

Iles Park Neighborhood Association  
Neighborhood Minutes November 14, 2020, 1pm  
Iles Park Pavilion (due to pandemic)  
7 attendees (it was cold and windy)



**Michelle Coffin, President**

- **SASED ( Sangamon Area Special Education District)** owns and will occupy the 8th Street credit union building.
- **Midway Liquors** –demolished; leave fence up to keep garbage out of neighborhood.
- **Homeless behind Rally’s** – Mike says they have a no trespassing sign but they don’t have a ban notice on file. Mike sent owners a letter asking them to sign a letter.
- **Signs**
  - IPNA Signs - remove landscaping; just have grass around them.
  - Neighborhood Watch sign – someone has one & the city will install it. Michelle to follow up.
- **RR Update**
  - Hanson referred Michelle to website: <http://springfieldrailroad.com/newsite/>
  - 6<sup>th</sup> St closing Dec 4-14 with possible additional nighttime closures.
- **Meeting location** – Hanson open to hosting our meetings
- **Facebook** – page vs group. Kristin recommends one or the other. Group allows public commentary that’s easy to find. We’ll remove page at some point in the future.
- **Coupon Books** are for sale.
- **Contests**
  - Identify leaves in Iles Park going now.
  - Holiday decorations upcoming
  - New year: Kristin suggested: Valentines, St. Patricks.
  - Use coupon books as prizes – \$25 value each; costs us \$12.50.

**Mike Badger, Neighborhood Police Officer**

- Mike has been our NPO for three years, and will be moving into street officer position at the end of December. Our new NPO will be officer Cody Musson. They will work together for a week before Cody takes over.
- **NPO program** continues, but NPO officers are on the street more and in neighborhoods less and will be less available. Enormous workloads.
- **Homeless**
  - Don’t encourage to camp in locations; it attracts additional people.
  - House across from our 7<sup>th</sup> Street sign has a homeless shanty in the back – put a tarp over a carport & making homeless welcome.
  - Anticipate jail may close soon due to COVID, except for felonies and domestic battery so homeless won’t go to jail.
- **COVID-19** mitigation
  - Doing proactive checks every day for compliance.

## **Kristin DiCenso, Alderwoman Ward 6**

- **COVID-19** mitigation
  - Indoor dining shut down Friday morning. Report indoor dining violations within Sangamon County: call Sang County Dept of Public Health: 217-321-2606. Health inspectors will check it out. Three restaurants already cited: D&J Café, Fox Run and ???
  - Masks everywhere since May 1
  - Tickets written in City of Springfield: at least 2 since Friday morning.
  - Most schools are closed; some parochial grade schools are still open.
  - **Firefighters**
    - 73 quarantined and 19 positives
    - They live together when on duty.
    - Also irresponsible behavior
    - Station near IPNA not affected.
  - **City Council**
    - Went back to majority participating via Zoom.
    - Entire meeting should be by Zoom.
- **Homeless**
  - Officer Jones talked to street homeless near Rally's and they don't want to go to warming center because they can't drink or smoke there and they don't like the people.
  - **Winter warming center** opened Saturday night 11/13?
- **Problem Properties** - Public Works not responding to emails: cc Nate Bottom and the Mayor. Getting an incredible increase in complaints with people staying home due to the pandemic.
- **Trash pickup** – what to do with sharps? Motomart and Walmart restrooms have sharps containers. If they are already covered, you can put them in the garbage.
- **Local elections in April** – Park Board, SMEAA and District 186 School Board.

## **Pat Murphy, Park District Police Chief**

- Park police are busier than ever before.
- If you see something, report it. If they are in the park and something doesn't seem right, report it.
- Pat described the new squad cars that will be used to check on the park.
- Child Sex Offenders are allowed to be in park but NOT when children are present. Child Sex Predators are NOT allowed within 500' of a playground. Call to report if you see someone in the park that is in violation of the law.  
See offenders on the State Police website:  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/Offender/Pages/ParoleeSexRegistrantSearch.aspx> You can search by your geographic location.
- Trim more evergreens up so less attractive for homeless to sleep under them.

## **No Treasurer report**

Respectfully submitted, Carol Kneedler, Secretary