

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, April 15, 2015

The monthly CONA meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Attendees: Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Molly O'Donnell, Tom Shafer, Park Ridge East, Judy Berkshire, East Side, Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, John Kennedy, Spicewood, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Tim Mueller, Elm Heights, Sandi Clothier, Near West.

The meeting began with an announcement by Molly O'Donnell, representative of the City of Bloomington Sustainability Committee. Molly informed the group about an initiative to help people interested in additional weatherization in their home to have the work done by volunteers. The volunteers consist of 10 or so local youths who will work together on a service day to help homeowners or renters, with landlord permission, with weatherization projects around the home. Molly said they are looking for people who are interested in having this done to their homes; they will have an energy mobile that will go around and flyer the neighborhood. To get in touch with Molly, email her at mollysod@gmail.com

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed, Jan Sorby made the motion to approve, and Tom Shafer provided the second; minutes were approved unanimously. The treasurer's report was presented by Elizabeth Cox-Ash; she asked for approval to submit a "proof of life" to show the state of Indiana we are an organization. Tom Shafer made the motion to approve, with Georgia Schaich seconding; the motion passed unanimously. A discussion followed concerning the benefits and disadvantages of individual Neighborhood Associations keeping their money in the CONA account.

Rental Information Survey

Jon noted that there has been a good response from many neighborhoods regarding the Survey that was sent to neighborhoods.

Questions for Mayoral Debate

Jon asked for questions to present to candidates during the upcoming Mayoral Primary Debate, which will take place on the 23rd. Questions suggested included the following:

Bloomington has at least two neighborhoods that were built in the 20's. What do you think is the biggest threat, and how would you protect these residential neighborhoods? What about Core neighborhoods, how would you protect them?

Regarding Martha's House, we have recently learned that they lost their nonprofit status as the result of failing to file the proper paperwork for several years. How would you support the shelters?

The former Unified Development Ordinance, or UDO, referenced the importance of preserving community character do you feel it is important to preserve community character in core neighborhoods, and how would you address this issue?

What is your position on maintaining affordability on housing?

How can income eligible housing be created throughout the city?

The city has a practice of requiring Neighborhood Association input before making any decisions on rezoning and variance, would you continue it?

How do you feel about the downtown and hotel development?

Do you favor Historic Designation of the downtown square?

Some of these questions will be forwarded to WTIU, and individuals and NA's are encouraged to submit them on their own as well.

What would the candidate do to diversify the student mono culture of downtown?

What kind of incentives would you offer to get diversity in the downtown?

Neighborhood Websites

Jon reported that a group from CONA met on April 2, with Serve IT team; they were able to review and provide input on the design of the model Neighborhood website design. The project will not be completed by the end of the semester, but it is coming along very well. Jon also noted that there are rules of civility that the City has asked us to be involved with, to ensure that the domain name that the City is allowing us to use is not in any way misused; we must guarantee that we will have rules for NA use.

The April meeting of CONA adjourned at 7:27pm.