

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)
Monthly Membership Meeting
John R Hooker Room, City Hall, September 17, 2014

Attendees: Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Kathleen Boggess, Park Ridge East, Sandra Clothier, Near West, Deb Hutton, Matlock Hts, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Carol Gulyas, Near West, Judy Berkshire, East Side, John Kennedy, Spicewood, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Jo Basey, Blue Ridge, Gary Divine, Serve IT, Amy Crozier, Highland Village, Bill Milroy, Old NorthEast, David Walter, 6th & Ritter, Tim Mueller, Elm Heights, Gene DeFelice, S.Rogers subdivision.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06, and introductions were made. Jon asked that we allow our speaker to talk with us prior to the minutes and treasures report because of his class schedule.

Jon opened the meeting by introducing Gary Divine, of the Serve IT Center, who is here to speak with us briefly about the project he and his team are working on with CONA. The executive committee met with the IT team a week and a half ago to gather information for the CONA website. Gary is leader of the IT design team. He said that there are six people on the team right now, and that the development guys are working on the CONA website first, and then will develop a template for the other sites. The (EC) meeting was to gather thoughts about what the website should be about. The IT team put CONA ideas on a board and clustered topics to see the important aspects of the site. They had a design meeting today, and things are going well. Gary added that Jon asked to have a volunteer tab added to the website, and they will work to add that to the website. Gary needed to leave to attend another class and the CONA membership thanked him for the work he and his team are doing for CONA and the neighborhoods.

Jon continued that he and John Grigutus meet each Friday with the IU IT group, and that we now have the bloomington.in.gov. for our website and will need to have more people on this committee as we move forward. The website will be an ongoing meeting topic for CONA meetings. Jon also noted that one of the beauties of the Serve IT process is that they will replace members who leave (to graduate) with other students, so there is consistency and ongoing support. They have, for other groups they have assisted, met at the Monroe County Library to update and answer questions.

Secretaries Report/ Minutes

Jo Basey asked about when the covenants expire, she said it wasn't noted in the minutes, and she was unfortunately unable to come to the meeting where they were discussed. Sandi explained that the covenants do not expire unless specifically noted in the document, that the covenants were explained as essentially a contract, that explains what the neighborhood is required to do or not do. They only expire if there is an expiration date within the written contract. The move to approve the minutes was made by Cynthia Bretheim, and Jan Sorby seconded; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Cox-Ash reported that CONA made a total of 33 cents interest; no checks were written, and no deposits made, this is what we are earning on what is in the bank. As relates to the budget, Jon mentioned that he asked Vickie Provine, of HAND, about the possibility of CONA applying for a grant, and that it was suggested that CONA be written into the budget. Jon asked for feedback from CONA in this regard; he didn't want to say yes on our behalf without having support and a discussion about this from the group. On advantage of having this be a line item rather than a grant is

that a grant wouldn't allow for money to be used for food, and that is the largest expenditure CONA has for its Annual January Party. Elizabeth voiced support for the line item, especially because the Small and Simple grant cannot be used for refreshments. David mentioned that in the past when CONA sent delegates to Regional Neighborhood Meetings, they put in a proposal to HAND and were able to be reimbursed for their expenses. A discussion ensued about the precedence of the City giving money to CONA. It was noted that if CONA does not find ways to fund itself, and funds the Annual event solely with money in the coffers today, that it would run out of money in 3 years. Jo Basey agreed that the line item is something we should accept; it is a good will thing for the town and for neighborhoods, and it would certainly help us in the work we do. Deb Hutton agreed, and said this is a vote of confidence by the City as to what CONA does and can do, and is a no brainer that we should accept. General consensus was for acceptance, provided it is approved, that we agree to this line item proposal.

The motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Kathleen Boggess, and seconded by Deb Hutton, all agreed, and the motion was approved.

Discussion- Charging dues from Neighborhoods

Jon asked that we have a discussion regarding charging neighborhood associations a fee for being members of CONA. David Walters noted that when this was tried in the past, about half the neighborhoods quit coming. Jan Sorby and Elizabeth Cox Ash voiced support for a fee. Jan also noted that the Bryan Park NA could run their funds through CONA, and technically everyone (all NA's) can do that now, since we are an umbrella organization for the neighborhoods. It was asked how Neighborhood Associations can access the tax id number, and how donations to your neighborhood can go to a CONA account. Kathleen asked if this is this a pass-through? Elizabeth responded that if someone gave a check to Park Ridge NA, they could have it made out to Park Ridge, in care of CONA, and the money would go into an account for Park Ridge. CONA could then write a check to Park Ridge for the amount.

Jon noted that these are all benefits of membership in CONA, and can help to justify charging a fee for belonging. Discussion continued and Cynthia proposed a motion to approve fees. After continued discussion it was decided to continue the discussion to next month's meeting.

Current Planning Issues- the GPP and UDO

Jan Sorby said there is nothing to report at this time.

University Courts

Although University Courts is not on the agenda this month, Jan wanted to draw our attention to the Bloomington Restorations, Inc. (BRI) tour that will take place October 11th. One of the homes that was scheduled to be torn down by IU, on 8th Street in University Courts, is a home designed by Alfred Grindle. That home, which will now be moved to another location, and 2 others are on the BRI house tour, which is highlighting the work of Alfred Grindle. In addition, there will be 2 churches on the tour that were designed by him.

David also noted that in the University Courts area, the garden area will be cleared out by the end of this month, with new footings and foundations for the homes to be moved will be done this year.

David also gave us an update on the Tech Park at 11th and Rogers. The buildings are now all gone, leaving a grassy field that area residents have been using for playing Frisbee, and has also been used for overflow parking. In the next couple of weeks there will be a review of the findings of buildings. Brock Ridgeway, architect, is working to determine the possible water flow requirement for the City of Bloomington Utilities, and an Request for Proposal (RFP) is in the works

for landscape architects. The first step to find out who is interested in coming up with a full blown proposal for the landscape of entire area. Also what standards would apply, since the City is the current owner, what Covenants should be attached are also being discussed. Jo Basey asked about the status of proposals for Senior Housing, across from Cert Tech park. David said nothing is set for the 11 acres, whether it ends up being all housing, and includes all 11 acres, or ends up being piecemeal, with housing, commercial, is unknown right now. Georgia Schaich added that the plans are forward thinking, looking at self-sustaining buildings. Dave said this is a long, involved process that may take 10 years to realize; we need to bring people in to the plan, and solar could be one of the things that could work here. The question is how to make this area be self sufficient for 48 hours. Eliz question asked about senior housing, is that still in the mix? David said that the master plan is on the website, and that there are mandates as well as desires for these spaces.

Bylaws Report - no additional information

Education Committee

Georgia Schaich said the committee met, and is talking about the CONA survey. One of the topics has to do with concern about over occupancy in the City. Jan noted that there was an article in the HT newspaper, about a change in the law, where a landlord would only be charged only five dollars per inspection. They wrote to Lisa (Abbott, HAND Director) to find out about the effect on Bloomington, and she said that Bloomington has been grandfathered, so we are not facing this issue right now. Vincennes is now out of business because they have no money to cover this issue. A question was raised as to whether that same grandfathering locks us in to the way things are going right now, and prevents any changes or updates.

Technology Issues were covered previously, with the Serve IT guest.

Old Business- Jon noted that we have said we would have quarterly meetings with the City, and need to pursue this. He asked if members have other questions relevant to your neighborhood; we would like to meet in the next month or two, with a committee of 4 or 5 CONA members, and Tom Micuda and the Planning staff.

Cynthia Bretheim brought up the transportation issues that she and others from Prospect Hill have had regarding the 650 new residents of Patterson Point. They have been concerned that there would be much traffic through the neighborhoods, with people taking shortcuts through the neighborhood, but so far the residents are doing well driving without going through the neighborhood. There is also a concern about bicyclists, and a need for a greenway plan and a bike path, to the neighborhood. Cynthia said that the City met with them and got the timers out right away.

Sandi Clothier asked to hear from others about their concerns with bicyclists, not wearing reflective gear at night, whizzing by pedestrians on the BLine and other issues. Bill Milroy suggested there are two different issues here, the City, and bicycle riders. So we need engineering enforcement, someone barreling through a stop sign should be ticketed, and we also need ways to educate the cyclists and get them to wear florescent vests, etc. It was noted that bells scare people, so that isn't always a good option, and maybe this is something we should be talking about with Tom. It was also noted that in Europe they ticket people for failure to obey traffic laws.

JB Salvage

Since the CONA meeting, the HT has reported that the proposal has been denied by IDEM, due to failure to meet City zoning laws.

Carol Gulyas, Near West Side NA, spoke to the group about a website that is now up that deals with the newest proposal for a Trash Transfer Station at the current JB Salvage location. It was suggested that the Neighborhood Association craft

a letter that will go out to the CONA group, with information about access and links. It was also suggested that this letter should go to Matt Pierce and Mark Stoops.

CONA Party in January

It's time to start planning our 2nd Annual CONA Party. Jon said that we went through what worked and didn't, what food was eaten and what was left, etc. after last year's event. Deb Hutton and Amy Cozier agreed to be on the CONA PARTY COMMITTEE.

Neighborhood News

Deb Hutton, Matlock Heights, said they had a neighborhood picnic; she also noted a problem a neighbor is having with another neighbor and received some good advice from others at the table.

Jo Basey, Blue Ridge, noted that a small sinkhole has recently opened up, just past Oliver Street; the sidewalk has dropped.

The Near West Side Neighborhood will host this year's Open Streets on October 5th. The street will be closed to traffic and will have many activities highlighting movement and using the streets for pedestrians. It will take place from 12:30-5:30, from Elm to the BLine and is a community event.

Bryan Park Neighborhood: a neighbor found that you can get a tap to get on the fire hydrant, to water plants in traffic circles, or other uses. It takes a big device to open the meter, and is \$100 deposit, and 8 dollars a month. Jon noted this might be something that CONA could do for neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.