



## Community/Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC)



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The February 25, 2025, Community/Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan at 3:32 p.m. in-person and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

**Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:**

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=391967>

Persons in attendance included the following individuals representing the following entities:

Rachel Tomas Morgan	South Bend Common Council
Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers	South Bend Common Council
Matthew Neal	City Clerk's Office
Jim Pinkerton	Indiana University South Bend
Gwen O'Brien	Notre Dame

### **Updates from Member Organization Representatives & Suggestions for Spring 2025 Discussion Topics**

#### *Notre Dame Overview*

Gwen O'Brien, Director of Community Relations at the University of Notre Dame, updated attendees on recent developments. Gwen O'Brien stated that Back the Bend will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Notre Dame students will be helping to clean-up Kelly Park and the plot of land next to the historic Firehouse Seven (7) on the corner of Notre Dame Avenue and South Bend Avenue, known as Quigley Park. The plot of land had been owned by the City but is now owned by the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO). The NNRO has received funds through the Ignite grant to improve Quigley Park and to introduce new benches and solar powered picnic tables. Gwen O'Brien asked who could be contacted to discuss volunteer opportunities at Kelly Park.

Chair Tomas Morgan stated that she will find a contact in Venues, Parks, and Arts (VPA).

Gwen O'Brien stated that the NNRO is preparing a survey for the neighborhood to assess what the organization can focus on in the future.

Chair Tomas Morgan stated that she would be glad to attend the NNRO meetings.

Gwen O'Brien stated that she will make sure Chair Tomas Morgan receives an invitation.

#### *Indiana University South Bend Overview*

Jim Pinkerton, Director of Communications and Marketing at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB), shared recent updates. IUSB is holding a Family Day on March 8, 2025. Schurz Library is holding a fundraising trivia night on March 11, 2025. IUSB is hosting Mayor James Mueller's State of the City on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Six (6) IUSB students will be going to the Statehouse on March 26, 2025 to highlight the research being conducted at Indiana University (IU) regional campuses.

Chair Tomas Morgan asked if there were any new updates regarding the South Bend Tribune Building.

Gwen O'Brien stated that there were not yet any new updates.

Chair Tomas Morgan inquired about IUSB's new Chancellor Brian Pappas.

Jim Pinkerton stated that Brian Pappas is wrapping-up projects in his old position and will be starting officially in July.

Chair Tomas Morgan stated that the Near Westside Neighborhood appreciates the partnership between IUSB and the Civil Rights Heritage Center.

Jim Pinkerton is glad to hear that people in the community partake in IUSB programs offered in the neighborhood.

Chair Tomas Morgan stated that Notre Dame's 2025 Distinguished Speaker Series is hosting Helen Zia on March 19, 2025. Chair Tomas Morgan recognized the organization Hoosier Asian American Power (HAAP).

Gwen O'Brien asked if Notre Dame's Liu Institute is aware of HAAP.

Chair Tomas Morgan answered yes.

Gwen O'Brien stated that she can send information regarding HAAP to a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practitioners group at Notre Dame.

#### *Common Council Updates*

Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers stated that councilmembers are waiting to see the effects of pending federal grant freezes and stated that District Two (2) is doing well.

Chair Tomas Morgan stated that there is a lot of concern for South Bend's universities regarding the freezing of federal grants. The Downtown Final Plan presentation will be held at the Leighton Auditorium on Thursday, February 27, 2025. An open house will be held on March 4, 2025 and March 6, 2025 at the Howard Park Event Center for members of the community to hear more about the Downtown Plan. The City has been working with private investors to begin renovating vacant buildings.

Councilmember Gooden-Rodgers stated that the South Bend Bike Garage has moved to the Wayne Street Garage.

Chair Tomas Morgan stated that the next CCAC meeting will be on March 25, 2025.

*Adjournment*

Chair Tomas Morgan adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Tomas Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Chair