

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of the Meeting of April 20, 2005

Hooker Conference Room

Bloomington City Hall Building

Board Members Present:

Jack Baker - McDoel Gardens
Kathy Berry - Arden Place
Cynthia Bretheim - Prospect Hill
Ange Cahoon - Executive Director
Richard Carr - Southampton
Craig Harvey - Sunny Slopes

Mark Hooker - Eastside
Kathie Holland - Elm Heights
Ann Kreilkamp - Green Acres
Jon Lawrence - Bryan Park
Patrick Murray - Prospect Hill
Molly O'Donnell - Eastside

Visitor: Vickie Provine - HAND

1. With her usual scrupulous concern for punctuality, Kathie Holland called the meeting to order at precisely 7:00. After uncommonly lyric introductions of the Board members by the Board Members, the minutes of the March 16 meeting were approved as distributed. The Treasurer's report was omitted, due to the absence of the Treasurer, who was vacationing in England with the Secretary, and who had inadvertently forwarded to the Executive Director January's figures instead of those of March-April. Ange Cahoon contends, however, that our fiscal outlook in April is far more positive than it was back in January.
2. Vickie Provine announced the schedule for the Blooming Neighborhood Awards, which were initiated in 2001 to bring recognition to special accomplishments of Neighborhood Associations. Applications for this year's awards are due in the HAND office by the end of April. The awards in three categories – the Mayor's Excellence Award, the City Council Neighborhood Enhancement Award, and the HAND Neighbor of the Year Award – will be presented at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, June 4 at 10:00.
3. Jack Baker gave a spirited report of the CONA Planning Committee's March 23 meeting with Tom Micuda. His summary of the meeting is appended to these minutes.
4. In her Executive Director's Report, Ange Cahoon announced
 - the addition of two new neighborhood association memberships – the Near West Side and Park Ridge – bringing the NA total to 18, which is five more than last year. And more good news was to follow: Ange has received inquiries from two other groups, including one in the county, that are interested in forming an NA.

- openings on the following committees:

CONA Executive Committee: Carol Walter is unable to continue as Treasurer due to her demanding work schedule. She has kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer until her replacement is found. While a replacement is eagerly sought, nobody present was anxious to assume the responsibility for the fiscal health of CONA. Needed: a treasurer.

Zoning Ordinance Committee which will review the new, revised zoning ordinance. Craig Harvey, Jack Baker, and Ange Cahoon are presently committed to serving on the committee; there are three additional openings.

Fund Development Task Force will brainstorm for clever, original, and striking ways to raise funds for CONA. Currently Craig Harvey is working with Kyle Markham on a possible golf outing (see #5 below). Needed: 4 members for this Task Force.

The **Speakers Bureau** will be comprised of a group of knowledgeable persons able to share information about CONA at public functions, such as the Farmers' Market and the recent Home and Garden Show, which was particularly successful due to the number of persons attending. Needed: 3-4 persons.

- a recent mailing to request contributions to support the work of CONA. The cost of the appeal is about \$100, and Ange hopes to clear about \$850. Problem: the donor list is sadly out of date. Ange requests from each Board Member a list of the name/address/e-mail address of each member of each Neighborhood Association. A spread-sheet will be circulated in order to gather this information conveniently.

- CONA awards: Not to be outdone by HAND, CONA will likewise present awards in three categories (Neighborhood Association of the Year, Building Community Award, Neighbor of the Year) at the Farmers' Market on June 4. The new nomination form, which stresses the activity rather than the number of hours spent on a project, must be submitted by May 10 in order for the Executive Committee to render a sage judgment at its meeting the next day.

5. Working with Kyle Markham, resident jock Craig Harvey has been developing the idea of a golf outing to raise funds, specifically to support the Snowbusters Program. Their inquiries into the feasibility of such an event has uncovered a few problems, such as Scheduling: It has been suggested that the best time for the Outing would be at the end of August/the beginning of September, a period which does not allow sufficient time to organize the event this year, especially because of the question of Support: It appears that profits are gained mainly from sponsorships. Potential sponsors must be contacted and persuaded – a task that makes an August/September date a serious challenge. Ange noted that such solicitation can be done solely by CONA members because of our tax-exempt status.

6. For his Ordinance of the Month, Mark Hooker distributed and discussed the section of the Property Maintenance Code dealing with "Rubbish and Garbage" (PM305). He stressed in particular the ambiguity of the language and the resulting need for this section of the code to be rewritten for clarity. There are frequent violations of this ordinance: rubbish, including not only food containers but also tree branches and yard trimmings, that litters yards for long periods and thereby becomes a health hazard by attracting rodents; garbage piled in containers without tight-fitting lids; failure to remove trash containers from the street/sidewalk. This important ordinance, dealing with our health and safety, would benefit from both rewriting and enforcement.

7. The approach of Earth Day inspired several neighborhood to schedule clean-ups: Elm Heights, Eastside, and Arden Place. Green Acres has scheduled a plant sharing; Elm Heights will continue to pursue truth in advertising by planting some elms; and Eastside continues to work on its brochure. Kathie Holland transported a rabbit from her back yard to a site undisclosed. Any gardener whose young plants have been prematurely pinched may reach Kathie by e-mail at kch@hoosier.net.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Carr, Secretary pro-tempore, who has no illusions of matching the professional quality of the minutes taken by our Secretary, David Walter. May he return from England quickly and in good health.

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