

**Minutes of CONA Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., December 16, 2004**  
**City Hall Building**  
**Bloomington, Indiana**

**Board Members Present:**

6<sup>th</sup> & Ritter - David Walter

6<sup>th</sup> & Ritter – Carol Walter

Elm Heights – Kathie Holland

Sunny Slopes – Craig Harvey

Southampton – Richard Carr

Eastside - Mark Hooker

Park Ridge East – Gerry Steele

McDoel Gardens – Jack Baker

Eastside – Teresa Grossi

South Griffy - Kate Cruikshank

Sycamore Knolls – Robert Terrill

Sycamore Knolls – Shirley Davies

Ange Cahoon – CONA Executive Director

East Side – Molly O'Donnell

**Business Meeting**

1. The minutes from the November 17, 2004 meeting were approved
2. The Treasurer's report was approved. Carol Walter said that because CONA meets in the middle of the month, the treasurer's report is updated to the end of November. She and Ange will work on a budget for next year and present it at the January meeting.
3. The Board discussed a proposal from the Treasurer for an Administration Fee for use of the IRS 501(c) 3 non-profit status of CONA. David Walter reminded the Board that not all neighborhood associations have this non-profit status and that CONA applied for this in order to allow members to accept donations for their neighborhood association projects and to purchase items without paying state sales tax. It costs CONA the Executive Director's time to be involved with these projects in that official receipts must be mailed out and accounts set up for the project in the treasury. In the past this cost was absorbed by CONA, but the recent West Side Tour gave Ange an opportunity to keep track of the hours she spent – about 10 hours. Several other non-profit agencies that take in donations and distribute funds charge an administration fee. If the donations are used only for purchasing materials, then there still is a savings over paying the 6% sales tax and the entire amount is still tax deductible to the individual making the donation. After some discussion, it was moved by  
A motion was made by Carol Walter that a 4% administration fee is charged for managing funds utilizing the 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status for fund raising or grant administration on all future neighborhood projects. The motion was seconded by Craig Harvey and motion passed with a voice vote. The funds raised from this administration fee would cover the costs of the Executive Director's time, postage and bank fees.
4. The Board then discussed the difference between accepting donations for sponsorship of neighborhood activities and setting a fee for advertising businesses on our web site. The discussion revolved around allowing "Snow Buster" businesses and individuals to advertise their snow removal services. CONA has agreed to cooperate with the City of Bloomington in providing information to neighborhood associations on where to find volunteers to remove snow at no cost to elderly or disabled people who cannot physically shovel snow

or cannot afford to pay for this service. CONA also wants to make available to the public information about snow-removal services that will charge a fee for shoveling snow. It is this group that should pay for advertising on the web site. The question is two-fold, should CONA allow advertising and if so, how much should be charged?

The Board wanted to know the difference between a sponsorship where advertising is included as part of an event and advertising where someone is providing a service. Ange Cahoon said that sponsorship is where the name of the sponsor is displayed on advertising for a CONA activity. The sponsor's name would be removed from the web site once the activity is completed. Mark Hooker made a motion to allow CONA to accept sponsorships for CONA activities. Craig Harvey seconded this motion and the motion passed by voice vote. Going back to the discussion on advertising, Mark Hooker suggested that a lower fee should be charged to an individual such as a student and a higher fee be charged for a business advertising on CONA's web site. A disclaimer should be posted above the advertising to notify people that CONA does not accept responsibility for the quality of advertised services.

Jack Baker made a motion for the Board of CONA to grant permission for listing of services on the CONA web site for a service fee so long as a disclaimer is posted that this is not a comprehensive list and that CONA is not responsible for the performance of the service providers. Furthermore, the service fee charged shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by David Walter and passed by voice vote with one nay vote.

5. Jack Baker presented the Planning Committee report. A developer is requesting site plan approval for apartments on the former Stevens Olds-Honda site north of 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The project is a "by right" development that meets current zoning requirements and just fits 99 apartment units on the site. The Planning Department is not especially thrilled by this project, but they think that the developer may come back later with a different plan for the site if the apartment complex does not work out financially. CONA may want to consider asking for design standards and amenities beyond the minimum requirements. A developer is also proposing a new medical clinic on the former RCA site near the McDoel Gardens neighborhood. The neighborhood association has not been contacted by the developer for a meeting to review the design.
6. Richard Carr discussed the need to update CONA's mission statement. During the Executive Committee's retreat several suggestions were made to revise the statement. The shortest statement is "To help neighborhoods", which may be a motto for CONA. However, in review of the mission statement before the Board, each portion should speak for what CONA is, what CONA aspires to be and what CONA is aiming for as its mission. After a short discussion of the statement and a motion to make one correction to the statement, Craig Harvey made a motion to accept the rewritten mission statement. The motion was seconded by Molly O'Donnell and the motion was passed by voice vote with one nay vote. The new CONA mission statement is as follows: ***CONA supports the formation of neighborhood associations, provides advocacy for neighborhood issues and concerns, and aspires to make neighborhood in Monroe County safe, welcoming and desirable places in which to live.***

7. Ange Cahoon reviewed the Executive Director's report.
  - A. Ange reviewed the CAPE grant progress. No new requests have been made for the grant. Ange will work with Nancy Lumbley to finish up the work on the grant.
  - B. CONA and the City of Bloomington held the "Snowbusters" workshop. Representatives from two neighborhood associations attended.
  - C. The Westside Artist Studio tour on December 11 was well attended. CONA had a table at Fairview United Methodist Church.
  - D. The Tortilla Flats restaurant donated \$29.64 to CONA from the fund raiser.
  - E. Ange has scheduled Saturday, February 5 for the Regional Neighborhood Network Conference workshops.
  
8. Shirley Davies explained that the Monroe County Community School Corporation was looking at redistricting for the elementary schools and that they had decided not to split off a portion of the Sycamore Knolls neighborhood. The main reason for this was to allow children the opportunity to walk to their elementary school rather than to have to send a bus for them. Shirley wants CONA to support neighborhood association boundaries to MCCSC. This will be studied by the Executive Committee and a recommendation made to the Board.
  
9. Teresa Grossi reported that the Eastside Neighborhood Association has had a meeting with the City of Bloomington Planning Department and the Legal Department concerning their proposal for a Residential Neighborhood Preservation District. State law and local politics create issues with the adoption of this proposal. Planning has promised that a new neighborhood compliance officer will work on the worse violations of the rental housing code. Teresa added that about 25% of the housing is rental in the neighborhood.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.