

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

November 17, 1998

AGENDA

- I. Introduction of speaker
- II. Program: Ray Irvin, "Greenways from Vision to Reality"
- III. Minutes of October 21, 1998 meeting
- IV. Financial report
- V. Report from screening committee
- VI. Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association agreement to share office space.
- VII. Need for finance committee
- VIII. HAND workshop on leading an effective meeting
- IX. Proposal to form corp of volunteers for city commissions
- X. Other business
- XI. Meetings: NAG December 4th, CONA December 16th.
- XII. Adjournment

Minutes of CONA Meeting
November 18, 1998 7:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall
Bloomington, Indiana

Directors Present:

Chris Smith	Larry Crewell	Bill Sturbaum
Eugene Fritz	Fran Moore	Sue Mayer
Bill Boese	David Walter	Sue Shapiro
Betty Yoder	Mark Hood	Elizabeth Gallman
Kathie Holland		

Guests: Chris McGuire-Hastings – BUEA
Don Hastings – City of Bloomington Director of Planning
Bill Hayden, Jim Rosenbarger

We welcome new neighborhood association representatives:

Jack Baker, Jan Bulla-Baker and Elizabeth Cox Ash of the McDoel Gardens Neighborhood Association. Their neighborhood boundaries are Morton on the east, 1st Street on the north, Patterson Avenue on the west, and Hillside Avenue on the south. This is the area between the rail road yards and the former RCA property and located just south of the Hospital. Their neighborhood had their first organizational meeting and election of officers last month.

Bill Sturbaum opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Ray Irvin from Indianapolis Greenways Conference. He is the director of the organization that has restored the vision of Mr. George Kessler. In 1906, Mr. Kessler designed the first trails and pathways for the city. At that time, there were very few cars or bicycles with most people walking or riding the interurban. The purpose at that time was to create pathways that would connect the parts of the city along existing canals and rivers. Over 4700 acres were used for this system. Most of the improvements were wiped out in the 1913 flood and were never rebuilt until now.

Mr. Irvin gave a presentation on the development of the new plan and its implementation. Asking citizens what they wanted to see in their neighborhoods developed the plans for the greenways. He showed slides of before and after photographs of old landmarks and the existing pathways.

The first thing they had to do was to clean up the trash and junk cars that littered the original paths. Over 1 million tons of trash was removed. Old pathways were restored; bridges built and new land acquired to provide connections to existing pathways. Crime along the paths has decreased as the greenways are developed. He also said that people were so eager to use the paths that they would be going over bridges before they were completely finished.

Ray Irvin offered to conduct a guided tour of the Greenways to visitors from Bloomington. He stated that for every \$1 spent, \$5 in benefits has come out of the project. Many times, funds could be raised from cooperation from the business community in selling products associated with the Greenways Conference. At the conclusion of his presentation, the directors took a short break to look at the Greenways Conference display that Ray Irvine had brought with him.

2. Mark Hood gave the financial report. A check has been written for \$12.00 to HoosierNet to pay for our web site. CONA's checking account balance is \$639.36. We are now on a waiting list for a small post office box and we have a logo for stationary.

3. The screening committee reported that they plan on using a portion of the HAND grant to pay for staff. The position of Program Director has been posted at the SPEA Building and they have one application for the position. The directors felt that the position should be advertised in the paper. Eugene Fritz moved, and Mark Hood seconded that up to \$100 should be used for advertising. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. Chris McGuire reported that he BUEA Board met last night and agreed to a policy statement in favor of the exchange of time and money to CONA for office space for the CONA Program Director. The maximum cost to CONA would be \$400 per month. This is contingent upon CONA receiving the HAND grant. CONA's Board of Directors can wait until the grant funds are available and we have selected a Program Director to review the agreement.
5. Sue Mayer and Sue Shapiro are on the nominations committee. They are contacting people who might be interested in filling positions on the Finance Committee and someone to take the position as Treasurer.
6. Kelly Crouch and Bill Boese have been working on an application for the Bloomington Mediation Board. A copy of the grant application was handed out. The grant application is going to the Crime Prevention Collation. The Collation is hosting a seminar this week and a member of CONA is attending. \$100,000 is available; CONA is requesting \$31,400. A meeting to review grant application procedures was held by the Crime Prevention Collation, the CONA representatives were the only ones in attendance.
7. Bill Boese reported that another grant application to the Bloomington Foundation had to be in before December 11. Gene Fritz moved that we apply, the motion died for lack of a second. It was suggested that we wait until March to apply, it was felt that December 11 application deadline was too close to get the application ready and identify CONA's needs.
8. Bill Sturbaum requested that the directors let their neighborhood associations know that there are several city commissions that need volunteers to sit on the boards. Anyone interested in volunteering for a city commission should fill out an application at the city hall.
9. Mark Hood has asked Don Hastings to attend the next NAG meeting. Don Hastings said that the City Planning Department is two months into preparing for the first update of the Growth Policies Plan. They have started with collecting data on a long-range transportation plan for the City of Bloomington. The last one was done in 1983. This plan will also consider bike/pedestrian paths and a countywide transportation needs. They are building a computer program of where people want to go when they travel in Bloomington. There is a need for a comprehensive plan for all major topics, built from the ground up in an analytical way to show what works and what does not work for transportation. Don plans a series of hearings in February to identify common problems and interests. He wants to draft up the plan elements and give it to the Neighborhood Associations for review. At the next NAG meeting, Don will give us information on a timetable for completion of various tasks or milestones. He wants to broaden the input and get more people to participate.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.