

**Iles Park Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Minutes October 11, 2021
Iles Park Pavilion**



12 attendees

President Michelle handed out dates and links for the rest of the year and a press release from the Springfield Police Department about the Neighbors by Ring program.

Kristin DiCenso, Ward 6 Alderwoman

- Clean your storm sewer inlets to help avoid flooding on city streets.
- 5th & 6th Streets will have construction detours until 2025.
- Firehouse #6 will move to somewhere else (likely on Stanford); not in the middle of a neighborhood.
- City is hiring a lobbyist for State of IL issues.
- Vacant House Registration ordinance will cut time from 3 year to 1 year (with optional additional 1 year extension.)
- Walnut St improvements are done with visible bike lanes and cut down to 2-lanes to manage traffic.
- City is trying cutting down lanes on MacArthur to slow traffic.

Cody Musson, Beat 500 Neighborhood Police Officer

- Talked to owner of property behind Who Does Your Hair; homeless have been causing damage and homeless have been squatting there.
- Call police & fire department for homeless squatting in buildings – it's a fire hazard.
- Juveniles in Iles Park 12-13 names SPD is working on it in partnership with Park District Police. Hours from 3-5:30pm when parents aren't yet home but kids are out of school without supervision can be troublesome. Be vigilant then.
- Shooting near 5th & Cornell; kid shot in face is going to be OK. Kids playing with guns.
- Motorized bikes must abide by all rules of the road. If < 50cc, speed limit 30mph. If > 50cc, needs motorcycle license. Dirt bikes violating rules are difficult to catch. They no bikes or vehicles are allowed on sidewalks.
- Speeding on 5th & 6th and drag racing. Traffic guys are writing tickets. LIDARs are ordered; they show distance and speed and stand up in court; else dismissed.

Pat Murphy, Captain, Park District Police

- Juvenile issues escalated quickly with \$1,000 damage one weekend and \$2,000 damage afterwards. People in park bullied by juveniles. Park District Police have made a presence in the park with saturation coverage and enforcing all rules such as sitting on picnic tables. Numerous parental conferences with tickets written to parents. Taking photos and giving ban notices. Putting up trail cameras in trouble areas.
- Ban notices are for 1 year: all parks, bike trails, Robin Roberts Stadium (Sliders Baseball), Nelson Center.

- Park Police can do discretionary closures of the park and shoo everyone out.
- Be sure to let them know when something isn't right, when lights are out:
 - Crime in progress / emergency call 911
 - Call Park District Dispatch 217-698-6030
 - Call SPD/Sang Co Dispatch 217-788-8311
 - Pat's cell (texting non-urgent info / photos) 217-720-1172
 They will put up a sign in the park with numbers to call.
- As of July 1, police can't provide information on juveniles or mislead them to get confessions.
- Skaters at the skate park haven't been much of a problem except for music and cannabis.
- The efforts of the police have proven successful as the vandalism and bullying have subsided.

Park Project Update

- Park paths are coming – they will be asphalt.
- Lights have been upgraded to be brighter and will shine on pathways.
- Sat 10/16 dedicate ball field 10:30am: Joe Ramirez Field
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Iles Park Signs

- Sign that was in Iles Park is in Michelle's garage.
- [Followup: Carol will look into smaller metal signs for adding to existing light poles.]

Treasurer's Report

Balance \$2611.

Fundraising

Coupon books are available for \$25 on our website or from Connie Preston, Vice-President.

<https://www.ilespark.org/fundraiser/iles-park-fundraiser-savearound-coupon-books/>

Upcoming Meetings

- No meeting November or December.
- Officer's meeting early January.
- Will publish upcoming meetings early in 2022.

Respectfully,

Carol Kneedler, Secretary