

Iles Park Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Minutes March 2, 2020, 6pm
Restoration Church
13 attendees



Kristin DiCenso, Alderwoman Ward 6

- City Budget was tweaked
 - State of IL budget won't be signed until May 31 – may affect City's budget.
 - Sangamon County – outsourcing happened after Brian McFaddon went to work for County after Mayor Hasara.
 - Animal Control \$250,000 / year contract; we don't spend \$250k on homeless.
 - When they visited 2 summers ago, there were only 3 dogs there; lots of cats.
 - Sangamon Co wants to charge \$75 for each after-hours call (est \$9k/year)
 - Urban Forestry
 - \$150,000 cut to \$50,000 for new trees
 - Commission is working to publish a list of trees that are native, manageable, and don't interfere with power lines.
 - Commission is working on private partnerships to fundraise.
 - Didn't work with city council ahead of time, but members are new.
 - Looking at re-instituting tree planting program; maybe sweet gum program.
 - Call your alderperson if you are on the list too long to get a sweet gum cut down.
 - Out of 166 trees planted last year, 161 were all planted in Stratford Place in Ward 2.
 - Suggested asking local businesses to help out.
 - Kristin gets lots of calls asking for trees to be cut down.
 - IL Times – Bruce Rushton tree article last week.
 - Attendee comment: trees increase property values, good for environment, increase O2, decrease temperature.
 - Attendee comment: council cut the funds for the tree survey that would have allowed them to get grants.
 - Library security officer added
 - Social worker to work with Homeless Outreach Officer Chris Jones added; they work to get them the help they need and reconnect them with family and a productive life.
 - Need a lot more officers on the street to cover 600 miles of road; when an NPO is out of commission, there's no replacement.
- We need to work together to address issues in our city: YIMBY – Yes In My Neighborhood.
- Ward 6 is very diverse, and neighborhoods don't want the same things. All want walkability and appropriate development.
- Inconsistent public speaking at city council: Decatur limits comments to 30 minutes BEFORE council meeting.
- Encouraged neighborhoods to prioritize their list of what we want to see from the city: economic development, homelessness, downtown development, cleanup of problem properties?
- Dog barking ordinance – reduce from 15 minutes solid barking down at least to 10 minutes.
- Inadequate responses to citizen requests to address side effects of rail project. "That's just how it's going to be."

- Urban Development Committee – needed an older neighborhood representative in addition to realtors & developers.
- MotoMart selling hard liquor will pass city council on Tuesday. It's not a new liquor license.
- Ward 6 Cleanup April 18, same day as Earth Awareness Fair.
- Development news
 - Charlie R's (6th and Broad Place) new restaurant by Chip Kennedy of 5-Flavors Catering
 - George Ranks is doing well: they've developed a "music scene" – always busy
 - Paris Cleaners building (east of Free Press Coffee, near S Grand & MacArthur) is getting a neighborhood bar; the Conns are developing it.
 - Coombe-Bloxdorf building (S Grand & State) is being considered for a restaurant.
 - Phase II study for \$60m sports complex being considered for near Scheels; would be huge deal for sports tourism; for youth teams / competition.
 - CVS (6th & S Grand) no interest
 - Drive In Car Wash (near Laurel & 6th) closed & for sale
 - Famous Liquor on S Grand – still bad; nothing from City.
 - Dollar store in Town & Country closed due to rats (owned by City Corporation Counsel Jim Zerkle & Developer Corky Joiner)

Neighborhood Police Officer Mike Badger did not attend.

No Treasurer's report

Carol Kneeder, Springfield ICON

- Little red house at 313 E Ash is featured in the Springfield Business Journal this month. Now owned by Sangamon County Treasurer, so may be on demo list. Carol will go talk to them.
- Neighborhood Plans still not ready but will keep working on it.

Pastor Joe, Restoration Church provided water and cookies – thank you!

- Merger with Pastor Wilmart's congregation went well; he is now on staff.
- Planning regular community dinners when basement renovation is complete.

Curt Drew, President

- **Iles Park Project**
 - Still signing papers
 - Public input meetings to be held – they will let Curt know when.
- **Upcoming dates**
 - Easter Bunny – April 4, 2020 at Curt & Janine's house – photos!
 - Meeting April 6 – Track Shack
 - Garage sale – May 2 & 3, 2020 with Harvard Park
 - Ward 6 Cleanup April 18 – meet at Iles Park 8:45am
 - National Night Out (NNO) 6th year – August 4th. We'll create a letter for IPNA area businesses to get involved.
- **IPNA Signs**
 - Move 9th St sign to 5th & Cedar. Hanson will work with us.
 - Move 8th St sign to alley at Ash near 3rd - will wait until red house is resolved.
 - Sign to replace park sign is ready but waiting for nice weather.
- **Don't forget to vote on March 17!**

Next Meeting

- April 6, 6pm Track Shack

Respectfully submitted, Carol Kneeder, Secretary