



COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Issue 1

**Special Edition: Strategic Plan Update
Included**

January 2002



Accomplishments and Challenges

The original Strategic Plan for CONA was adopted in July 1999 and outlined the areas of work that CONA would address in the next couple of years. In September 2001, the challenge of revisiting and updating the plan was undertaken. CONA had grown in those two years, both in membership and achievements — internally and externally. CONA now has 18 member neighborhood associations but there are many more that CONA needs to add to its roster. That continues to be a goal for CONA. As a representative organization, we need to have all neighborhood associations as members to maximize our effectiveness.

Another primary goal for CONA was to bring mediation facilities into our community. The community had such services for our justice system with the establishment of the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). This program operates under the Citizens for Community Justice. Services were still needed for those disputes that could be settled outside the realm of the justice system.

CONA found other groups were also interested in this venture. In October and November 2000, mediation training was held for about 20 individuals. From this group of trained mediators, a steering committee emerged with the mission of establishing a mediation center or at least the availability of mediation services.

The Community Conflict Resolution Program (CCRP) was created to fill the mediation void. CONA is thrilled to be a part of its beginning and will continue to support its mission by service on the Steering Committee, being a Supporting Member, and contributing individuals to aid in mediation itself. And certainly, CONA will utilize its services as a source for the resolution of neighborhood disputes.

The accomplishments of the CONA Off-Campus

Committee are ones that benefit our entire community. This committee has found that focused collaboration efforts are essential to most problems or concerns. The expressed concern of "loud noise" by several neighborhoods is being addressed by the City through the Mayor's Office and HAND, through Indiana University under the leadership of Dean McKaig and Kirk White, and by CONA through our Off-Campus Issues Committee. IUSA has played a big role by distributing information to off-campus student areas. Also several members of the City Council attended meetings where the issue was under discussion to share their concerns and to support a collaborative solution.

CONA continues its focus on planning. A committee from CONA meets with Tom Micuda from the Planning Dept. on a monthly basis. Neighborhoods wanting specific issues addressed in these meetings should contact Jack Baker (ajbaker@indiana.edu) or 336-0323.

The "need to be informed" has caused CONA to expand an idea from the original plan — observers at all governmental boards and commissions dealing with issues that might effect neighborhoods. Yes, this IS an awesome challenge! If you would be willing to help CONA and neighborhoods in this way, contact CONA at cona@bloomington.in.us or 333-6377.

The strength of a nonprofit is often in its in-kind contributions, most notably, those of individuals giving of their time. CONA has instilled a system whereby a record can be kept of all the hours individuals put in for neighborhoods and CONA. Your CONA representative will be receiving information about this system and your neighborhood leaders will be receiving a mailing concerning it. Information will also be placed on the website (www.conaonline.org) and you can always contact CONA at cona@bloomington.in.us

Some accomplishments may be seen as small or inconsequential by persons on the outside of an organization but many such accomplishments are on CONA's list. The success of a grassroots nonprofit takes focused goals, patience, perseverance, self evaluation, and a lot of dedicated time and effort on the part of many individuals to achieve those goals. These are CONA's challenges.

Mission :

Neighborhood associations working together to create healthy, secure neighborhoods, provide organizational support, and serve as a unified, advocating voice for all neighborhood concerns.

Areas of Update Plan:

Advocacy 2

Operation and

Finance 2

Promoting Public

Image 3

Training and

Education 4

*Membership Development
next newsletter*

*See all of the Update on
the website*

www.conaonline.org



Welcome — but don't stay too long!



ADVOCACY

GOAL: CONA will become aware of activities affecting neighborhoods in any way and will respond in the appropriate manner on behalf of neighborhoods so the community sees CONA as the voice and conscience of neighborhood life.

Objective A: CONA will preserve and enhance the quality of life in Bloomington neighborhoods by advocating for their common good in the governmental process.

In the Action Steps, CONA addresses the procedures to be followed in identifying advocacy areas coming from neighborhood concerns, the possibilities of advocacy actions, the handling of neighborhood disputes, and the support of the Community Conflict Resolution Program (CCRP).

Objective B: CONA will become informed and educated about issues important to the development of the larger community and share this information and knowledge with all neighborhoods.

Action Steps for this objective involve the establishment of "Action Teams" which are observers to the public boards and commissions making decisions affecting neighborhoods. A system of implementation is

addressed. The importance of the Planning Committee and Off-Campus Issues Committee are also discussed in relation to their advocacy roles.

GOAL: CONA will serve as a resource for neighborhoods and neighborhood conflicts.

OBJECTIVE C: CONA will help neighbors and neighborhoods to locate the appropriate agency or individuals to resolve conflicts and tensions arising in the neighborhood(s).

Action Steps detail the role CONA will play in the solution of neighborhood disputes and its collaboration with CCRP for mediation when necessary.



Share! Share! Share!

OBJECTIVE D: CONA will collaborate with other community advocacy groups and/or activities that advocate a shared concept of rational, constructive discussion.

Action Steps validate CONA's intentions to be involved in activities of Safe and Civil City, Coalition for a Peaceful Community, and the National Issues Forum.

For a fuller explanation of Action Steps planned, see our website (www.conaonline.org).

OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

GOAL: (short-term) CONA will establish an operational framework that will allow accomplishment of stated goals and financial sustainability that will allow the pursuit of the goals as the main thrust of the organization.

GOAL: (long term) CONA will have an equipped office with staff (part or fulltime) and space where neighborhood groups can meet and where information can be made available; I.e., shared open files and library resources.

Objective A: CONA's Bd. of Directors (upon recommendation of the President) will create a plan determining the goals to be pursued and the action plans needed to accomplish those goals in a stated amount of time.

The President will present a plan to the Bd. of Directors at the September meeting which shall outline projects and concerns and a timeline of activities until resolutions are reached.

Objective B: CONA's operational structure will be determined by the demands of the goals accepted. Action Steps include developing a flow chart and this information will be disseminated through the website,

newsletter, and any other available media.

Objective C: CONA will develop a financial plan that will address both long-term and short-term goals.

Action Steps call for the formation of a Financial Sustainability Committee who will make financial suggestions and plans — both short term and long term. If such a committee is not formed, then the Bd. of Directors will need to assume that responsibility.

Objective D: CONA will acknowledge the time effort that neighborhood volunteers contribute to CONA and their neighborhood associations as part of the financial sustainability plan.

The Action Plan involves the establishment of an in-kind contribution program and recognition of those services.

Objective E: CONA will continue to work toward increasing membership as one source of income approaching both city and county neighborhoods.

Action Steps are covered under the adopted Membership Plan which will appear on the website (www.conaonline.org) Basically, CONA will expand its membership recruitment into the County since CONA is an organization that is to cover all of Monroe County in its mission of helping neighborhoods to become more aware of how they may make their neighborhoods safer, healthier and neighbors more comfortable in their abilities to solve neighborhood concerns.



Remember our feathered friends!

PROMOTING PUBLIC IMAGE

GOAL: All neighborhood associations, all governmental officials and the community at-large will be made aware of CONA, its mission, its vision, and its goals.

Objective A: CONA will convey a clear understanding of CONA and its work to all neighborhood associations.

CONA is a county-wide organization and as such should include our county neighborhoods.

Action Steps include sharing the information through this newsletter and posting the complete report on the website. We will use other methods of sharing this information with the public, such as radio or the newspaper.

Objective B: CONA will inform all city and county officials concerning CONA's mission, update, and work plan.

Action Steps will include preparing a document to be shared with city and county officials about CONA. We will begin dialogue with county officials about inclusion of county neighborhoods.

Objective C: CONA will increase its visibility in the community.

This is an important issue for CONA. The Action Steps include the development of a public relations plan that will promote and explain CONA's value to the community. We will utilize the services of some Indiana University students to help in this project. CONA will continue to use the website, newsletters, radio PSA's, Community Calendar, and the newspaper but other possibilities will be explored.

CONA will also make its presence known through events like the 4th of July festivities, the Monroe County Fair, and the weekly Farmers' Market.

A distinctive logo will be developed and used by all member associations so the identify of the group will be enhanced.

Can you help?
Throughout this plan, you can see the need for many hands. You do not have to be a



Join the neighborhood team.

**Special Edition: Strategic
Plan Update Included**

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**Building Community ... Neighborhood by
Neighborhood**

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Next Newsletter will cover Membership Development

member of the Board of Directors in order to serve on a committee, be an observer in our Action Team program, or help another neighborhood association to get organized. Give CONA a call (333-6377) or email cona@bloomington.in.us.

*Objective C: CONA will provide neighborhood associations with any requested support and/or training.
Objective D: CONA will use several avenues by which to impart educational information.
Objective E: CONA will encourage attendance at conferences, workshops, seminars, etc. that relate to neighborhood concerns or add to the knowledge of governmental functions.*

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

GOAL: CONA will provide needed resources and support to new and revitalized neighborhood associations. Additionally CONA will provide information or access to information that will strengthen neighborhoods and/or associations.

Objective A: CONA will help neighborhoods to develop new associations when none is presently in existence.

Objective B: CONA will encourage and support associations that are attempting re-vitalization.

The Action Steps in this area reflect CONA's desire to help neighborhoods and neighborhood association at whatever stage they may be. Also CONA



acknowledges the benefits of attending workshops, conferences and other networking types of activities to further enhance the creative juices that are sometimes needed for us to see some great possibilities for our community.

Working together is better.