

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS
September 18, 2013
Meeting began at 7pm, in the City Hall Hooker Room

Those present were: Elizabeth Cox-Ash, Paul Ash, McDoel Gardens, Ann Kreilkamp, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Dave Derkacy, Eastside, Jo Basey, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, David Walter, 6th and Ritter, Gene DeFelice, Waterman, Patrick Murray, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Sandi Clothier, Near West Side, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Sarah Ryterband, Prospect Hill, Kathleen Boggess, Park Ridge East

Jon Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. The first order of business is the election of officers, an Executive Committee, and two non officer positions, Treasurer and Secretary. He reminded the group that the current bylaws of CONA call for an Executive Committee of 5 officers, and two non officer positions, that of Secretary and Treasurer. The slate of candidates for the election, to be voted on are: Jon Lawrence, Georgia Schaich, Patrick Murray, Cynthia Bretheim and Carrie Winkel, as members of the Executive Committee, and non officers, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, Treasurer, and Sandi Clothier, Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

Jo Basey (Blue Ridge) made the motion to accept the slate, and Carrie Winkel seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor.

Elizabeth Cox-Ash asked that the minutes of the last meeting be amended to note the fact that the slate consists of 5 members of the Executive Committee, and two non officer positions, the Treasurer and Secretary. The motion was approved.

Next order of business: Current Planning Issues

Jon noted the activity surrounding the University Courts issue, where IU has stated their intention to remove 6 houses along E. 8th Street, to provide an empty lot for the Fiji's (Phi Gamma Delta), in exchange for taking over their current location adjacent to the Law School. There is much discussion about this proposal, and the comments have been overwhelmingly negative concerning the University's desire to remove these historically significant homes. WFHB carried a discussion during it's Monday evening news, in which Jeanine Butler, (a member of the Historic Preservation Commission and a resident of the area) discussed the issue, as well as 2 Indiana Daily Student (IDS) articles, which came out against tearing down the buildings.

Don Granbois mentioned that this issue has not been something the local chapter has had any voice in, but rather comes from the national Fraternity. David added that the National fraternity owns the house. Sandi mentioned that if it is on the interim report it may be covered by demolition delay (this turned out not to be the case). David continued that the Fiji's actually own the building that they are in, and that talking with the Trustees may be the best way to overturn the decision. The first step (in this process) is to get appraisals, and then the Fiji's must raise the

money for the construction. Don added that the tennis courts on north Jordan were offered, and are close to everything, and wondered why didn't they go for that. As to the question of why the law building would want to increase its size when the number of students has decreased, Don offered that it raises the ratings for Law Schools, if they have a large building. Elizabeth asked what the buildings were currently being used for; Jon said one is the student radio station, and the school of public health annex occupies another. Jon noted that the previous IU Master Plan indicated saving this area. Sandi suggested that CONA members begin a "Letters to the Editor" writing campaign to the Herald Times.

Jon summarized that bullet points need to be produced to facilitate those who are willing to write letters to the Editor, and that we might want to submit an Op Ed article to the paper, from CONA. Ann asked if we had any idea of how long we have before the demolition, and Jon respond that they (the Fiji's) need to raise money before they can actually make this happen.

IMAGINE BLOOMINGTON, this is a Standing report from Patrick and Jan, who are both attending the Growth Policy Plan visioning meetings hosted by the Plan Department. Patrick said that this is the last of the community meetings, sometime after the first of the year they will reconvene the steering committee to then turn the process over to the Planning staff, who will take the vision and begin to articulate it as ordinances. At the end of that process, it goes to the Planning Commission, where it may be amended, before going to the City Council. Council must vote to enact the ordinance, or UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) to become law. Potentially can take 1 to 1 ½ years, and there are a number of opportunities for public input during this process. The last meeting, it was noted, was ended without any real discussion when a group who had come to the meeting, basically hijacked the meeting, refusing to discuss anything or allow discussion to take place. There were about 40 people in the room, but the small group was able to monopolize the meeting and eventually it ended because no business could take place.

Bylaws Committee Report

Jon explained that the Bylaws committee, which is tasked with rewriting the bylaws, decided that rather than bring changes now to the group, that we would table any changes now, and review it carefully, and take our time. A suggestion was made to look at bylaws from other groups, to review language and ideas that we might want to incorporate. We're going to do a Google group's doc that will enable everyone to look at and make suggestions for changes. We have some obvious things that must be changed, but the entire document should be reviewed and updated.

Education Committee Report

Georgia gave a brief overview of what has been done in the past, and the importance of Education as a basic aspect of CONA. She explained that, in the past, we have had at least two trainings, and a regional meeting or conference at least once a year, and we usually tried to have a speaker come in at least once a year. She mentioned that Vickie Provine (HAND Neighborhood Coordinator) is planning a public training for

this November 14th, and the Education Committee has set a meeting for Sept 24 to talk with her about co-sponsoring the event. Georgia reported that she spent a little time on the internet and found that there are many possibilities for trainings, and many examples of neighborhoods working together with other NA's to create opportunities. Georgia sent around a paper to have those interested in working on with her sign up for the committee, with the idea that they would work on the yearly plan, as well as aspirations for the next 3 years, such as sending people to conferences, creating local projects, and defining goals.

Neighborhood Issues/ comments

Jo Basey, President of the Blue Ridge NA mentioned that she was interested in how other neighborhood associations communicated. She related that their directory, when it is mailed to each individual, is very costly, so she wondered how others get information around to each person. On April 2, she sent a note out to the people on the list that she received from Vickie Provine, but received very little information back, so she asked those of us at the meeting to add their neighborhood contact information and how they communicated. What she did find in the responses is that there is a wide variety in the 16 who responded; in Blue Ridge in particular, they use sandwich board signs, paper and electronic newsletters, paper and electronic directory, website. Her neighborhood is not ready for simply electronic newsletters. Elizabeth explained that in McDoel, Matt Press does both an electronic and paper newsletter, in order to keep older residents who are not connected via the internet; that is why both are used, until everyone is connected. Broadview has the same issues. Jon said that they, Bryan Park, have a younger neighborhood, of 750 residents, who are constantly moving in and out; they are currently in search of an editor. Their quarterly newsletter has been dropped, once a year they produce an electronic communication. Don mentioned that in Blue Ridge, if you want paper you pay more as a member. Cynthia, in Prospect Hill, said that they deliver twice a year. In Bryan Park, they used hanging bags handed out by the HAND department; also in Bryan Park, there is a Google group of 300 people, and, for instance, when someone suggested a neighborhood meeting about the library changes that are going to happen to prevent homeless use of library, they found that there was lots of interest on the subject.

Outreach/ Membership Committee

We are talking about having a holiday gathering to introduce CONA to new people, and to just get together and socialize as a group. It will probably involve a dessert pitch in, and a cookie exchange. Sandi will explore using the back room of Upland and asked for others to join her in working on the party.

Other Issues

Drive 25 Signs. Park Ridge NA representatives met with someone from the city to see about getting Drive 25 signs, and eventually made their own yard type signs, but they were removed by vandals. The Federal Law is now 25 mph for all cities. Paul said the City is beginning with the downtown area to install the 25 mph speed limit signs, and in McDoel, they just swapped out a 30 for a 25mph. Sarah asked why

don't we have a program for both bike and car speeds, seems we could put them out at the same time. Paul noted that Planning will be handing out bells and lights at the upcoming Open Streets event this coming Sunday downtown between Rogers and College on Kirkwood.

Trucks in Neighborhoods

Paul Ash noted the difficulties resulting from trucks in neighborhoods, and said they often get hung up when going through McDoel.

Jo Basey indicated a difficult issue in they are dealing with in Blue Ridge; they have had trouble with a resident who works with a non profit, allowing his home to be used as a place for semi trucks to be loaded with materials for the not for profit; they were told by HAND that they needed photographs before they could proceed against the parking issue. Elizabeth noted that a street designated as a commerce corridor can have businesses on street. Jon noted that at certain times of the year, in the Bryan Park neighborhood, Ryder trucks park up to 50-75 trucks along Washington and Lincoln Streets and in the church parking lots.

Success Stories- Collecting Success Stories

Elizabeth talked about the Aug 20 dessert fest, held by McDoel Gardens, where Matt Press allowed the neighborhood to use his new building on the B-Line. Neighbors brought cookies, pies and cakes, and up to 50 people attended. The NA does something social every year, for people to come out, they primarily have pitch ins. Paul, also McDoel Gardens mentioned that they will be getting sidewalks on Fairview Street, and will be putting in storm water drains; they've been working on this for 5 years. Also a neighbor is building a pizza oven in his backyard, where he can make bread.

Dave of the Eastside Neighborhood Association mentioned the grant that was obtained to install a sign for a house with was covered with straw bales. Cynthia, of Prospect Hill, wrote a grant for the first time, to paint the wall at the Building and Trades park in the neighborhood; the labor unions gave the park to the City, and they had a big wall that hasn't been tagged, so their grant involved painting the wall with a mural. Jo, of Blue Ridge NA, said they were going to apply for a Neighborhood Improvement Grant, but instead funded it themselves, 93 people participated. They also had a sidewalk that had become unusable due to overgrown trees along the road; they were able to talk to the City and have pressure put on them to take care of the sidewalk.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Action Items:

Produce bullet points, templates for letters to the Editor re: University Courts
Outreach committee to meet to discuss the CONA Holiday Party, Education
committee to meet with Vickie to discuss upcoming event

Outreach Committee:

Sandi Clothier

Jon Lawrence

Georgia Schaich

Don Granbois

Cynthia Bretheim (for 2014)

Education Committee

Georgia Schaich

Jo Basey

David Walter

Elizabeth Cox-Ash