

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, November 19, 2014

Attendees: Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Tim Mueller, Elm Heights, Jenny Southern, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Carrie Winkler, Crescent Bend, Amy Crozier, Highland Village, Jo Basey, Blue Ridge, Gary Divine, Athina Bikos, Andrew Denta, Clayton Tow IU Serve IT Group, Ryan Conway, Bryan Park, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Judy Berkshire, East Side, , Deb Hutton, Matlock Hts, Sophia Hauserman, Near West, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Tom Shafer, Park Ridge East, David Walter, 6th & Ritter, Sandi Clothier, Near West.

The meeting was called to order at 6pm. Jon introduced the Serve IT group and discussed what they are working on right now; they will be presenting us with several examples of Logos to get our feedback.

Approval of Minutes; there were no corrections or additions; Elizabeth Cox Ash made the motion to approve, Cynthia Bretheim was the second, motion to approve was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Elizabeth explained that there is only a small amount of interest showing, with no checks written or monies collected. She explained that next month will see a drop when we show the expenses for the CONA party. Motion to approve was submitted by Jo Basey, Jan Sorby offered the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Jon asked to change the agenda to allow the Serve IT team to talk with us. Athina, the design lead for the Serve IT team, showed us five logos and asked for our feedback.

After discussion, it was decided that favorites were Nos. 1 and 3, and that Athina would work on these to present a finished presentation of each of the two for our approval

Nextdoor, a National "community" website- The Bloomington Police Department has asked us if we would like to be a part of a new national private company called Nextdoor. Jon explained that it is very generic, and that it has a few cool features, a place to report a crime, communicate with others in the neighborhood. Deb Hutton noted that it can modify neighborhood boundaries. Jon noted that it is locked down, so not very searchable. Jenny said it can be used as a bully pulpit, based upon those who begin the process, so it's important to have people who do not have an agenda operating it. Deb expressed that she liked the website, and thought perhaps the Serve IT group could be asked to take a look at it next semester to give us their view of it's pros and cons. Sandi noted that this is a private corporation that would have access to all the information put on the website, and that they say on their site that they collect and archive that information. She noted that this information can be shared and sold to anyone, so is problematic in these days of corporate and government surveillance.

Reports- Rental Property Code Survey, The Education committee has been working on this for some time, and is looking for feedback from residents as to what effect issues with rentals have on the quality of life in our Bloomington neighborhoods. Is there a perception of over occupancy? Jan Sorby went through the rental questionnaire with the group present and took suggestions for improving the survey. The purpose of the

questionnaire is to help HAND with regulatory issues having to do with rental properties, so issues relating to homeowner occupied structures were not included in the survey.

Party Committee. Don Granbois noted that our 2nd Annual CONA Party will take place on Monday, Jan 26, from 7-9pm at the Fountain Square Ballroom in Downtown Bloomington. Deputy Mayor Whitehart and Mayor Mark Kruzan will be there, and Bloomingfoods will cater the event. We have a \$1000 budget, mainly for food, and there will be a cash bar. We would like to have four people signing people in to the event, to help the line move faster than last year. There will be a map of Bloomington neighborhoods, and the IU Serve IT group will have a presentation.

Don asked for volunteers to help with poster distribution, the sign in table, and set up and clean up afterward. A number of people signed up, but we still need volunteers for set up and clean up, as well as at the sign in table.

Certified Tech Park- Dave Walter reported that the Landscape Architecture firm, Anderson and Bolander, have been selected to do the landscaping design, selected from twelve to thirteen proposals received. A Request For Proposal (RFP) is on the City website, for development proposals, and is due in December. According to Denise A Martin, many people showed up for the RFP. The area currently owned by BIM (metal salvage business) and Bender Lumber are also included in this development area. Asked about what buildings would remain, Dave said the Historic buildings have to stay, but the rest will be removed.

Neighborhood Issues – Jon asked if anyone had Neighborhood Issues they wanted to bring to the table.

Jenny Southern noted that the City has quit enforcing violations regarding parking in the yard, saying that City Legal told them that the City didn't have authorization to walk onto anyone's property to give a ticket. Jan Sorby noted that this would be a good item to put on list to talk with the City about.

Carrie Winkel discussed the concern her neighborhood has about getting upgrades to the area on 17th Street, where work is progressing on a new roundabout. She said she was advised to lobby City officials in order to get upgrades for 17th St. improvements. There is a gap from where the round about starts to further down the road and no work has been done on this. INDOT will fund at 80%, but the city needs to come up with \$800,000 in additional funds. Jon suggested that we will ask about getting Tom or someone else from Planning to the next one or two CONA meetings.

Dues for CONA members -Language about dues was discussed, and it is agreed that we will not be asking for dues until we get the website up and running. Dues might be used in part to help with the cost of the CONA annual party, money for conference attendance, educational programs, or other hot tops such as alternative transportation initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.