



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

202 South Fifth Street, Suite I • Goshen, IN 46528-3714
Phone (574) 537-3839 • communityrelations@goshencity.com
www.goshenindiana.org/crc

GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – Sept. 2, 2025 Historic Southside Walkabout

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025 | 4 p.m.

Location: Historic Southside Neighborhood (Begin and end at Restor Church)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Michael Wanbaugh opened the September CRC meeting in the form of a neighborhood walkabout. Attendees gathered at Restor Church before touring key sites across the Historic Southside. Attendees

- CRC Members: E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartzentruber, John Dolezal
- City Staff and Officials: Michael Wanbaugh (Director of Administrative Affairs/Interim Community Relations Director), Phil Lederach (City Council Liaison), Amanda Guzman (Communications Manager), Theresa Cummings (CDBG Administrator)
- Guests: Southside residents, neighborhood leaders, and community partners

2. Restor Church – Neighborhood Engagement

The tour began at Restor Church, where Lead Pastor Gene Troyer welcomed participants and described the congregation's mission to "know Jesus and our neighbor." He said this vision guides the church's work to be a strong neighbor in the Southside community.

Troyer outlined several initiatives designed to fill neighborhood gaps: hosting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, offering a Thanksgiving Meal To-Go the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, partnering with LaCasa to provide essentials for transitional housing residents at Oaklawn, and offering Sunday morning services for work-release clients. He emphasized that Restor focuses on partnerships rather than duplicating services, working alongside organizations already serving the community.

3. Chandler Innovation Academy – Career Pathways Expansion

At Chandler Innovation Academy, CRC members were joined by Superintendent Jim Dubois, Associate Superintendent Alan Metcalfe, and Career and Technical Education Director Jon Everingham.

Everingham explained that Chandler, a long-time elementary school, is now being utilized for early childhood education and as a center for Career and Technical Pathways. Current programs include the Certified Nursing Assistant program and welding, which provide students with certifications, hands-on training, and direct pathways to local employers in health care and skilled trades.

Fire Chief Anthony Powell and Division Chief of Education Travis Peak highlighted the RedHawk Fire Academy, now entering its second year. They reported that enrollment has doubled since the program began and that EMS training has been added for the 2025–26 school year. The academy prepares students for careers in fire and emergency services through hands-on instruction in partnership with Goshen Fire Department staff.



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The City of Goshen has partnered with Goshen Community Schools to support these initiatives, including financial contributions that broaden access to pathways. This collaboration underscores the City's commitment to preparing the next generation of professionals across multiple industries while strengthening local workforce development.

4. 10th Street Corridor – Completed Reconstruction

Public Works Director Dustin Sailor highlighted the completed reconstruction of 10th Street, which ran from Jackson Street to Reynolds Street. The project brought a full overhaul of the corridor, including replacement of the water main, new storm sewer and sanitary connections, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, resurfacing, and the replacement of galvanized and lead water service lines.

Stormwater management improvements included the use of subsurface retention and green infrastructure, such as PaveDrain infiltration systems, to handle runoff where outfalls had previously been insufficient. The upgrades improve water pressure, reduce service disruptions, and create a safer and more attractive corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, and residents.

The engineering work was coordinated with redevelopment projects nearby, ensuring that utilities and alignments supported long-term Southside growth without duplication of work.

5. Ariel Cycleworks Development – Housing Growth

Sailor also provided an update on the Ariel Cycleworks redevelopment at the former Western Rubber site. The \$30 million project is transforming a 4.2-acre brownfield into 135 market-rate apartments and approximately 5,000 square feet of commercial space. The plan includes amenities such as a makerspace, coffee shop, and connections to nearby trails and schools.

The project is funded through a mix of HUD financing, Indiana's READI program, and tax increment financing. Its design integrates stormwater management and pedestrian connectivity, complementing public improvements like the 10th Street reconstruction.

Sailor emphasized that coordinating utility and street work between the Ariel site and 10th Street upgrades ensured the redevelopment could move forward smoothly. Once complete, the project is expected to bring new residents, stimulate commercial activity, and serve as a model for redeveloping former industrial properties in Goshen. Completion is anticipated in 2026.

6. Plymouth Avenue Reconstruction – Street Improvements

Sailor described the scope and phasing of the Plymouth Avenue reconstruction project. Beginning August 11 and continuing through October 10, Plymouth Avenue is closed to local traffic only from S.R. 15 to just short of U.S. 33 to allow concrete work and full roadway reconstruction.

The project is being carried out in two phases. Phase 1 covers the west end near S.R. 15 moving east toward the railroad tracks. Once completed, Phase 2 will close the east end, from the railroad tracks to near U.S. 33. Work includes underground utility upgrades, a full roadway rebuild, and traffic safety improvements to create a more reliable and accessible corridor.



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7. Goshen Public Library – Community Resources

The walk concluded at the Goshen Public Library, where Library Director Ann-Margaret Rice and Community Engagement Manager Grace Thomas welcomed the group.

They described the library's evolving role as a community hub, offering more than traditional book lending. Services highlighted included expanded technology access, workforce readiness support, early literacy programming, and cultural events that draw in residents across age groups. Rice spoke about the library's role in connecting residents to resources, while Thomas emphasized outreach and partnerships that extend services into surrounding neighborhoods.