

Monon Yard Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Call to Order

President Gary Rubel called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves, shared where they live/how long they have lived in the area, and a favorite local place or activity.

Guests included representatives from **IMPD North District**, **City-County Councilor Ron Gibson**, and **Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate Carrington Sanders**.

Previous Meeting / Neighborhood Updates

There was no neighborhood meeting in August.

Updates since the previous meeting included:

- National Night Out was held on the first Tuesday in August and had a good turnout.
- The Global Academy opened for the new school year.
- A recently sold home on Guilford received a neighborhood welcome packet.
- A board position is now vacant following a board member's move from the neighborhood. Elections will be discussed at the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The neighborhood association currently has approximately **\$5,200** in its account.

Recent and upcoming expenses include banners, signs, and promotional materials for neighborhood events, including National Night Out and Music on the Monon.

City Council Update – Councilor Ron Gibson

Councilor Gibson provided an update on city priorities and the upcoming 2027 budget process.

Topics discussed included:

- Additional attention to street and sidewalk improvements.
- A new IMPD North District headquarters planned near 38th Street and Sherman Drive.

- Residents were encouraged to report potholes, deteriorating sidewalks, and other infrastructure concerns through the **Mayor's Action Center**.
- Councilor Gibson stressed that current service requests help establish the data the city uses when prioritizing infrastructure projects.
- Guilford residents specifically discussed severely deteriorated sidewalks and pedestrian safety concerns.
- Residents were encouraged to submit individual reports and provide service request numbers to neighborhood leadership so Councilor Gibson can assist with follow-up.

IMPD North District Update

IMPD officers reported that violent crime citywide has decreased; however, **property crime and crimes of opportunity remain a concern in Monon Yard**.

Of particular concern:

- Thefts from vehicles in Monon Yard have increased significantly compared with last year.
- Residents should **lock vehicles at all times**, including vehicles parked inside detached garages.
- Do not leave valuables or visible items inside vehicles.
- Kia and Hyundai owners should make sure applicable anti-theft updates have been completed and consider additional theft deterrents.
- Residents who see someone actively checking vehicle doors or engaging in suspicious activity should **call 911 while the activity is in progress**.
- Non-emergency incidents and reports can be handled through the appropriate IMPD non-emergency/reporting channels.

Residents were also encouraged to use official resources such as **CityProtect** and IMPD transparency resources to view reported crime activity in the area.

Monon Trail Safety

Residents raised concerns regarding increasingly fast motorized bikes, e-bikes, scooters, mopeds, and other users traveling at unsafe speeds on the Monon Trail.

IMPD explained that:

- Certain classes of e-bikes are permitted under state law while others are restricted.

- Indianapolis currently does not have the same type of clearly defined Monon Trail speed ordinance that some surrounding communities have adopted.
- IMPD does conduct bicycle patrols on the Monon when staffing and other responsibilities allow.
- Officers and city representatives agreed that clearer rules and infrastructure could improve safety.

Residents also discussed pedestrian crossing improvements, including HAWK-style signals and traffic-calming installations used at other trail crossings.

Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate Carrington Sanders agreed to take the Monon Trail safety concerns back to the appropriate city/Greenways contacts.

Vacant Properties and Homeless Encampments

A vacant/boarded duplex near 25th Street was discussed after residents reported individuals entering or possibly staying in the property.

IMPD explained that vacant properties may involve coordination between police, Business and Neighborhood Services, and other city agencies. Residents should report suspicious activity or unauthorized entry.

IMPD also provided an update regarding an encampment near the Monon/Fall Creek area. City outreach teams and IMPD have been working with individuals in the area, offering services and addressing public safety and health concerns.

Development and Infrastructure Updates

Several projects and areas of development along the Monon were discussed:

- Continued development near **34th Street and the Monon**, including the Junction at Fall Creek area.
- Additional clearing/development between approximately 34th Street and Sutherland.
- Townhome construction near existing apartment developments has resumed.
- Activity continues around **30th Street and the Monon**.
- The Cradle area will host an upcoming flea market, with the possibility of recurring monthly events.
- Residents expressed concern about additional parking pressure associated with events and new development.
- Additional redevelopment is taking place near McPherson and 30th Street.

- A new crosswalk is planned near **25th Street and Winthrop**, particularly important with the nearby school.
- Continued residential development along the Monon south of the neighborhood was also noted.

Residents were encouraged to continue using the Mayor's Action Center to report parking, infrastructure, pothole, sidewalk, and other city-related concerns.

Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

Carrington Sanders introduced himself as the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate serving the area.

He serves as a liaison between residents and the Mayor's Office and can assist with:

- Following up on Mayor's Action Center requests.
- Connecting residents with appropriate city departments.
- Traffic and infrastructure concerns.
- Neighborhood and city initiatives.

He noted the concerns raised about e-bikes, scooters, and Monon Trail safety and will relay those concerns to the appropriate city team.

Communications

Melissa DeRosier provided the communications update.

The latest neighborhood newsletter has been completed and printed. Volunteers took groups of newsletters/flyers to distribute along individual neighborhood streets.

Music on the Monon

Music on the Monon will be held:

Saturday, September 19

4:00–7:00 PM

29th & McPherson

The featured band will be **Touch of Grass**.

Residents are encouraged to bring blankets/chairs and invite friends and neighbors. Families, children, and dogs are welcome.

Event preparations discussed included:

- Neighborhood signs and flyers.

- Volunteer help before the event.
- Tents/shade for the band and event area.
- Extension cords.
- A portable restroom.
- Event waivers required for use of the property.
- Exploring an online RSVP/waiver option.
- Possible donated door prizes.

Volunteers who can assist with setup should arrive approximately 30–60 minutes before the event.

Trunk-or-Treat

The neighborhood plans to hold a **Trunk-or-Treat** event at the Triangle in October.

The final date has not yet been selected. Residents should watch Facebook, email, and neighborhood communications for details.

Neighborhood Text Groups

Residents discussed creating street-based group texts similar to the existing MacPherson group.

The groups can quickly alert nearby neighbors to suspicious activity, safety issues, lost pets, or other immediate neighborhood concerns.

Residents on Guilford, Winthrop, Carrollton, and other streets were encouraged to consider organizing similar groups.

Community Cat / TNR Initiative

Residents Caitlin and Manny discussed the increasing number of stray and community cats in the neighborhood.

They have been working to **trap, neuter/spay, vaccinate, and return (TNR)** community cats using area low-cost clinics.

Key points included:

- A significant number of neighborhood cats have already been spayed/neutered and vaccinated.
- Treated community cats can generally be identified by a tipped ear.
- TNR helps prevent rapidly expanding cat colonies and reduces health concerns.

- Typical costs discussed were approximately **\$60–\$90 per cat**, depending on the clinic and medical needs.
- Residents interested in helping financially, reporting community cats, borrowing traps, or assisting with the effort can contact the organizers.
- Information about the program and ways to contribute will be shared through neighborhood communications.

Loose and stray dogs were also discussed. Residents should contact Indianapolis Animal Care Services regarding stray or injured dogs when appropriate.

New Business / Action Items

- Residents should report sidewalk and pothole issues through the Mayor's Action Center and retain service request numbers.
- Neighborhood leadership will continue communicating with city representatives regarding Monon Trail safety.
- Residents are encouraged to lock vehicles, remove valuables, and immediately report active suspicious behavior.
- Volunteers will distribute Music on the Monon flyers/newsletters.
- Volunteers are needed for Music on the Monon setup.
- Final details and date for Trunk-or-Treat will be determined.
- Information about the neighborhood TNR/community cat effort will be shared on neighborhood communication channels.
- Residents are encouraged to organize street-specific neighborhood text groups.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM.