

**Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)
Monthly Membership Meeting
John R Hooker Room, City Hall, March 17, 2015**

Attendees:

Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park; Normajean Bunton, Pigeon Hill; Harriet Kullis, Batchelor Area; Paul Ash, McDoel Gardens; Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel Gardens; Bill Milroy, Old Northeast; Jo Basey, Blue Ridge; John Grigutis, Blue Ridge; Jan Sorby, Bryan Park; Marjorie Hudgins, Old Northeast; Deb Hutton, Matlock Heights; Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend; Joan Keeler, Batchelor Area; Amy Crozier, Highland Village; Georgia Schaich, Green Acres; Mary Ann Williams, Batchelor Area; Judy Berkshire, Eastside; Kelly Bangs, Matlock Heights; Steven Bangs, Matlock Heights; John Kennedy, Spicewood; Davis Hart, Maple Heights; Tom Shafer, Park Ridge East; Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill; Amy Swain, Boys & Girls Club; David Walter, 6th & Ritter;

Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Introductions were made, and the first order of business was to approve the minutes of the February meeting. After review, it was noted that Georgia Schaich and Judy Berkshire were at the last meeting but not noted in the minutes. Deb Hutton moved that the Minutes be approved with those 2 additions. Jo Basey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Elizabeth. She noted that 4 items on the report including a \$1000 deposit from the City of Bloomington grant to fund the party, reimbursement of Jon Lawrence for party expenses, payment to Bloomingfoods for party food and the return of the deposit from the Fountain Square Ballroom. After discussion, Jan Sorby moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Tom Shafer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was a question about Neighborhood balances on the Treasurer's Report. It was explained that these were historical. A conversation ensued regarding whether or not neighborhoods should be allowed to open savings accounts under the CONA umbrella account. The decision was to place this item on April's agenda. Jon also mentioned CONA's tax ID number and the fact that CONA and its various neighborhoods are tax exempt and that CONA needs to do a better job of sharing that information with neighborhoods.

Lemonade Day

Amy Swain from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington discussed "Lemonade Day" which helps kids learn to start a small business, make change, and spend responsibly. Last year over 400 kids participated. Amy asked that kids sign up in advance so that they could be adequately prepared for training-marketing, safety, philanthropy, investing, tracking records and customer service. The program is open to teenagers, but the target age group is kids 10-11 year olds. The event will take place on May

2 at the Ivy Tech Center for Life Sciences, 501 N Profile Pkw. There will be a workshop on Saturday, March 28, 9-11a.m. They are looking for stand hosting locations, so businesses should provide permission via Boys and Girls Club. Amy agreed to send info to CONA which would be dispersed via the CONA listserv.

New Neighborhood Association

The Batchelor Area Neighborhood Association (BANA), which is both inside and outside City limits, brought their application to become a new member of CONA. Mary Ann Williams handed out the proposal for BANA. There are approximately 1250 homes in their area shown in the map that Mary Ann provided with the application. It was discussed that this is a large neighborhood and, as time goes on, it may be appropriate to split into more than one association. There were three representatives from the neighborhood present at the meeting.

Mary Ann pointed out that BANA became active due to the Fullerton Pike extension issue, and they felt that they would like to continue communication. Issues: speed, trucks, gas station and adult businesses, school traffic and safety. There are also issues re/playgrounds, bike paths, economics, trailer park, and other issues to augment and nurture the neighborhoods. Harriet and Joan spoke about representation, and proactive communication now. An official association will provide cohesive acknowledgment and a voice to the development of the character of this whole area.

Jon pointed out that County Councilperson, Cheryl Munson, is working with the County to provide official recognition to neighborhood associations outside of Bloomington city limits. Our bylaws provide that neighborhoods recognized by the city or county are automatically recognized by CONA. Jon made a motion to recognize BANA as a neighborhood association, with the caveat that BANA applies with the County when/if the County recognizes neighborhood associations. Paul Ash seconded the motion. Discussion: Normajean asked if there would be a problem with the city providing funds to CONA while CONA accepts members outside of city limits. The general agreement was that money received from the City was to benefit neighborhoods in general and that there would be no problem with outside neighborhoods. It was mentioned that the City would not directly fund neighborhoods outside the city through their normal grant processes. The motion passed unanimously.

CONA Survey on Rental Properties

Jan Sorby reported that the Survey of Rental Properties had been emailed to the neighborhoods through the CONA email distribution list. As of the time of time of the meeting, several neighborhoods had yet to forward the survey on to their membership. When more neighborhoods have responded, we will discuss the topic again. Interesting facts so far:

- 48% didn't know the number of unrelated adults allowed in a single family zone.
- 81.7% did not know of any over-occupied rentals in their neighborhood.
- 83% said they would support measures to discourage over-occupancy in single family zones
- Snow on sidewalks was considered a big problem in neighborhoods related to rental properties.

A discussion ensued regarding neighborhoods affected by Little 500. It was mentioned that affected neighborhoods should talk with HAND now so that they can pressure IU and the police department into helping. It was suggested that CONA should have Bloomington Police come to a CONA meeting next February 2016, to be proactive. Judy Berkshire mentioned that Sarah Lucas, from the Dean of Students Office, represents student issues to IU. If a student gets into trouble with the city, via the IU Code of Student Conduct, students also get into trouble with IU.

Websites for Neighborhoods

CONA's venture into providing website for neighborhoods was discussed. ServeIT has finished the CONA website and is now working on the neighborhood versions. ServeIT will be holding a meeting soon to discuss next steps. Jon asked that those interested in being part of the first group of neighborhood websites to leave their names to be contacted for a meeting with the ServeIT team.

Certified Tech Park

Dave Walter explained that the city is considering merging and expanding current TIF (Tax Increment Fund) district boundaries. This will allow the city a larger fund base to work with projects like the Certified Tech Park.

Neighborhood issue

Three representatives from Maple Heights discussed a problem in their neighborhood. Two of the neighbors own a small Mercedes repair shop and an adjoining which they rent. A rental house on North Fairview close to their business was previously a meth lab. The landlord lives in Florida and hasn't responded to problems. Often they find used needles and other drug paraphernalia near the property. The property has been over-occupied and often has trashed piled up. HAND has not been able to help and the police will not respond. Recently a car crashed into another car on their property in the middle of the night and no one will assume responsibility. The problem house often has big trucks and large deliveries indicating the possibility of zoning violations. CONA suggested that the neighbors should talk with City Council member Chris Sturbaum and Vickie Provine from HAND.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.