

**Iles Park Neighborhood Association**  
**Neighborhood Minutes October 2, 2023**  
**Iles Park Pavilion**



8 attendees

**Officer Cody Musson, NPO**

- NPO number 217-741-0988 doesn't change even when the specific officer does. Officer Musson's assignment to Beat 500 ends Oct 15, 2024. Sargeant Leach, the previous NPO Supervisor has been promoted to Lieutenant.
- There is a suspect in the Taco Joint burglary, and a warrant has been issued.
- Homelessness is still an issue.
- Burglary to vehicles is happening everywhere. Don't leave valuables inside and lock vehicles. Keep homes well lit and use cameras.
- **Pre-Trial Fairness Act**
  - Class B&C misdemeanors get citations only. Arrests are made only if criminal activity persists. Unofficial list of Class B misdemeanors (from Carol):  
<https://www.andrewnickel.com/criminal-defense/misdemeanor/#:~:text=CLASS%20B%20MISDEMEANOR%20IL%20CRIMES>
  - Unofficial list of Class C misdemeanors (from Carol):  
<https://www.andrewnickel.com/criminal-defense/misdemeanor/#:~:text=CLASS%20C%20MISDEMEANOR%20IL%20CRIMES>
  - Class A misdemeanors are arrested right away. An unofficial list (from Carol):  
<https://www.andrewnickel.com/criminal-defense/misdemeanor/#:~:text=CLASS%20A%20MISDEMEANOR%20IL%20CRIMES>
- **Problem Properties**
  - 1801 S 4<sup>th</sup> (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> & Myrtle) has been burglarized many times; the current tenants are moving; there are bushes and small trees in the yard.
  - 1520 S 7<sup>th</sup> – homeless people inside and in the garage.
  - 1920 S 5<sup>th</sup> – scheduled for demolition – still open to homeless trespass.

**Jennifer Notariano, Alderwoman Ward 6**

- Was in attendance and provided her contact information. Call her if you have questions.
- Committee of the Whole will not meet on Halloween night; will meet Wed, Nov 1 instead.
- City is studying the feasibility of converting the final Dahlman Coal generator to natural gas; results are expected next year.
- The Railyard container restaurants on S 6<sup>th</sup> are expected to open in October.
- The McDonalds on MacArthur boulevard is slated to become the Chatham Café.
- Ground has been broken on the sports park near Scheels on S MacArthur
- Ground has been broken for the new fire station on Yale across from First Church of the Brethern.
- Oak St – nice brick street replacement is taking some time.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street resurfacing is coming.
- Lake II Study is on the website – looking for public comments.

**Chief Patrick Murphy, Park District Police**

- He is also an Alderman for the Village of Pawnee and they meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays & can't attend then.
- Year to date 2023 has seen 6,500 calls to Park District Police – the highest ever. It has been more than 60 days since the last criminal arrest in Iles Park. The Park District is hiring an additional full-time officer; they had 33 applicants.
- **Iles Park playground zipline repair** – replacement parts, often custom made, are on order.

- **Association events (using park district areas)** – we should ask for a permit with a waiver so we can plan ahead and have the area reserved (movie, ballgame, music). Ask Lori Crowder, who manages Park District permits. Amanda Tiffin has been organizing Movies in the Park.
- **Association events (using park district areas)** – inquired about future events in the park (movies, storytelling, music, ballgames...). We will need to get a permit with a waiver from the Park District to have the areas reserved. Ask Lori Crowder, who manages Park District permits. Amanda Tiffin has been organizing Movies in the Park.
- November 3 starts **winter bathroom hours** for park, with a port-a-potty. Bathrooms are closed and sinks and toilets removed due to freezing temps and breakage.
- **Bright blue lights** are being considered for problem locations. In the UK these have been used to discourage drug users due to the effect of not being able to see veins. The park district will consider them for the Iles Park pavilion. Such lights can be viewed in the restrooms at Thorntons on S 6<sup>th</sup>, on Ash in the overhead streetlights, and the streetlights between Barnes and Noble and Farm and Home. They would not interfere with regular use of the facilities (meetings, gatherings.)
- **Pre-Trial Fairness Act**
  - Damage to or theft of government property, such as within Iles Park, is an automatic felony. This does not apply to residences.
- **Sex Offenders – rules for being in the park:**
  - **Registered sex offender** can be in the park.
  - **Registered child sex offender** can be in the park but only if there is NOT a person less than 18 also in the park.
  - **Sexual predator** – cannot be within 500’ of the park.
  - The park district deals with infractions and word is out, with less than 10 arrests.
  - Different rules apply for those convicted before 1993.
- **Homeless**
  - 6<sup>th</sup> & Pine St is a hot spot for homeless, drugs, vandalism, theft and prostitution.
  - Restoration Church on 7<sup>th</sup> St is also used. Have not yet talked to Pastor Joe, but will.
- **Kia and Hundai cars that start with a key (years before 2022)** are easy to steal – dozens are stolen every week, and most are found out of gas or wrecked. If you have one of these cars, you can get the generic version of The Club at Harbor Freight to lock the steering.
- House 2 properties north of GrabaJava, which had been taken over by homeless, the floors ruined by urine and feces, and all copper stolen, is being rehabbed by Nathan Shanks, a Christian County police officer, and his friends during evening hours (after work.)
- Kiwanis Park, north of Magros, has new and improved soccer fields.
- Pumpkin Fest October 20 and 21 in Washington Park.
- Mowing/weeds contracts are let for 6 months.

#### **Michelle Coffin, President**

- \$2,809.58 in the bank account.
- **IPNA Officers for 2024 will remain the same:** Michelle Coffin, President and Treasurer; Connie Preston, Vice President; Carol Kneedler, Secretary.
- **Level Up**, the garden supply store at Laurel and 6<sup>th</sup> has a room where we can hold meetings in 2024. They anticipate having cookouts in the parking lot. The shop was broken into, but not much was stolen.
- IPNA fundraiser coupon books again for 2024.
- Next meeting Nov 13 at Track Shack
- 2024 meeting dates are TBD (likely 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays); locations: Level Up & the park pavilion.

Respectfully,

Carol Kneedler, IPNA Secretary