



COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

P.O. BOX 252

BLOOMINGTON, IN 47402-0252

<http://www.bloomington.in.us/~cona>

January 19, 2000

Program Manager Report

1. Please refer to attached memos for approval
2. Volunteers:
SPEA Non-Profit management class is being approached to supply volunteers for CONA.
3. Representatives for CONA are needed for the following committees until a new program manager is hired:
 1. Neighborhood Initiative Project
 2. Blooms in Bloomington



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Submitted to CONA Board of Directors by Program Manager for Approval on January 19, 2000:

Mission Statement for Committee for Off-Campus Issues
Mission Statement for Community Planning Committee

Draft copy: January 10, 2000

Committee on Off-Campus Issues

Parties:

IU Off Campus Senator
IU Dean of Students Office
CONA rep
Neighborhood Rep
Monroe County Apartment Owners' Association
HAND

This committee was convened by CONA in order to develop a strategic action plan for dealing with the increasing student population within neighborhoods. The student population within neighborhoods brings both benefits and challenges for those who are permanent residents in Bloomington.

The committee will endeavor to identify the specific problems that neighborhood and student residents experience and suggest possible solutions to these problems. The committee is asked to generate a list of concerns and provide recommended solutions for each concern. The information gathered by this committee will be made available to all parties who are involved in this process and other interested groups.

Draft Copy: January 10, 2000

Community Planning Committee

Members:

Volunteer Representatives from various Neighborhood Associations

Objectives:

- Investigate current zoning ordinances that pertain to neighborhood associations in order to determine whether they have been effective and whether they are being enforced
- Research the current process for inquiries and granting of zoning variances determine whether neighborhood concerns have been adequately met
- Serve as a body to work with Planning on the updating of the current GPP process
- Refer cases to CONA Advocacy Committee

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Text for CONA brochure:

MISSION STATEMENT

"CONA Mission: to provide the training, resources and advocacy needed to enhance our citizens' ability to shape quality neighborhoods."

INTRODUCTION

As we look toward 2005, CONA members envision neighborhood associations which work to ensure safe, welcoming, environments for their residents based on each neighborhood's assets and strengths, and which work together with appropriate local entities to ensure that Monroe County remains a highly desirable community in which to live.

Less than half of Monroe County has organized neighborhood associations. CONA needs to inspire the other half of the community to see the possibilities of taking initiative and forming neighborhood associations. CONA stands ready to help by offering services such as seminars in leadership, communication, and problem resolution, and by providing "nurturers" to work along with prospective new neighborhood leaders.

CONA's vision is for the whole community: it becomes a reality neighborhood by neighborhood.

Organizational Goals

ADVOCACY

In the arena of Advocacy, CONA provides advocacy services (the voice and the ear) of concerns to neighborhoods. CONA will also spearhead and represent neighborhood associations so that they may be informed, educated and proactive about issues important to the development of their communities.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In the arena of Training and Education CONA will provides training, education and resource materials in the areas of association development, operations and leadership.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION

In the arena of Problem Resolution CONA provides conflict resolution for neighborhoods as part of an organizational plan to aid and prepare for cooperative living.

PROMOTING PUBLIC IMAGE

In the arena of Promoting Public Image CONA communicates its vision/function to its members and the greater public.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In the arena of Membership Development CONA recruits, promotes and helps to organize individual participation in neighborhood associations.

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January 19, 2000

Dear CONA Board of Directors:

I wanted to thank you for your assistance and cooperation over the past months. My experience with CONA has been very positive and exciting. Let me share with you a few observations that you may wish to think about:

1. CONA must continue to operate in a manner that fits with its non-profit corporation status. Steps to do so have already been taken by the adoption of the strategic action plan. Further work needs to be done in the area of formalizing membership on the Board of Directors and developing clear guidelines for membership status. Clearly, in order to preserve our non-profit status and maintain limited liability of the Board of Director members, closer attention needs to be paid to the organizational structure.
2. The relationship between CONA and NAG needs to be defined and explained to those who are interested in membership in CONA. The strategic action plan states that the name of NAG was to be changed. This needs to be addressed along with a clear policy articulation by the Board of Directors as to what the relationship between CONA and NAG are. Are they two different organizations? Can a neighborhood be involved with NAG and not with CONA, and vice versa. As program manager it was difficult to explain to new neighborhood associations as to what our organizational affiliation with NAG was.
3. Outreach to other neighborhood associations must happen in a systematic and organized fashion. We have new interest amongst various associations and condo associations and there needs to be a process that provides these groups with some incentive to join CONA.
4. Health of current neighborhood associations:
There are some associations that are flourishing and others that would welcome some organizational revamping. The Council of Neighborhood Associations will be as healthy as its constituent neighborhood organizations are. Thus, while CONA continues to expand, it must also serve a purpose for those organizations that are already members and are interested in support.

5. I strongly recommend a yearly retreat of a few hours for dealing with internal Board issues and strengthening the organizational vision. It is especially important at this juncture where we are 8 months into the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan.
6. We need to evaluate the following points:
 - a. Is the Strategic Plan working? Why or why not?
 - b. Are new committees functioning properly?
 - c. How can we increase the participation of Board members?
 - d. How can we increase the participation on non-Board members?
 - e. How is the Executive Committee functioning?
 - f. How can we raise funds for this next year?

This process would allow all members to feel that they are a part of a governing body and to address such issues.

I would be willing to serve as a third party facilitator for such a process at no cost, or another neutral facilitator could be approached.

Thank you again for your time and help. This has been a wonderful six months. I look forward to a flourishing future for your organization.

Sincerely,

Najeeba Syeed
Program Manager