

CONA

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

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CONA NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

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Off Campus Issues Committee to Meet

CONA's Off Campus Issues Committee will meet July 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the McCloskey Room of the Showers Building. CONA formed the committee to bring together representatives from the neighborhoods, the university, the student body and the Monroe County Apartment Owners Association in order to better conditions in Core Neighborhoods where students rent housing.

There is a growing problem in these neighborhoods. According to the Bloomington Police Department 61% of the 5089 calls made to the department during 1999 were for loud parties and disturbances. In each case an officer was dispatched. In addition to loud parties and disturbances, trash in yards and on sidewalks, overgrown lawns, animals running loose and cars illegally parked cause concern for home owners.

In most cases disturbances are the result of students living away from home for the first time and being unaware of the responsibilities of neighborhood living. The Off Campus Issues Committee will work to make students welcome to their new neighborhoods and to help them understand how to be good neighbors.

City to Issue Tickets

The city's Housing and Neighborhood Development department (HAND) will begin issuing tickets this summer to property owners and tenants who allow trash to accumulate in their yards, who do not mow their lawns or who permit shrubs or trees to overhang sidewalks. Those who park on unimproved surfaces in the yard will also be ticketed.

In the past, violators were subject to court action for violations of city code. Court action is a slow and expensive way to enforce the law. Neighbors were frustrated by the length of time it took to correct a problem. The entire summer could pass before an unsightly lawn or a trash filled yard were corrected.

Now, violators will receive a ticket similar to a parking ticket. A specified time will be given to correct the violation. If the problem is not corrected the fine will be increased and assessed on a daily basis.

CONA members supported the amendments to the Bloomington City Code giving HAND the authority to issue tickets.

Growth Policies Update

Mike Shea from the city's planning department reported on the revision of the Growth Policies Plan (GPP) to CONA's Neighborhood Association Group (NAG) early in June. Comments from meetings with the neighborhoods, a group of stakeholders, and the GPP steering committee have been reduced to writing. The report is 160 pages long and can be reviewed in the Indiana Room of the Public Library. Copies of the report will be available to CONA members at both the June and July meetings

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The planning staff will write a draft of the GPP revision based on the 160 page report. Once the draft is written it will be presented to the neighborhoods in a second series of meetings. Following these meetings a final draft will be prepared and presented to the Plan Commission and then to the City Council for approval.

Shea reported that there will be some revision in the fundamental public policies of the present plan. The goals and recommendations dealing with Core Neighborhoods, however, remain unchanged. There will probably be some form of design review in the revised plan. The sentiment of those participating in the discussions is to preserve the downtown and to protect the neighborhoods from harmful infill.

Form based zoning will be a new addition to the plan. Form based zoning uses a series of overlays rather than fixed zoning to govern development. These overlays will regulate the height, bulk, and density of new construction. Neighborhoods will have the opportunity to determine the use of land parcels within their boundaries.

The disparity between wages and housing costs in the community will continue to support the present building of apartments. Because of cost, fewer people will be able to afford conventional housing.

Student housing is expected to change. Students want privacy and are no longer willing to share bedrooms. There will be more housing built specifically for students and a lower demand for single family housing converted to student use.

Traffic in Bloomington will continue to be a problem. Automobile ownership is increasing at four times the population growth. A recent article in the Herald-Times reported that the increase in vehicle registrations in Monroe County was one of the highest in the state.

Future development will occur to the west. Perry Township and Richland Township will experience a majority of

the new growth. There is a sufficient inventory of land to accommodate residential growth until the end of the first quarter of this century. Commercial development opportunities will be along new State Road 46 to the west. Anticipating this growth, one development corporation has already acquired a square mile of land bordering the new highway.

Mediation Training to be Offered

Plans are underway to offer mediation training to interested neighbors in early October. Mediation training requires a commitment of 40 hours of class work. Those completing training will be certified as mediators. The training will be limited to 30 participants. The fee for the training has not been determined. Those interested should contact Marsh Bradford, director of Bloomington's Safe and Civil City program.

News from the Neighborhoods

Carol Darling reports that **Matlock Heights** plans to distribute welcome brochures to new neighbors this fall.

Of major concern to the neighborhood is the speed of traffic on North Dunn. Neighbors currently call the Bloomington Watch Commander who dispatches a unit to monitor and ticket offenders. The neighbors are currently polling residents to gain support for traffic calming possibilities. Pedestrians and cyclists are currently endangered by the speeding traffic on North Dunn.

The **Westpointe** neighborhood sponsored a clean up along its border with Allen Street. Neighbors collected 25 bags of trash and a large pile of junk. Other neighbors planted street trees at the corner of Allen and Adams Streets. The plantings are the beginning of a project to plant street trees along the southern border of the neighborhood.

McDoel Gardens has had a busy spring. It partnered with Bloomington Hospital and Bloomington Restorations to have two houses scheduled for demolition moved to new locations. The houses will be rehabbed and put on the market as affordable housing.

The neighborhood sponsored a clean up of Clear Creek which forms its western boundary. The clean up netted 13,200 pounds of trash, 470 pounds of metal, and 15 tires.

Neighbors have been discussing the idea of conserving their neighborhood with the hope that **McDoel Gardens** can someday become a historic district.

Prospect Hill's spring block party was fun for all. With the city's permission, neighbors blocked off the 300 block of South Jackson with barricades including 10 bales of straw at the bottom of Prospect Hill. Neighborhood children rode their big wheels and their wagons down the hill into the bales for most of the afternoon and far into the evening. Adults gathered in lawn chairs on the sidewalk, watched the children, talked, and enjoyed the food from the pitch-in.

Prospect Hill is concerned about the condition of Rose Hill Cemetery. The cemetery is part of Bloomington's history and has been mistreated by nature, vandals, and neglect.