbestos issues.
- **Pillsbury site** – city does not have the money to remediate it and doesn't want to own it.
- Famous Liquor and other **dilapidated properties / absentee landlords**
 - Extensive discussion of rats in rental property
 - She is working with Ward 8 Alderwoman Erin Conley to raise fines.
 - Suggested calling Public Health or EPA Illinois.

Neighborhood Police Officer Mike Badger

- Juveniles are causing problems in other neighborhoods – breaking windows repeatedly, letting air out of tires, running in front of cars.
- Call the police (dispatch or 911) & report it even if the person isn't charged.
- Mike can pull the report, get name and run background.
- Recreational cannabis discussion – what they are likely to take action on. If they smell burning cannabis in a car, they can search. Focus on impaired driving.
- Homeless people
 - Squatting in neighborhood – call Homeless Outreach officer.
 - DON'T give homeless money!
- Park discussion, but I didn't hear it. Sorry!

Michelle Coffin, Treasurer

- Balance currently \$2,649.52. 2019 saw a gain of \$28.58
- 2020 dues due now

Curt Drew, President

- **2019 recap**
 - Alternated meeting locations – to continue in 2020.
 - Easter Bunny – again April 4, 2020
 - Garage sale poor participation – May 2 & 3, 2020 with Harvard Park
 - Ward 6 Cleanup – suggestion to do alleys instead?
 - National Night Out (NNO) 5th year – best attended ever, easiest, lots of volunteers
 - Ash St underpass opened in November
 - Santa Claus at laundromat! About 20 attendees – food and decorations – nice!
- **Fundraising**
 - Coupon books went well; we make \$12.50 for each \$25 book sold. 2020 books available!
 - Tee shirts – need 15 minimum – order a short-sleeved one for NNO 2020!
- **IPNA Signs**
 - Move 8th St to 5th - ask Kristin about possible sign at 5th & Cedar (Hanson property)
 - One for alley at Ash near 3rd
 - Probably Feb or March for moves
 - \$250 new sign; moving \$75/hour
- **Officer Elections**
 - Same as last year:
 - Curt Drew, President
 - Connie Preston, Vice President
 - Michelle Coffin, Treasurer
 - Carol Kneeder, Secretary
- **Future Speakers**
 - Prairie State Bank – credit card fraud
 - Park District

Next Meeting

- February 3, 6pm Restoration Church

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kneeder, Secretary