

CONA MEETING, February 19, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm; present Tim Mueller, Bill Milroy, Paul Ash, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, Jan Sorby, Cynthia Bretheim, Georgia Schaich, Jon Lawrence, Carrie Winkle, David Walter, Don Granbois, Gene DeFelice, John Kennedy, Mark Randolph, Jenny Southern, Sandi Clothier.

Introductions were made, and the minutes were reviewed; Jan Sorby made a motion to approve, and Elizabeth Cox-Ash seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

It was noted that the CONA Meetings could be listed in the Out and About Section of the Newspaper.

Elizabeth Cox-Ash presented the Treasurer's 2 month report (there was no meeting in January) noting the checks that were sent out and the interest that has accrued on the account: Don made motion to accept, Carrie seconded, the motion was approved unanimously.

There was a brief discussion of the proposed Matlock Heights Conservation District, and the fact that there has been an amendment proposed by Council member Ruff, to exclude Martha Street from the District. It was discussed that this is not in keeping with the way Conservation Districts have been approved in the past, the district limits being discussed earlier in the process. It was discussed whether CONA should take a stand on this issue and the consensus was that CONA should support the district as proposed without changes. Since the Council meeting was happening at the same time as the CONA meeting, Jenny Southern volunteered to go to the meeting and represent CONA.

There was discussion about the fact that CONA meets at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings making it impossible for City Council members to attend a CONA meeting and difficult for CONA members to attend City Council meetings. Changing meeting days and times was discussed and eventually it was agreed that moving meetings from 7:00pm to 6:00pm was the best solution. Motion was made by Jon Lawrence, Cynthia Bretheim seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM TIM MUELLER- RENTAL CODES

Tim Mueller has been interested in how various college towns handle issues relating to rental enforcement; he gave a brief history of how rental code was established in Bloomington.

He also discussed how West Lafayette, by using a truth in advertising law, deals with occupancy issues, requiring both the renter and the landlord to certify the number of people to be housed in any unit. West Lafayette also charges more for rental unit certification, in order to make the program self funded.

After his report, there was a discussion about continuing to educate ourselves in this area, looking at other locations, and how other college towns address rental issues in ways we can learn from.

UNIVERSITY COURTS UPDATE

The proposal to create a Full Historic District in University Courts is being heard by Council, CONA supports this designation, and will follow the Council's deliberation on this issue.

GPP

The Plan Department is now beginning the process of writing the Ordinance for the Growth Policies Plan, and is no longer taking public input.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Don Granbois reported on the success of our first ever Annual CONA party, noting that the extreme cold didn't stop people from coming out, there were more than 120 attendees. Don asked for feedback on what worked, and didn't – it was noted that many people tried to view the slide show, but where it was set up made viewing difficult, how tables were placed, what can be done to improve next year. Elizabeth suggested that the poster be used again for next year's event. A survey will go out to those who signed up to gather more information.

WEBSITE

Jon told us of a program at IU called the SERVE IT program, which is an internship program through Information Sciences. This program involves filling out an application for assistance, and would allow for students to help in setting up neighborhood websites, train neighbors and help with ongoing issues. Jon will apply for this service and let us know when it is up and active.

GOOGLE GROUPS PROTOCOL

Jon talked about the need to create two lists, and rules for the Google groups, so that we don't have people dropping out because of the huge number of emails on any topic. The plans are to meet sometime in the upcoming month to come up with the basic guidelines. Jon, Cynthia, Jo, and Sandi volunteered for this group.

OTHER COMMENTS

The concept of an Air B&B came up, is this something we need to be looking at in Bloomington, is it happening, what are the implications?

MRF update- Larry Barker, head of MCSW, has sent requests to 20 private companies to ask if any would be interested in building a MRF facility.

The meeting ended at 8:31 pm.