

CONA Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2013, Hooker Room, City Hall

Jon Lawrence, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park; Elizabeth Cox-Ash, Paul Ash, McDoel Gardens; Don Granbois, Jo Basey, John Grigutis, Blue Ridge; Bill Milroy, Old Northeast; Georgia Schaich, Green Acres; Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill; Sandi Clothier, Near West Side; Gene DeFelice, Waterman; Kathleen Boggess, Park Ridge East; David Walter, 6th & Ritter; Debra Morrow, Broadview; Tim Mueller, Elm Heights

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. Introductions were made, and Jon Lawrence asked for additions or corrections to the minutes; the minutes were approved unanimously.

University Courts- a meeting that was scheduled to take place recently concerning the potential loss of important historic buildings along the west edge of Indiana University was snowed out. It was to be a meeting of 9 or 10 campus representatives, IU's Preservation Advisory group as well as IU trustee representatives and other local preservationists. The meeting has been rescheduled for February.

In related news, the Historic Preservation Commission has submitted an application to the Bloomington Common Council for Full Historic District designation; the area includes much of the Old North East neighborhood, including the University Courts area. The Council will address this issue at a future date of the Council's determination; we will be notified when that action is scheduled to take place.

Growth Policies Plan

Jan Sorby asked all interested in the visioning plan and the GPP to email her about our concerns, so that she can put together a cheat sheet for everyone interested in following the process. Please email your concerns and what you see as important issues to be followed, to: jan@sorbydesignstudio.com

Bylaws

There has not been a meeting of the bylaws committee, expected that the first meeting will be this spring.

Education

Georgia said the education committee will be meeting again in January. The committee met with Area 10 Agency on Aging, and Georgia brought two documents from them to hand out. One of the documents dealt with elder abuse, which she said is on the increase, according to a committee called Triad, which is affiliated with Chris Gaal's (Monroe County Prosecutor's office) office. Electronic copies of these documents can be sent out to those on the email list. Wendy Scott is the person in charge in this area. Georgia also informed us that Area 10 can help elderly neighbors unable to shovel their sidewalks; phone number is 876-3383. Gene DeFelice volunteered the use of his snow blower for those needing help. (Gene is on the west side, in Waterman NA, edefelic@gmail.com). Georgia also brought a gift bag from the Holly McGlochlin, of the Caring Committee, that she gave to one of the CONA participants.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth reported that she has set up 4 accounts for CONA, and has transferred \$1,000 from savings to the checking account, for the First Annual Party, scheduled for January 27th in the Fountain Square Ballroom. The account earned a bit of interest. She wrote a check for \$250.00 to CFC, for the room rental. Other money will pay for food, sound, etc. There was a call for questions regarding the report, and, with no questions, a vote was taken that was unanimous, to accept the Treasurer's report.

Outreach

Don Granbois reported on the progress towards the 1st Annual CONA Party, which as previously noted, will take place on Monday 27th from 7 to 9; Jon will be going before the City Council to invite them to the event. We think members of the HAND and Planning Departments will also attend. Don offered that we're thinking of this as First Annual Gathering, at Fountain Square Ballroom, and hope that all officers from the Neighborhoods Associations will attend. We think this is an opportunity to have a successful turnout. It is expected that the Neighborhood Associations will get the word out to all the active members of their associations so that we have good attendance.

There was also a discussion about the desire for this to be a chance for a pleasant gathering (not a way to corner City staff). The code of contact is to discuss but not to attack, keeping this a positive gathering, a meet and greet. While it's okay to bring up ideas we don't want this to feel like an ambush. There are other ways to make points, through emails and letters, but this is a positive gathering, an opportunity to hear from them rather than just push our point of view. Jon added that the Mayor has agreed to have regular meetings with us, so we can get our ideas presented to him and to City staff and to ask questions at these quarterly meetings.

During the gathering, Jon will formally introduce the Mayor and new Deputy Mayor, and council people and city staff, and will allow the Mayor to say a few words. There will be visual displays, things our associations have done, so if you have photos or other materials, please contact either Georgia or Jon so those can be collected. An email will be sent out to the Cona list, a message to neighborhoods, asking for materials and visuals.

Also the first draft has been created for the "Out and About" section of the Herald Times newspaper. It was suggested that it might go under the heading, Social Gathering sponsored by CONA, and that we also try to get a letter to the Editor, or, even better, an article that would be in the paper prior to the event, by Dan Denny or other reporter. It was also suggested that CONA put out a press release on the event.

MRF- Materials Recovery Facility

Gene de Felice brought up the proposal that the Solid Waste Management district is promoting now, trying to get the idea of a MRF supported by the community. He explained that while some want this facility, the funding is not complete for the study, although the Mayor offered amendment of 42,000 for the engineering studies to move forward.

Jon said it seems that the Mayor is moving forward on this, has inched it forward, and the consultant fees have been put back on the district to push this forward. A discussion followed; Cynthia asked what were the objections from the County Commissioners. It was suggested that if the profits, or return, was really that good, why hasn't anyone really gone after this before? It was suggested that Steve Volan be invited to the February CONA meeting.

CONA Gift Receipt

It was noted that there is an error on the current CONA gift receipt, but it has been corrected. It was decided that there was no reason for CONA to hand out receipts, but rather that CONA hold the form and that a Neighborhood Association ask CONA for a receipt when they have been given money that they need to have go through the CONA account, for tax purposes. Jon will send out a note to the neighborhoods explaining how this will work.

CONA Website

Jon introduced John Grigutis as a co-presenter at the recent CONA, City discussion on technology; John works for IU as an IT specialist. John has offered to help us create a new website for CONA, that other neighborhoods could easily use, and that it involves using a domain name the City is no longer using. It would be neighborhoodassociation@bloomington.in.us. John explained how this could be used for CONA. DreamHost offers free shared hosting account. A CONA account, with domain name and software installed, can get neighborhood sites. Jo Basey asked if there would be a limitation on neighborhood sites. It will provide adequate space for neighborhood sites and is a wordpress operation; the software was designed as blogging software, the pages are static content, with posts more timely, for events or actions or activities. There is a company that offers a more professional site; John explained that everything he put in is free, some sites are better than others. Jon wants a site that would allow for members to pay dues, via PayPal, or other service. Jo asked if there would be help to assist neighborhoods in getting sites set up. Jon mentioned that we could have twice a year CONA training, with assistance when neighborhoods need it. Jon asked if we want to get this up and running, and if so how many neighborhoods would be interested in it? A committee to move this forward would include Gene, Jon, Ann from Green Acres, John Huffman, and perhaps several others. John Grigutis - jonukas@icloud.com.

Other Questions/ comments

Tim Mueller mentioned that he has been looking at how West Lafayette work to control over occupation in their rental units. There was general agreement that this would be a good thing to follow up on and get more information about.

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:30pm

Agenda Items

Ask Steve Volan to the February meeting

Website – committee to meet to discuss setting up website

Party – Monday, January 27th, Fountain Square Ballroom, 7-9pm