

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

CONA NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

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Neighborhoods to meet to hear proposed changes in GPP.

Off Campus Issues Committee Meets

Committee meets to discuss problems with off campus living.

Westpointe Neighborhood Has Busy Year

A year ago last December the Westpointe Neighborhood Association was working to deter efforts of the county to build a juvenile detention center next to their neighborhood. There was no further action on the issue throughout 1999.

Westpointe is a subdivision located on the northeast corner of Allen and Adams streets its leader is Bill Boese, an RCA retiree.

Last May the neighborhood organized a cleanup of the area. Neighbors picked up 15 thirty gallon plastic bags of trash along the Allen and Adams street frontage.

During the summer the neighbors worked to get weeds cut in empty lots, new street signs erected and a drainage problem corrected. To let drivers know how fast they were driving down Allen Street, Westpointe borrowed the city's Speed Indicator Sign which flashes to their drivers the speed cars are going as they approach the sign.

In September more than 100 people attended the neighborhood block party.

When a contractor's equipment damaged the monument sign the neighbors had erected at the subdivision's entrance on Allen Street, its leader negotiated a donation from the contractor for repairs.

During the final weeks of the year the association passed out information about coping with disaster on three occasions.

Congratulations, Westpointe, for a job well done.

Neighborhood Initiative Project

To give student leaders from IU a glimpse of the city in which they spend four years of their lives, I.U. has linked I.U. resident dorm leaders with several neighborhoods. Students attend neighborhood meetings, learn about neighborhood problems and offer volunteer help. If your neighborhood is interested in linking up with student leaders call CONA at 333-6377 or E-mail cona@bloomington.in.us.

CONA Meets With Group to Discuss Conflict Resolution

Last November, CONA facilitated a panel discussion, "Creative Approaches to Resolving Conflict." Representatives from several conflict resolution programs presented different approaches to mediation. CONA is working to start a conflict resolution program as a means to solve neighborhood problems.

GROWTH POLICIES PLAN RECOMMENDS CONA

A council of neighborhood associations is one of the implementation measures called for in the Growth Policies Plan. Implementation D under the directive, Serve Diversity, recommends that the city, ...Establish a council of neighborhoods and enlarge the geographical size of neighborhood organizations to encompass more than single subdivisions....” To fulfill this recommendation, the city’s Housing and Neighborhood Development department has provided a grant for CONA in this year’s budget.

The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) is a non-profit organization that meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., in the McCloskey Room of the Showers Building. Its board of directors is composed of the neighborhood leaders who regularly attend CONA meetings. Every neighborhood organization is eligible for membership.

CONA offers support and advice in organizing and maintaining a neighborhood organization. Its Advocacy Committee works to help neighborhoods solve problems in the most efficient and least controversial manner. CONA forms other committees to work on community problems. It will take an active part in the adoption of proposed amendments to the Growth Policies Plan.

Organized neighborhoods serve a purpose in the community by giving residents a voice in decision making and by giving

elected officials a means of measuring support for proposals.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET WITH PLANNING STAFF

To inform city residents of proposed revisions to the Growth Policies Plan, neighborhoods city-wide have been grouped geographically for the purpose of meeting with the planning staff. The meetings will discuss changes proposed by the Growth Policies Steering Committee during a series of meetings it held last year. Neighborhood organizations are advised to meet with the other neighborhoods in their group so that they can develop positions of mutual benefit.

CONA will announce neighborhood groupings at both its January and its February meetings.

OFF CAMPUS ISSUES COMMITTEE FORMED

The Off Campus Issues Committee held its first meeting on January 12th. CONA formed the committee to discuss neighborhood concerns about off campus housing. Representatives of the neighborhoods, students, I.U. administration, apartment owners association and the city serve on the committee.

NEIGHBORHOODS FORM JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Near Westside Neighborhood Association and the Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association have formed a committee to plan the future of West Kirkwood. The

section of West Kirkwood from Adams to Walnut is the only section of this entryway to the city that is not slated for renovation.

Neighbors fear that with the completion of West Third Street from the bypass to Adams, West Kirkwood will carry an increased traffic burden. They are concerned for the safety of neighborhood children who must cross West Kirkwood at its busiest time on their way to and from Fairview School.

Neighbors want to form a plan for West Kirkwood that fits with the residential character of the area and that puts the major emphasis on public safety rather than on the moving of large amounts of truck and car traffic.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETS WITH ARCHITECTS

CONA’s Advocacy Committee met with architects Mark Cornett and Jim Rosenbarger to hear a proposal for designing West Kirkwood between Adams and Rogers streets. The committee agreed to support a proposal that will design West Kirkwood so that it will become an attractive entryway to the city and provide for neighborhood safety and design.

CONA INITIATES COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONA conducted a planning workshop on December 9th. Ten neighborhood leaders attended. The leaders formed the Community Planning Committee. The committee will be a voice in the amending of the present Growth Policies Plan.