

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, October 15, 2014

Attendees: John Kennedy, Spicewood, Sandra Clothier, Near West, Deb Hutton, Matlock Hts, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Sophia Hauserman, Near West, Kathleen Boggess, Park Ridge East, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Tom Shafer, Park Ridge East, Amy Crozier, Highland Village, Bill Milroy, Old NorthEast, David Walter, 6th & Ritter, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Judy Berkshire, Eastside

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Secretary's Report Introductions were made and Jon asked the members if there were changes or additions to the minutes; there were none. Deb Hutton, Matlock Heights, motioned for approval and Bill Milroy seconded; the vote was passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report Elizabeth reported that we again made thirty-three (33) cents profit, from savings. Georgia Schaich motioned to approve, Jan Sorby was second, motion approved unanimously.

University Courts- Jon asked if there was any recent action; Bill Milroy said the FIGI's and their attorney and architect came to the last Old NorthEast NA to tell the neighborhood that their design will conform to the surrounding architecture. They were questioned about the plans to have a porch in the back, which would allow for parties and unwelcome noise. Bill said he felt this was an attempt to mute criticism from the neighborhood association. Asked if the FIGI's will own or lease the property, he was unsure. Dave Walter said that the FIGI's will not own the property, and IU will continue to own. Don Grandbois noted that the FIGI's are a good organization as Fraternities go. Dave also said the IU trustees met and reviewed the architecture. Weddle Brothers will be responsible for the foundation. Currently the parking lot is closed off, and people have been moved out of the houses in preparation of the move.

Growth Policies Plan- there is nothing to add this month concerning the Growth Policies Plan.

Certified Tech Park- David reported that there is grass coming up where the former IU Publications building was located, the work is 95% finished. There were 13 responses for RFP for landscape architects. Brock Ridgeway is working on underground utilities, the straightening out of 10th St. is major area that he is working on. The RFP was put out last week for developers interested in any or all of the sites within the Certified Tech Park; this information is on the City's website. Questions responded to by Dave about senior housing, and yes, it is in the master plan, will have to see what comes in. Jan asked about Architectural guidelines, and that information can be found on the website. Elizabeth asked about whether the land will be sold or leased to the developers. Dave mentioned that Hilton Gardens is on a long lease, after so many years will revert back to the city. Dave doesn't know if this is the case in the Certified Tech Park, but said that the Redevelopment department (HAND) doesn't want to own the property any longer than necessary.

Neighborhood Issues – Jon asked if anyone had specific issues they would like to bring up.

Bill Milroy responded that there is a new development proposal at High Point (11th & Walnut); they appear to be ready to go with the development. Asked if there are proposed zoning changes, Bill does not know.

Judy Berkshire, from the Eastside NA, said she received an email from John Burham, stating that he was applying for a variance to allow 5 unrelated adults in his property. The Neighborhood Association wants to oppose the variance, and said all the surrounding area is zoned for a maximum of 3 unrelated adults. Judy received feedback from the group as to the importance of opposing this variance, and the possible negative effects of its passage. It was agreed that this is a perfect example of what CONA should be involved with, and Sandi made the following motion and Elizabeth provided the second, and the vote to approve was unanimous:

CONA supports the current occupancy limits for single-family residential neighborhoods and believes that variances should not be granted for the purpose of increasing occupancy.

Jon noted that when a neighbor was recently having difficulties with a noisy neighbor, Patty Mulvihill (City Legal), advised that the neighbor ask for an affidavit from the City for dealing with neighborhood problems. That affidavit will then be vetted and investigated. The person signing the affidavit needs to know and understand that if a citation is issued from that affidavit the person signing the affidavit can and will most likely be commanded to give testimony at either a Board of Public Works hearing or a hearing in front of a judge with the Monroe County Circuit Court. City Legal emailed the notice to Jon to share with his neighbor and can share that with CONA.

Deb Hutton mentioned that CONA has already helped her neighborhood; citing help she was given at a previous meeting concerning help persuading a neighbor to clean up yard waste.

Sandi brought up the JB Salvage issue, and informed the group that the request for a Trash Transfer Station has been denied by the State, the reasons cited included failure to meet zoning requirements. The west side neighborhoods are extremely relieved to have this issue resolved, hopefully forever. However, a related issue is continuing, and that is that the closing of the Vernal Pike exit on 37 will be closed, a potentially positive thing for the Near West Side, but not so good for Crescent Bend neighborhood.

Crescent Bend NA member Carrie Winkel continued that 17th St will become the northern east west corridor, with an overpass that will link Vernal Pike to the west of I69 to 17th St via Crescent Bend to 17th St. The area is torn up now with construction and there are needed upgrades that the City says they are not able to complete. Paul noted that it gets worse because the City will have to upgrade 17th St. but the State is pulling the funding. The state will be limiting the side roads from over 100 to just 9. It was suggested that perhaps CONA can advocate for infrastructure along 17th St, and help support the Crescent Bend neighborhood. This will be brought up for discussion again.

Amy Crozier of the Highland Park NA noted the problems with zoning in her neighborhood: the City has designated an area for an Adult Entertainment zone along Curry Pike. It seems this is part of the I69 zoning, and Amy asked the group if they had any ideas about what can be done? She has enlisted the school kids to get this information out to the neighborhoods. Jon suggested that this is something we will bring to the Planning Director when we meet with him.

Georgia of Green Acres noted that the train going through town is going much faster than it used to and because of the type of chemicals and other toxic substances, people in her neighborhood have expressed concern about the safety and potential danger associated with the faster speeds. Don noted that by upgrading

the track they've been allowed faster speeds, and wondered if there anything we can do about what trains are carrying. Georgia will do some research and report back.

Committee Reports

Education Committee- Jan spoke for the education committee, saying that they are working on tools to give to the HAND department to help them in preventing over occupancy, and are beginning to put together a short survey to see where there are over occupancy problems. She noted that they have observed more rental signs, and are seeing large houses converted to rental. The survey is to determine if there is an over occupancy problem perceived within single-family neighborhoods. It is to be distributed to all Bloomington neighbors through their CONA representatives. Data will be analyzed to understand patterns and trends within Bloomington's single-family neighborhoods. If problems are discovered, CONA may suggest strategies to help the HAND department enforce compliance.

They would also like to have each person (CONA and neighborhood associations) take this survey as well. Elizabeth asked about adding a question about Airbnb's to the survey, noting that within the next year there will be legislation going through council to limit number of Airbnb's and adding a rental tax to those establishments.

Technology Committee- The Serve IT group is working on a website, and will meet again next Monday with the Executive Committee; the students want images of neighborhood and CONA events for the website. We will also need to write a short paragraph about the photos. Images need to be in jpeg or gif, png, and the photos can be of neighborhoods, neighborhood events, the farmers market, and other CONA related activities or sites.

Jon mentioned a new website available from Police department called Nextdoor. Jon said he is passing along the information to neighborhoods, and they may want to use it, but it is a huge company, and it decides what neighborhood you are in. You have to have 10 people to sign up, and it is a lock down site only open to people who join, so you cannot find the website if not in the neighborhood.

Returning to our website, Jon asked what links the group thought were important to have on the website, and several suggestions were made.

Party Committee- hasn't met yet, but will in the next month. Jon noted that we did receive the \$1000 grant from HAND, which will allow us to create the budget. The date for the party was discussed, and January 26th, Monday night, was suggested; it was noted that there is no IU basketball game that evening.

Old Business -Last month we discussed charging dues for member associations, and it was generally agreed that this is good for the organization. A discussion ensued as to whether this would entail a change the bylaws. Judy said Eastside is totally behind the dues. It was suggested that CONA provides many benefits for neighborhoods, and that we need to recruit neighborhoods to be a part of CONA by listing those advantages. Again, the question of changing bylaws was addressed and David offered that we make it policy, rather than a change in bylaws. Everyone agreed to this suggestion.

New Business- A follow up to a previous conversation with Jacqui Bauer, of the City's Economic and Sustainability Department is that the residential and business grant will be awarded very soon, and Bloomington may have a chance. There are only 10 cities across the country that will get this grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58