

CONA Membership Meeting, April 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm, introductions were made. Attendees: Mr. John Whikehart, Deputy Mayor, City of Bloomington, Deb Hutton, Matlock Heights, Patrick Murray, Prospect Hill, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Vince Caristo, City of Bloomington Plan Dept, Jim Rosenbarger, Bike and Ped Commission, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Bill Milroy, Old Northeast, Marjory Hudgins, Old Northeast, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Ann Kreilkamp, Green Acres, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Jo Basey, Blue Ridge, Mark Randolph, Park Ridge East, John Huffman, Park Ridge East, Sandi Clothier, Near West Side, Elizabeth Cox Ash, McDoel, Paul Ash, McDoel, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park.

The minutes for February and March were introduced. Corrections noted were for Paul Ash's name (not Paul Cos-Ash) and for the spelling of Mark Randolph. Jan Sorby and Cynthia Bretheim (2nd) moved approval, and the vote was unanimous. A motion for approval of the March minutes was made by Georgia Schaich and Jo Basey (2nd), and they were also voted unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the Treasurers report, that no checks were written and no deposits made, and noted all CONA accounts with IU credit union. No questions were forthcoming, and the motion to approve was made by Jo Basey and Cynthia Bretheim (2nd); vote for approval was unanimous.

Jon Lawrence introduced the new **Deputy Mayor, John Whikehart**, as our City liaison, and informed the members that several representatives (Jon, Elizabeth, and Sandi) met with Mr. Whikehart recently on behalf of CONA. Mr. Whikehart stated he was impressed by the great CONA party that was held in January, on such a cold night, and that he was looking forward to working with us on behalf of the City. Mr. Whikehart stayed to attend the rest of the CONA meeting.

The city's Bike and Pedestrian Committee was represented at the meeting by Vince DeCristo, of the City's Planning Department, and Jim Rosenbarger, a Bike and Ped member. DeCristo explained that the Committee was formed in 1989 and was set up to advocate for and encourage interest in safe bicycling, pedestrian and running events. Right now they are working on a yard sign project to try to educate drivers on the effect of speed on accidents. They have several proposals for signage and would like to have feedback from CONA members, and are hoping to have this campaign ready by spring. Their idea is to have a number of signs made up, and then distribute them throughout one neighborhood for a time, and then move them to another neighborhood, moving throughout the city during the year.

A discussion followed, including questions about reflectivity, how the signs would be affixed to other signage, how many would be available (15-20) and the concept of a "lending library" format, where neighborhoods could ask to borrow the signs for a time. Jon offered that CONA is a willing partner in this enterprise, and that we will do what we can to promote it.

University Courts- Jon Lawrence noted that the only new information is that IU is hosting a meeting to bring together local preservationists and the IU Historic Review Committee. They are asking for input on how local preservationists feel about the potential loss of the University Courts neighborhood, and what that means to us. For concerned locals and others, it means the destruction of neighborhoods, and the concern that this might affect IU's ability to do demolish wherever they have the interest.

Growth Policies Plan- Jan Sorby noted that there will be a meeting on 21st with Jack Baker to outline ideas we think are most important and that this will be a primer for our meeting with City Planning

Director Tom Micuda at the May 21st CONA membership meeting. Since the GPP is what will guide the Planners in preparing the Unified Development Ordinance, the new zoning ordinance (UDO), this is extremely important. Members are asked to send comments, questions or concerns about what is important in your neighborhoods.

The Bylaws Committee has met a number of times, and pared the current bylaws down to a fairly small document. Jon passed around the updated, but not quite finished bylaw changes. He then went over the changes that have been made so far. The elections will be moved to October, and will take place at our Annual Meeting. The final draft will be sent out prior to the next month's meeting, and we will hopefully be able to vote on them at that time. Don Granbois applauded the work of the committee.

Education Committee- Georgia began by saying seven people, representing various groups, are interested in speaking at a CONA meeting. A short discussion followed about what sort of issues are CONA issues, and what are HAND issues, and how we (CONA) define our role (what does it mean to be "neighborhood serving, how is the Bike and Ped and Commission a CONA issue, what is not a CONA issue, what is redundant because HAND is already covering?). It was determined that we continue this discussion in the future.

Certified Tech Park- David began by saying the downtown is everybody's neighborhood. The Certified Tech Park, the 11 acres the City recently purchased, will be available for adaptive reuse, and new building. The Showers admin building will be sold, as well as several other buildings, and some has been removed for future development. The City's website has information on this area, and maps, showing what is happening and will possibly happen. One important aspect of this area is that it will not include student housing; Tom Micuda (Planning Director) has been working on development standards. A group when to Ft Collins, Co. to look at their Green Development program there. Some ideas being considered for this area are an underground heating system as well as many other green initiatives. Dave concluded by saying again that there is a great deal of information about this on the City website, entering CTP in the city's webpage search area will take you to the Certified Tech Park. Jon noted that this topic will be added to CONA's monthly agenda.

Success Stories-

Jo Basey (Blue Ridge NA)- Jo noted that last year, the Neighborhood Cleanup, which was financed by the residents, spent over \$5,000 and took 5 days; the cleanup involved tree cutting and removal, cleanup of trash and clutter, and unwanted items. This year the time was limited to 2 days and cost just over \$3,000; over 100 homes participated in the Neighborhood Cleanup. The Neighborhood Association has been in existence for 35 years.

Elizabeth (McDoel Gardens)- The new guidelines for Historic District (McDoel was elevated from a Conservation District to a full Historic District by the City Council late last year) are done. She said a letter from HAND Director Lisa Abbott has been sent to all homeowners so everyone can look and comment on them, along with a ballot that will allow homeowners to vote on the new guidelines. The neighborhood also participated in a cleanup, the location of which was altered due to a funeral, but hundreds of people turned out, and four or five pick up trucks of discarded goods and yard waste was removed, with recyclable items going to the H4H ReStore.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34