

Council of Neighborhood Associations Meeting June 18, 2014

Attendees: Marjorie Hudgins, ONE, Sarah Mincey, Guest Speaker, Community Orchard Project, Patrick Murray, Prospect Hill, Jo Basey, Blue Ridge, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Antonia Wallace, Guest Speaker, Community & Family Resources AmeriCorps, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Sandi Clothier, Near West, Deb Hutton, Matlock Heights, Kathleen Boggess, Park Ridge East

Vice Chair Georgia Schaich called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. The first order of business was the Treasurer's report; Elizabeth reported that no checks or transactions involving the bank occurred during the previous month, and that interest of a few pennies accrued on CONA's savings accounts. The motion to approve was submitted by Marg Hudgins, and seconded by Kathleen Boggess; the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed around, but without the list of attendees; it was decided to give the group the opportunity to review the minutes and to vote on them at the next meeting when those who attended could be added to the minutes.

Georgia introduced Sarah Mincey as the representative for the Community Orchard Master's Program. Sarah began by giving a little background; she has been with the Orchard as a volunteer for three months, but is an Urban Forest student, and has worked with neighborhoods to measure trees. The Community Orchard Master's Program is a volunteer run organization and is interested in expanding the boundaries of the current Orchard program, building an **Orchard Community** which would expand into neighborhoods. Her goal in talking with CONA is to initiate communication regarding developing orchard space and interest in the neighborhoods, and to share the vision and gather feedback from CONA that she can take back to the Community Orchard Program.

The Orchard is interested in encouraging neighborhoods to participate in the Master's Program, and there is money available (a \$5,000 Tree Giveaway Grant) that can help to pay for the initial investment in trees; the idea is to create a public/private partnership and a network of people who would create these neighborhood orchards. Neighborhoods would apply for the grant and would guarantee some credibility, longevity and accountability for the program. The idea is that people would plant trees in their yard, and that neighbors would share both the work and the harvest. Asked about how this works when the trees are on private property, Sarah replied that as long as the neighborhood is behind the project, it would be okay; of course there would have to be some guidelines established to know this could and would work over time. She suggested that neighborhoods would need to look at how they (the Neighborhood) would take care

of the orchard and maintain it. If there is interest within a neighborhood, they would organize an order for nursery plants, and a planting day, which would include education from the Bloomington Community Orchard. Sarah received questions and feedback from the CONA members and invited all to encourage their NA's to come out to the Orchard to learn more.

Georgia then invited Antonia Wallace, an AmeriCorps volunteer working with the Community and Family Resource Department, to speak with CONA. Antonia passed around materials on Emergency Preparedness, including a pamphlet on creating a Neighborhood Disaster Plan. She will be with the department until November of this year, and is interested in working with neighborhoods to help them in creating a plan; so far interest has been meager and she is hoping that we members of CONA can help spread the word to our individual neighborhoods.

UNIVERSITY COURTS

Marjory Hudgins updated the members on the University Courts issue, and the newspaper article which talked about moving several of the homes; she said this is probably the best outcome we can get from the issue, to save at least three homes. The trustees are meeting now (June 18-20) in South Bend. As to the fraternity that will be built here, the current drawings show balconies, which is an additional concern for the neighborhood, since this will encourage partying and its related noise issues.

Growth Policies Plan (GPP)

Patrick Murray indicated there is no new information, the group is not meeting now, and it will be fall until we know more about the proposals for the GPP.

CONA BYLAWS

Cynthia Brethem made the motion to accept the new bylaws as they are written and Elizabeth Cox Ash seconded. There was a question about elections, and when elections would take place. Cynthia explained that since officers had just recently been elected, there would be no reason to hold another election this year, but to wait until the following year, at which time half of the officers would be elected, with the remaining elected the following year. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor of accepting the new CONA bylaws.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Georgia talked about the survey that was done at the Blooming Neighborhoods event; neighborhoods were asked to participate in a series of questions about their neighborhoods and to note what issues, or problems were most important for each neighborhood. A discussion followed.

SUCCESS STORIES

Kathleen Boggess noted that this year's Neighborhood Yard Sale was very good; they partnered with Tamarron, Park Ridge and Park Ridge East, and created a special newsletter announcing the sale, and advertised in the HT in the Out and

About Section, which is free. They had a map of 31 households having sales, and this encouraged others so they ended up with 40 households setting up for sales; they also scheduled H4H ReStore to be there at the end of the day to take away those items that did not sell. It was the most successful sale they have held and we really pleased with the results.

Elizabeth Cox Ash noted that McDoel also hosted a yard sale in May, and that their neighborhood, which has been upgraded to a Full Historic District, has completed their new guidelines (these must be updated for a full district) and they are out to the neighborhood and will soon be ready to bring them to the Historic Preservation Commission.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

Neighborhood covenants were discussed, do they expire, who could CONA get to talk about them? Cynthia Bretheim wondered if Planning would have information about each neighborhood's covenants.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.